

Pension Application for Martinus Becker

W.2431 (Widow: Jane) Married August 3, 1825, by Elder Elijah Herrick a Baptist Minister in the Town of Charlestown.. Martinus died 28 January 1843.

B.L.Wt.26592-160-55

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this twentieth day of September in the Year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County now sitting Martinus Becker a resident of the Town of Charlestown in said County aged Eighty three years & upwards who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He was born on the last day of May 1749 in the Nine Partners in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York; the record of his age appears in the family bible of his father now in possession of the applicant.

When called into service he was living in the town of Cambridge (then County of Albany) now County of Washington in the State of Ne York where he continued to reside until the year 1796 when he moved to his present place of residence in Charlestown aforesaid where he has lived ever since 1796 aforesaid. The first service he performed was at Fort Edward where he served about three weeks under Captain Elias Golden, Col. Lewis VanWort during which time they kept garrison & sent out repeated scouting parties and in this service he recollects that John Whitesides was Lieutenant.

The next service in which he recollects to have been during the revolution and as he thinks in the year seventy six was again at the same Fort Edward where he remained about three weeks performing garrison & scout duties under the before named officers—he now remembers that he has at six different times performed duty during the Revolutionary War at the same Fort Edward & generally from two to four weeks & generally under the same officers except one to twice when ordered out in small parties when they were commanded by an inferior officers such as a Sergeant or Corporal in the year 1776, he was in the revolutionary service under the same officers with the addition of Col. Warner who belonged to the regular service, at Jesups Patent where he remained three weeks. He was also in the service at Palmertown under the command of Capt. Golden where they lay in camp keeping out scouts to discover & annoy the Indians & Tories, where he remained about 4 weeks.

In the year 1777, he was called into the revolutionary service under the command of said Capt. Golden & Col. Lewis VanWort to Upper White Creek or Salem where they made a kind of camp of pickets at this place one McCracken had the command having under him some regulars & the militia was called to his aid, at this place he now recollects to have been in the service during the revolution at four different times & thinks that he remained upon an average about three or four weeks each time, he also recollects to have been in the revolutionary service at Granville now Washington County he thinks & then in Albany under a Capt. Whitesides performing the like services as aforesaid, he thinks it was in 1777 & that he was there about 3 or 4 weeks, he was after the taking of Burgoyne with Genl Clinton to Ticonderoga in pursuit of Indians & Tories who escaped near the lake & this time Major James Aston was in company & either his own Capt. or Lieutenant & which he cannot recollect.

He was in the service in 1778 guarding baggage wagons from Stillwater up to Fort Miller under the [?] of one of his officers but which he cannot recollect & he was in this service about two weeks. The next service he was in during the Revolution was taking a party of Tories in Cambridge and taking them to Albany goal by order of the Committee—in which he was engaged about 2 or 3 weeks—he thinks this was in 1778 or 9 & of that he is not very certain but knows it was during the revolution, and in addition to all this he has been in a great many scouting parties in all amounting to a month or two but he has kept no memorandums of time & his extreme age has impaired his recollections & he is

unwilling to make statement at random. He honestly believes however that his service during the revolutionary war would exceed one year.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers where he knew or who was with the troops where he served & what regiments & companies as he recollects viz, Capt. Armstrong, Col. Warner, Gove. Clinton, he recollects no regiments the company Armstrong's company of regulars & the following inferior officers he remembers Capt. Elias Golden, John Whitesides, Capt. William Whitesides.

He has received no written discharge at any time nor was there any written discharge given to any one that he saw nor has he any documentary evidence, but can produce the testimony of persons who can testify to his services to wit. David D. Bekcer and Samuel Brown whose depositions are hereto annexed.

The following are the names of person to whom he is known in his present neighbourhood & who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolutionary war to wit. Abraham VanHorne, a clergyman and Elijah Wilcox.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Martinus Becker

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year first aforesaid. Geo. D. Ferguson, clk