

## Pension Application for William Becker

S.12188

State of New York  
Saratoga County SS.

On this fifth day of September A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting William Becker a resident of the town of Halfmoon in the County of Saratoga and State of New York aged eighty eight years in October next, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he was first called into the service in the Militia at what is now called Middleburgh in the County of Schoharie in the State of New York was stationed in a Fort at Middleburgh, called Middle Fort, there being three Forts at that place within five miles of each other—he is not able from his present recollection to state the precise time when he was first called out & stationed in the Fort, but it was previous to the surrender of Burgoyne, was stationed in the Fort about fourteen days, at this time Captain Reckmire commanded the Fort Martinus Zeeley was Lieut, and Johannus Bellinger Ensign—that he was called out & stationed in the same fort several different times in cases of alarm for short terms to defend the fort from the inkurtions [incursions] of Indians and Tories, previous to and subsequent to the surrender of Burgoyne. That this part of the county was kept in almost a constant state of alarm from the Indians & Tories and some times accompanied by the British. He was stationed in the Fort at the time Scoharie [Schoharie] was burnt, which he thinks was in October 1779 had been stationed in the Fort sometime previous to the burning of Scoharie by Brant an Indian and Butler as it was supposed, who was a Tory—Vrooman's Land in that neighborhood had been previously burned.

The three Forts above mentioned were for the most part defended by the Militia of that part of the County—A part of the time the forts were defended by nine months men and a part of the time by Regulars, or Continental Soldiers.

That this deponent was kept in constant service in the Militia in the defence of the fort from the time Schoharie was burned for the term of nearly three years. Capt. Reckmire had the command of the Militia at the fort during the whole time this deponent was stationed at the fort—Capt. Par of a Rifle Company was stationed at the upper [upper] Fort in Scoharie—Col. Wiltsey had command of the nine months men when at the fort and wanted to surrender the fort to the British, but Timothy Murphey & some of the officers objected & the Fort was not given up.

The Fort was attacked [attacked] by the enemy several times during the time this deponent was on duty there.

This deponent resided at the (now) Town of Middleburgh County of Schoharie, State of New York at the time he first entered the service and continued there during the war.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services never received any written discharge and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, other than of Jacob VanDike whose affidavit is hereunto annexed. This deponent does not know but there may be persons residing in Scoharie near where his services were performed who are knowing to the fact of his performing the services above mentioned, but he is too infirm to go from the part of the Country where he now resides to Scoharie in search of testimony.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

To the Interrogatories put by the Court this deponent answers as follows.

That he was born in the Town of Middleburgh County of Schoharie & State of New York in the year 1745.

That he has no record of his age and does not know that any was ever kept.

That he resided in Middleburgh when he was first called into the service & continued to reside there during the war & for some years there after moved from there to Halfmoon, County of Saratoga, State of New York about Forty years since & had continued to reside there to the present time.

Was called into the service in the Militia as stated above.

The officers, regiments & circumstances of his services are stated in the foregoing declaration as generally and fully as is at this time under the infirmities memory & age able to do.

That he never received any written discharge from the service.

That he is known to Hugh Peebles, Nicholas Clute, John B. Borst and Gradus Becker, who reside in his neighborhood & can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

That there is no clergyman in his vicinity whose attendance in court he can prove. (Signed with his mark) William Becker

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. Thomas Palmer, Clerk