

## Pension Application for Abraham Becraft

S.14951

Declaration of Abraham Becraft in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

State of New York

Ulster County SS.

On this eleventh day of December 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 of the County of Ulster aforesaid now sitting Abraham Becraft a resident of the village of Kingston in said County of Ulster aged eighty one years 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, 1832.

That he was born in the town of Clavarack as it was then called in that portion of it which has since been set off and designated by the name of Hudson in the County of Columbia and State of New York aforesaid on the twelfth day of February one thousand seven hundred and fifty one as he has been informed by his parents and others and verily believes. But that he has no record of his age and knows of none.

That after the lapse of so many years and consequent loss of memory he is unable to recall the particular dates of his services but to the best of his recollection and belief they were rendered at the times as hereinafter specified. But he swears positively that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as a private during the full terms as herein after stated.

That shortly after the commencement of the revolutionary war as this deponent thinks and believes in the fall of the year 1776 he was drafted at Claverack in the County of Columbia aforesaid in a company commanded by John Osterhoudt as Captain—that he proceeded with his said company along the east side of the river Hudson until they came—opposite Albany where he crossed with his said company over the river Hudson in a flat bottomed boat commonly called a scow to Albany in said State where they remained one night whence they proceeded to Schenectady in said State and from thence under the command of his said captain he proceeded to Schoharie and was then stationed with the rest of his said company in a fort in the said town of Schoharie State of New York aforesaid commonly called the Middle Fort where he remained in the service of his country as a private for the term of one month when he was discharged together with the rest of his said company and returned. But the said deponent received no written discharge.

And the said deponent farther states that some time in \_\_\_\_\_ of the year 1777 as near as this deponent can recollect he was called out upon an alarm with the rest of the militia to proceed to Stillwater on account of the approach of the British General Burgoyne—that he was a private in the company under the command of the said Captain John Osterhoudt. That in going to Stillwater aforesaid in his said company and under the command of his said Captain he passed through Kinderhook in said County of Columbia. And that he remained at Stillwater aforesaid as a private under the command of his said Captain in the service of his country for the full term of three weeks when he was regularly discharged with the rest of his said company and returned. – But in this service he received no written discharge.

And the said deponent farther says that to the best of his recollection about the middle of October in the year 1777 he was again called out on an alarm with the rest of the militia to prevent the enemy from coming up the river Hudson and he in a company under the command of the said Captain John Osterhoudt marched from Claverack aforesaid as far south on the east side of the river Hudson as Red Hook landing in the County of Dutchess in the state aforesaid where he remained together with the rest of his company in the service of his country as a private for the term of two weeks when he was regularly discharged and returned home. But he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther states that after remaining home a short time but exactly how long he does not distinctly recollect but thinks it was some time in November of that same fall he was again called out on an alarm to proceed to Fort Stanwix lying about eight miles north of Utica in said state. That he marched to said fort in his aforesaid company under the command of the said Captain John Osterhoudt and remained with his said company at Fort Stanwix aforesaid serving his country in the capacity of a private soldier for the term of two weeks when he was regularly discharged and returned home with his said company. In this service he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther states that as nearly as he can recollect sometime in October in the year 1778 the British being expected up the river [?] Fishkill he was drafted in a company of New York Militia commanded by the aforesaid Captain John Osterhoudt and marched in said company under the command of the said Captain through the counties of Columbia and Dutchess in said state to Fishkill in said county of Dutchess—where he remained serving his country under the aforesaid Captain in the capacity of a private soldier for the term of two weeks when he was regularly discharged and returned home. But he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther states that according to the best of his recollection in the latter part of the Summer in the year 1779 he was called out on an alarm at Claverack aforesaid together with the rest of the militia and the said deponent proceeded with the regiment of militia under the command of General Jacob VanRensalaer in a company commanded by the said Captain John Osterhoudt to Red Hook in said county of Dutchess where he remained with his said regiment in the service of his country for the term of two weeks in the capacity of a private soldier—when he was regularly discharged and returned home—But he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther states that shortly after the last mentioned service in the same year he was again drafted in said company under the command of the said Captain John Osterhoudt at Claverack aforesaid and marched with said company under the command of his said captain to the place called Stillwater aforesaid as Brandt he believes at the head of some Indians and Tories was expected down—And he the said deponent remained there in the service of his country in the capacity of a private soldier for the term of one week when he was regularly discharged and returned home but he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther states that early in the fall as this deponent believes of the same year as the last mentioned service he was again called out at Claverack aforesaid on an alarm with the rest of the militia. And this deponent marched in the company under the command of the aforesaid Captain John Osterhoudt in a regiment commanded by General Jacob Van Rensalaer and proceeded to Schenectaday [sic] aforesaid where the said deponent remained in his said regiment an dcompany serving his country in the capacity of a private soldier for two weeks where he was regularly discharged and returned home. But he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther states that a short time after his return from the last mentioned service, he thinks and believes it was about one week he was drafted in a company commanded by the said Captain John Osterhoudt at Claverack aforesaid and proceeded with his said company under the command of their said captain to a place in the town of Livingston in said county of Columbia where he remained serving his country in the capacity of a private soldier protecting the inhabitants for the term of two weeks when he was regularly discharged and returned home. -- But he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther states that in the early part of the summer of the year 1780 as he thinks and believes he was again called out on an alarm with the rest of his company at Claverack aforesaid and marched in his said company under the command of the said Captain John Osterhoudt to the southern part of the town of Schoharie in said state and there remained in the service of his country in the capacity of a private soldier protecting the inhabitants from the incursions of the Indians for the

term of two weeks when he was regularly discharged and returned home. But received no written discharge.

And this deponent father states that as he thinks and believes in the fall of the year 1780 the militia were again called out on an alarm. And he the said deponent marched from Claverack aforesaid in a company under the command of the said Captain John Osterhoudt and in a regiment commanded by General Jacob VanRensalaer. The name of whose Colonel was Henry VanRensalaer and the Major's name was Jacob Vanderbogert and proceeded to Albany aforesaid and from thence to Schenectady and from thence marched along the river Mohawk and where they arrived at a place called Stone Ranpy [Stone Arabia] they met with some Tories and Indians with whom they had a skirmish and in said skirmish Colonel Brown a Colonel in a regiment accompanying the one in which deponent was was killed. After which they proceeded along said River Mohawk to a fort standing on the banks of said river called Fort Herkimer where they crossed said river Mohawk and soon after their arrival on the opposite shore where attacked by a party of Indians and Tories under the command of Brandt and Butler where they routed and pursued for three days and nights when they returned to the said fort where they remained together with his said company in the service of his country in the capacity of a private soldier for the term of one month when he was regularly discharged and returned home. But he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther says that a short time after the last mentioned service during the same fall the militia were again called out in an alarm and said deponent again proceeded under command of his said Captain John Osterhoudt in a company of New York Militia and in a regiment under the command of the said General Van Rensalaer to a place called Curley's Bush on the frontiers as they then were west of Schoharie aforesaid to protect the inhabitants from the incursions of the Indians and he remained there under the said officers in the service of his country in the capacity of a private soldier for the term of three weeks when he was regularly discharged and returned home. But he received no written discharge.

And this deponent farther saith that for these aforesaid services as a private soldier in the Militia of the State of New York during the Revolutionary War in the whole amounting to 7 months & 1 week he the said deponent claims a pension according to the Act of Congress of June 7, 1832.

And this deponent farther says that he never has received any written discharge and has no documentary evidence of his said services. That most of those who served with him during the Revolutionary War are dead—that he knows of none who are living and if they are living he is unacquainted with their places of residence and knows not where to find them and therefore he is unable to procure their testimony in his behalf.

And this deponent farther states that during the whole of the Revolutionary War he resided at Clavarack in the County of Columbia and State of New York

That he has since the Revolutionary War resided at various places namely Clavarack (now Hudson) the town of Acre Village of Nassau, City of Troy and village of Kingston all which places are within the said State of New York.—He now resides at Kingston and has resided there for the space of little more than a year. And it was at Claverack aforesaid that he was called into each of these aforesaid services.

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

And this deponent further states that the following named persons in this vicinity are well acquainted with him and can testify as to his veracity and belief in his services as herein set forth, namely Rev. Mr. Barlow minister in the Babtist [Baptist] Church in this vicinity and John NewHouse and Reuben Nichols citizens of the Village of Kingston aforesaid.

And this deponent farther states that during the whole of his aforesaid services he served in the regiment which was under the command of the following named officers viz, Jacob VanRensalaer

General, Henry VanRensalaer Colonel and Jacob Vanderbogert Major and in a company commanded by John Osterhoudt Captain Abraham Elting Sergerant & Cornelius van Duser Lieutenant—all of whom this deponent believes are now dead. (Signed with his mark) Abraham becraft.

Sworn in open court the day and year aforesaid. A. D. Loper, First Judge &c, A G. Hardenbergh, Abm A. Deyo, Judges