

Pension Application for John Betsinger

R.20582. Cause of rejection, "He was a baker, not a soldier."

Declaration.

State of New York

Madison County SS.

On the eighth day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said county, now sitting John Betsinger a resident said County & State aforesaid aged sixty seven 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 7th 1832.

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

Was born at Minden in the County of Montgomery in the State of New York in the year 1765 has no record of his age. Lived at Minden in the County of Montgomery [Montgomery] State of New York when he entered the service of the Revolution that he continued to reside at the same place after the war until he removed to the town of Lenox in the County of Madison & State of New York where he now resides and has for the last twenty five years, that he entered the service as a volunteer during the year in the spring of 1780 in Col. Willet's (1) Regiment of State Troops and was Immediately transferred to the bake house at Fort Plain (that being his occupation) that his constant business was baking for the army and in constant service for more than two years and until the close of the war that he never received one dollar for the whole service or any part thereof that he never had any written discharge that he was acquainted with Cap. Samuel Cherry (2) & Lieut. McKean (3) & Cap. McKeen who were killed in service. Is now acquainted with S. Chapman, who knows his character & reputation is now acquainted with Henry Bort Sylvester Becker Judge.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) John Betsinger.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid A.S. Sloan, Clk

Letter in folder dated April 30, 1935, written in reply to an inquiry.

The record was found of a John Botsinger, of Madison County, New York, which is furnished herein as obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, R.20582, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

John Betsinger was born in 1765 in Mendon [Minden] or near Canajoharie, Montgomery County New York, on March 16, 1754, in Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York. (Both dates and places of birth stated by soldier with no explanation of the discrepancy). The names of his parents not given.

He volunteered in the spring of 1780 in Captain Lawrence Gross' (4) company, Colonel Willett's New York regiment, was immediately transferred to the bakehouse at Fort Plain, New York, where he served as baker for the army until the summer of 1783.

After the Revolutionary War, the soldier lived for a few years in Freybush, New York, then moved to Lenox, Madison County, New York.

On October 8, 1832, (5) John Betsinger while residing in Lenox, New York, applied for pension. His claim was not allowed because the service he rendered as a baker under a civil contract was not provided for in the act under which he applied, which required service of six months in a regularly organized military corps.

In 1848, John Betsinger was still residing in Lenox, Madison County, New York, where he died.

No reference was made to soldier's wife. (6)

In 1851, soldier's son, Nicholas Betsinger, was residing in Lenox, Madison County, New York, but in 1852 was a resident of Stockbridge in the same county. No other reference was made to children.

End Notes—R.20582—John Betsinger

1. Marinus Willett was appointed Lieutenant Colonel Commandant on April 27, 1781 and was commander of a regiment of levies for service in the Mohawk Valley.
2. Captain Samuel Cherry in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant George Reid's Second New Hampshire Continental Regiment. The Second New Hampshire was stationed in the Mohawk Valley from late November of 1781 to about August of 1782.
3. Captain Robert McKean and his son, Private Samuel McKean of Willett's Regiment. They were both wounded on July 10, 1781 at the Battle of New Dorlach (now the present day Sharon Springs and the Town of Sharon, Schoharie County). Captain McKean died on the return march to Fort Rensselaer. Samuel recovered from his wound and applied for a pension.
4. Lawrence Gross was appointed Captain in Willett's Regiment on April 27, 1781. Joh's name does not appear in the muster roll of this company or in any other company of Willett's Regiment.
5. John made another application for a pension on November 1846. He claimed to be ninety tow years old and that he was born on March 16, 1754. He had no proof of his birth date. The 11 years in age difference is unaccountable except that he might have thought to help himself by being older but he had no military service in the Tryon County Militia which he would have been enlisted in as early as 1775. Only a Martin Bettinger served as a private in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
6. John married on February 19, 1792 to Elisabeth Ochsen. FROM: Collections of the New York genealogical and Biographical Society, Records of the Dutch Reformed Church, Fort Plain, ed. R. W. Vosburgh, 1918, Vol I, page 45.