

Pension Application for Ephraim Decker

W.20982 (Widow: Mary) Married October 4, 1781 by Rev Mr. Doll, Reformed Dutch Church of Kingston, NY. Ephraim died October 25, 1840.

State of New York

Delaware County SS.

On this eighth day of October 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Delhi in and for the County of Delaware aforesaid now sitting, Ephraim Decker a resident of Roxbury in the County aforesaid and State of New York aforesaid aged seventy four years and nine months 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That in March 1776 he enlisted under Capt Hordenbergh, Richar Hordenbergh Lieutenant & ____Clark ensign, for nine months. The company rendezvous was at Graham's Tavern in Shawangunk—on account of his mother's opposition. This deponent procured one Johannes Shoecraft a substitute and paid him a horse saddle & bridle, who this deponent believes served out the time, but does not know whether he got the bounty, perhaps he did not for he afterwards enlisted for three years and if he ever got the bounty it was probably for the three years—said Shoecraft does not reside in Shawangunk, and this deponent does not know whether or not he is living.

That in the year 1776 this deponent enlisted for five months in [a] regiment commanded by Seay Paulding, Company commanded by John Graham, Johannes Brown & John T. Johnson first and second lieutenants, don't recollect the major or ensign. The Regiment was stationed at Kingsbridge, White Plains, Peekskill & Murderers Creek. This deponent thinks he enlisted in July for he served the five months & was discharged about the time of the Holidays.

That in 1777 this deponent again enlisted, served two months and was discharged after harvest in July, the officers were John Hordenbergh, Colonel; Schoonmaker, Captain; and Abraham G. Vanaken and John T. Johnson Lieutenants. In September, same year this deponent served as an orderly Sergeant in Militia under Lieutenant Gew or Gue, was stationed on the west bank of the Hudson River in the Highlands opposite Colonel [Reliemon's?] Ferry where he was employed with the other men of the company for a time in building a dock, thence went to Fort constitution where remained till the fort was taken by the British, Major Dubois commanded at the Fort, the time this trip was a month or more.

In same year served under Capt Robinson and Lieutenant William or Wilhelmus Vandemark, two months, November and December at Murderer's Creek near New Windsor.

In 1778 served one month at Mamakating in March & April, as an orderly sergeant under Jacob Laurence Lieutenant, then went to West Point where labored one month under the Engineer one Wiesmes—

That he served same year as an orderly sergeant one month and one day in August and September under Robert Maul Ensign, at Mamakating, a kind of guard for one Jacobus—to protect him while gathering his hay from the Indians detached by order of the governor George Clinton.

In 1779 served under Capt _____ Smith & Peter Rose Lieutenant one month at Shandaken Ulster County –September—Regiment from which this deponent was detached in foregoing interims was commanded by Colonel Jonathan Hosbrauck at first & afterwards by Colonel John Hordenburgh.

In addition to the foregoing this deponent served in the militia at various times amounting to full four months and more, under Peter Decker as Lieutenant and Matthew Johnson Captain. The Regiment commanded first by Col Hosbrauck & then by Col'n Hordenburgh.

Of the officers before mentioned only Peter Decker is now living.

That this deponent was born in Shawangunk Ulster County the 8 January 1758 and is now seventy four years and nine months old. He lived in Shawangunk the first twenty five or thirty years of his life, then moved to Espous same county where he lived about four years—then to the town of New Paltz, same county—where resided about two years—then to Marlborough where lived one year—then back to New Paltz four or five years other moved to Esopus, where he resided till 1818 where he remained to Roxbury in County of Delaware aforesaid where resided ever since & until the present time.

This deponent received no other record of his age from his parents than this—His mother took an old Dutch Almanac of the year he was born & sewed a blue thread by the figure 8 in the month of January and gave him when a boy & kept it in his chest & intended to keep it as long as he lived but last summer his son Martin's children got at it and destroyed it with some other papers—This deponent has his age marked down on an old learning book which he made when he went to school but has not got it entered in a Bible for he has only a small bible.

This deponent served as mentioned before, as a volunteer & never was drafted.

This deponent don't remember whether he ever received a discharge if he did he can't tell by whom it was given or what has become of it.

Further this deponent says that John E. Bushens Esq, former clerk of the County of Delaware now residing in Roxbury aforesaid & Jonas More, and General Otis Preston one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas and John J. Mere formerly a member of the Legislature of this State, all reside in said town of Roxbury, are acquainted personally with this deponent, and this deponent has no doubt they can testify in favor of his character for truth and veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution & no clergyman resides in the immediate vicinity of this deponent. And finally this deponent has no documentary evidence of his services & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, except peter Decker & Jacob Clarwater whose affidavits are hereto annexed & 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 of the agency of any state. (Signed) Ephraim Decker

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. C. B. Sheldon,
Clerk