

Pension Application for James Decker

R.3110

On this nineteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before the Justices of the Justices Court of the City of Hudson County aforesaid James Decker a Resident of the town of Taghkance in the County of Columbia and State of New York and upwards of seventy four years all 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.

This deponent James Decker says that he was born as he is informed and believes on the 24th day of October 1758 in that part of the County of Columbia now called the town of Copake that a record of this deponent's age may be found as this deponent verily believes in the Lutheran Church at Churchtown in said County of Columbia—This Deponent says that he resided during the Revolutionary War in the Town of Clermont in said County of Columbia with his grandfather, Jacobus Decker.

This deponent says that the first service rendered by this deponent in the service of the United States was under the Command of one Peter Sharp of Germantown in said County of Columbia as Captain one Samuel TenBroeck was Lieutenant the ensign this deponent thinks & verily believes was Rockefeller this deponent served nine months under said Captain Sharp and this deponent says that Captain Sharp's Company belonged to the Regiment of Peter R. Livingston who was Commanding Colonel one Derick Johnson was Major and one Samuel Ten Broeck was second Major.

This deponent says that he entered the service in the month of June or July 1775 and continued until March or April 1776. That service that this deponent performed in 1775, as abounded and the forepart of 1776 was as a volunteer in the service of the United States and this deponent would mention a circumstance that took place when this deponent turned out as such volunteer. Captain Sharp stated to the soldiers under his command that war having broke out (as this deponent believes it was after the battle of Lexington and whether before or after the Battle of Bunker Hill or not he can't say) and as many seemed to feel friendly to the Crown of Great Brittain [sic] he therefore deemed it the duty of every true Whig or well wisher of this country to volunteer and render his services in the cause of this country a present to the first soldier who would volunteer he then ordered the Musick to commence and he marched off and this deponent was the first soldier who volunteered and as this deponent followed his captain he fired off his piece behind the Captain who looked round and gave this deponent a silver piece as this Deponent thinks a Crown.

This deponent further says that he again served nine months from the first of May 1776 till the last of January or first of February 1777 under command of one Peter Gansbeek as Captain one Samuel TenBroeck as first Lieutenant and the Samuel Thom as second lieutenant one Bortle Hendricks as ensign and one Thomas Hops as orderly sergeant in the Regiment commanded by peter A. Livingston as Colonel. Derick Johnson a first Major and Samuel TenBroeck as Second major. This deponent enlisted the first of May as he believes in 1776 in said company of Captain Gansbeek

called the company of Rangers, lay a part of the time at David Minklans in Clermont near Major Johnsons, the company was composed of fifty four privates and the usual number of commissioned & non commissioned officers marched from said Minklans to Fishkill lay there a short time and were then marched East of Fishkill to a place called Pochquaack near the Mills of one Ingersolls where this deponent thinks the commissioner kept his stores or some of them then marched from Pockquaack to David Minkalus and at the Expiration of the nine months this Deponent and the rest of the Company were discharge from the Service having served during the period of their enlistment.

This deponent also says that in the month of May 1777 this Deponent enlisted for three years under one Peter Cantine as recruiting officer also Jacobus decker brother of this Deponent and this Deponent was marched to Fishkill there this deponent joined the company with which he served recollects that the Lieutenant was one Offenburgh or Hoofenburgh son of a minister of that name in the name of this deponent's Captain, he cannot recollect, thinks he served under Colonel DuBois of Po'keepsie lay at Fishkill part of the time and also lay at Stoney Point until August 1777 where this deponent was permitted to return home having been sick for sometime unable to do duty that this deponent returned home having had the small pox and caught cold and this deponent continued sick for some time and remained at home and this deponent says that he was not able to return again to the army this deponent says that he was not able to return again to the army this deponent says that the term of service in 1777 as such enlisted soldier was three months.

Thinks that General Israel Putnam commanded at Stoney Point, and this deponent says that he had a written furlough to return home but the same is lost and destroyed as he verily believes because he says that he has made search for the same diligently but cannot find it anywhere in his possession.

This deponent says that he performed active duty first as a volunteer for nine months next as an enlisted soldier for nine months and last for three months also as an enlisted soldier making in all one year and nine months next as an enlisted soldier for nine months and last for three months also as an enlisted soldier making in all one year and nine months that this deponent served in the service of the United States this deponent marched through that part of the State of new York now called Columbia Dutchess Putnam & lay at Fishkill Stoney Point Pockquaack East of Fishkill also at Clermont to guard public property during which period of one year and nine months this deponent engaged in no civil pursuit or employment whatever and this deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 with his mark) James Decker

The declarant James Decker answers to the following interrogatories as follows.

1 Question: Where and in what year were you born? Ans. I was born in Copake in Columbia County the 26 Oct 1758.

2 Question: Have you any record of your age & if so where is it? Ans. I have none other than my recollect.

3 Question. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since and where now? Answer: I resided in the town of Clermont during the war when called into service and since the war I have resided in Columbia County, town of Taghkance.

4 Question. How were you called into service where you drafted or did you volunteer or were you a substitute? Ans: I volunteered for nine months and I entered for the nine months the next service and was enlisted when I performed the next three months and during the whole service I acted for myself & was no substitute.

5. Question: State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops were [where] you served such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of the service? Ans: I would mention General George Clinton and General Israel Putnam who commanded the troops the names of the other officers were Colonel Livingston, Colonel DuBois and Colonel VanDeBergh and Major Samuel TenBroeck and Major Derrick Johnson, Captain Gansveck Captain sharp and for a more full statement I would refer to my declaration.

6. Question: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was given & what has become of it. Ans: The deponent always regularly discharged before officers but not in writing except once when this deponent got a furlough to return home & thinks it was from General Putnam and his Capt giving this deponent permission to go home when he was sick this was in writing but the same is lost as this deponent has made diligent search but cannot find the same.

7 Question: State the names of persons who know you in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services of a soldier of the revolution. Answer—I would refer you to John J. Best & Peter Shaver and Eve Bert as [blot] to General Samuel TenBroeck as the only persons living who can testify as to my services in the Revolution as a soldier therein and to Henry Avery all of whom can state what my character is and this deponent says that Best and Shaver are now helpless & confined to their beds & General TenBroeck is quite aged. (Signed with his mark) James Decker

Subscribed and sworn in open court the day & year aforesaid. J. D. Parker Clk.