

Pension Application for Martiness Decker

R.7158 (Mary Middaugh, former widow)

State of New Jersey

Sussex County SS.

On this sixth day of October 1840 personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] being a court of record in and for the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey John Decker a resident of the town of Wantage, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey aged seventy five 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 provisions of the act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836 and the act explanatory of said act passed March the 3e 1837; That he is the son of Martinus Decker who was the husband of Mary Penneton who afterwards was the wife of John Middaugh and who was a widow on the 4 day of July 1836 and who died on the third day of April 1840.

He further declares that he is the only heir that he knows of living of Martinus Decker who was a Lieutenant in the militia of the County of Orange and State of New York. That Martinus Decker was chosen by the company of militia under the command of Capt Moses Kortright and the Regiment commanded by Col. William Allison in the winter of 1776 Benjamin Thurston was Lieut Colonel and John Decker Major. That as he has been informed and believes that the said Martinus Decker after the battle of Long Island was again called out to Fort Montgomery and along the Hudson River and to Ramapoo and Paramus and was out one month in the said service as a Lieutenant under Capt. Kortright and under Col. Allison this was in August or September 1776.

That in December of the said year Col. Allison's Regiment was called out in a body to a place called New City in the County of Orange near the Hudson River Capt. Kortright's company was out with the rest of the Regiment and Martinus Decker was out as a Lieutenant in the said company and served with the rest of the Regiment at New City and other places along the Hudson River from in December 1776 until about the twenty fourth of January 1777 and was discharged with the rest of the Regiment at the expiration of a service of six weeks.

That in the spring of 1777 his father Martinus Decker was again called out to Tappan and other places along the frontiers of New Jersey under he believes Capt Jones and under Col. Allison or Cooper and served fifteen days.

That in August 1777, Col. Allison's Regiment was called out to Fort Montgomery and Capt Kortright's company went with the rest of the Regiment and Martinus Decker went as the Lieutenant of the said company and after they had been there one month the Militia belonging to Col. Allison's Regiment was discharged with orders to be ready at the first call in this service Martinus Decker served one month as a Lieutenant.

That immediately after Fort Montgomery was taken Col Allison's Regiment was called out under Col. Thurston and Major John Decker to a place called Murder's Creek on the Hudson River. That the company of Capt Kortright with Martinus as one of the Lieutenants went to Murder

S Creek and joined with the rest of the regiment at that place and followed the British up the River as far as [Banksis?] Bridge where a part of the men made a stand but he has understood and believes that Lieutenant Decker with a few chose men went as far as Kingston which before they reached it was burnt by the British who had retreated. That the said Lieutenant Decker was present when they spy was living who was taken when on his way to meet Gen Burgoyne after he went to Kingston the company returned to New Windsor and after a service of one month Lieutenant Decker was discharged with the rest of the Regiment. This service was done under Lieut Col Thurston and Major John Decker.

That in the Spring of 1778 the Indians began to make a formidable approach on the western frontiers of Orange and Ulster Counties and threatened devastation to the whole frontier and the militia on the west side of the mountain was retained at home to guard along the said frontiers. That the militia was classed into detachments each detachment doing its duty in turn under the different officers of their respective companies. Capt Kortrights company as one of those along the frontier and was retained to guard along the Delaware and Neversink Rivers but this declarant is unable to state with accuracy the different times that Lieutenant Decker was out in service except the following upon alarms and after spies.

He has been informed and believes that in June 1778 the[y] come down upon the frontiers in considerable force. Capt Kortrights company was called out to Martinus Decker's fort and served one week upon alarms and Lieutenant Decker served as Lieutenant in the said Fort one week, Col Newkirk or Pawling had command along the frontiers.

That in the month of October of the said year the Indians again made a descent upon the western frontiers of Orange and Ulster counties and killed several of the inhabitants this made a general alarm and the militia of the surrounding country was called out Capt Kortrights company was called out to Dewitts fort and served two weeks under Col. Pawling or Newkirk in this were Lieutenant Decker was out two weeks as a Lieutenant.

That on the 19th of July 1779 the Indians made a descent upon Minisink and destroyed the property of the Inhabitants by fire the alarm was given and the militia was called out and followed the Indians to a place called Beaverbrook, Capt. Kortrights company was called out and Lieutenant Decker was out in the said company as a Lieutenant from the turn the alarm was given until he was discharged at least two weeks the service was under a part of the time under Col. Hathorn and [?] and the rest of the time was in the Fort called Decker's Fort.

That sometime in the summer of 1780 and while Col. Seward of New Jersey had command along the Minisink frontier a report was circulated that that [sic] there was Tories in the woods of Pennsylvania who assisted the Indians in committing their depredations upon the whites Capt Kuykendolls of the New Jersey militia was ordered out with a detachment of men a part of which was taken from Capt Kortrights company and Martinus Decker went and served as a Lieutenant in the same company in ferreting out the Tories at least one week.

In the spring of 1781 it was reported that spies was in the neighborhood of the Minisink frontier Lieutenant Decker was ordered out with a detachment of fifteen men to catch them they rendezvoused at Levi Van Ettens and went to the Delaware crossed over to Pennsylvania and went through the woods to a place called Pond Eddy and recrossed to the York side of the River and went up the River to a place called ten mile River where they caught two of the spies named Robert Lemore and Edward Hicks in this service Martinus Decker served as a Lieutenant Commandant for at least one week. In June of the same year Capt Kortrights company was called out on alarm along the Delaware frontier and served three days in this alarm Lieutenant Decker served three days a Lieutenant.

That in August or September 1782 the Indians made a descent upon the western frontier of Ulster County and burnt Warwasink Capt. Kortrights company was again called out and went to Dewitts Fort and served two weeks and was discharged at the expiration of the said term Martinus Decker went with the said company and served in the said company as Lieutenant for the term of tow week[s] under Col. Pawling.

He further states that from the nature of the war along the frontier and from personal knowledge of a part of the service he has no doubt but his father Martinus Decker served at least two years as a Lieutenant in the Militia of Orange County.

He further declares that he served as the second Lieutenant of Capt. Kortright and Capt Willehlemus Westfalls company during the the [sic] whole of the war. He further declares that his father Martinus Decker was married to Mary Penneton on the 27 day of August seventeen hundred and sixty eight by the Rev Mr. Marinus and that the said Martinus Decker died on the 24th day of April eighteen hundred and two. This deponent further saith that he is the son of Martinus Decker by a former wife. That the widow of Martinus Decker was afterwards married on the sixth day of June—eighteen hundred and six—by the Rev. Mr. VanBenschoeten in the town of Wantage & Sate of New Jersey to John Middaugh who died on the 22^e day of February 1822 and that the said Mary Middaught remained a widow until her death which happened at the time before stated.

That the said Mary Middaugh formerly Mary Decker died without issue and that this deponent is the son of Martinus Decker by his first wife and that he is the only heir of Martinus Decker that he knows living.

That the accompanying record of the family of Martinus Decker as sworn to by John Decker is a true record of the said family.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that the name of Martinus Decker or Mary Middaugh is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state in the union. Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid. (Signed) John Decker

Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid. Rob H. McCarter, Judge.