

Pension Application for Petrus Decker

S.15077

State of New York

Ulster County SS.

On the 24th day of July 1832, personally appeared by John Jansen one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county aforesaid Petrus Decker a resident in part in the Town of Shawangunk and in the town of New Paltz in said county (Serving with his two sons sometimes with his son in Shawangunk and sometimes with his son in New Paltz.) That he is aged 84 years 6 months. Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. Vis.

That on the day of March 1776 he was classed from the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Hardenburgh in Shawangunk for the term of 3 months. That during the said time he was stationed at Fort Montgomery, he was at that time an Ensign in the Company of Capt. Matthew Jansen. That at the time he lay in Fort Montgomery the Fort was in the command of George & James Clinton, he served there that time & was there dismissed.

Went in the month of June 1776 he was classed for the term of 1 month from the same Regiment & Company and served as ensign at Fort Constitution for said ter.

Next in the month of July 1776 he was ordered out from the said Regiment to serve at Haverstraw in Jersey along the North or Hudson River for 3 months and served as Lieutenant in the said company and from the said Regiment for the said term of time he himself bring in command of the detachment he received his Lieutenant Commission in July 1770.

Next in October 1776 he immediately after his return from Haverstraw he was ordered to Sussex Court House in Jersey where said was stationed there. I had the command as a guard against the invasion of the tories—and served said Term as Lieutenant as aforesaid. ———

Next in the month of December 1776 immediately after his return from Sussex Court House he was ordered to Pyramus [Paramus] in New Jersey with the said Company of Captain Matthew Jansen from the Regiment of Colonel Hardenbergh for 1 month & served said term as aforesaid. —

Next in the following Spring he thinks in March 1777 he was ordered out from the said Regiment in the said company for 3 months and was stationed at the Clove? in Rockland County, that Colonel Aaron Burr layed at that place at that time the while there the British detachment came from Hackensack New Jersey and a skirmish took place with the British picket & the same was taken, that it was as before stated a Lieutenant. —

Next this deponent thinks in September 1777 he was ordered out with the said Company of Matthew Jansen from the Regiment of Colonel Hardenburgh with a Class for 2 months to go to New Windsor on the Hudson River. That while there the whole Regiment was ordered out on an alarm at fort Montgomery in October that he layed at

New Windsor when the Fort was taken—1 few days after 2 or 3 [of the] British fleet passed up the river & the troops were all marched to Kingston, in Ulster County but did not arrive until the same was taken and burned, they then layed a while at Hearley nearby & from thence were marched back to NewBurgh and were then discharged.

Next a part of the Company of Matthew Jansen and Regiment of Colonel Johannis Jones did volunteer to serve on the Frontier along the Shawangunk Mountain for 9 months that this deponent was in the said company so served as a Lieutenant & Served for said Term—also the said Mountain on the western side thereof & was commanded by Capt. Matthew Jansen & Col. Paulding and that during said service he was engaged in several little skirmishes with the Indians, but he was never in any regular Battles that at the expiration of the said 9 months the said Troops were dismissed at Wawarsing by Colonel Paulding the said deponent was a volunteer in the said Corps for nine months that he volunteered in Shawangunk in 1779 in the spring sometime & was discharged in winter.

Next in the year 1777 this deponent should have mentioned before the last engagement that in the year (1779) the deponent immediately after the service of the two months, last above mentioned and before the said (last mentioned service of 9 months was called or ordered out from the said Regiment in Shawangunk with & in the said company of Matthew Jansen (as Lieutenant) for the term of 1 months to got to NewBurgh that the said company was ordered out in November 1777 in the later part thereof and layed & was dismissed at that place—

That in or about the 1st of Jan'y 1778 he was together with said company ordered to New Windsor for the term of 2 months at which place he laid & served as Lieutenant for the said 2 months & was dismissed.—

Making in the whole a service of 2 years & 3 months and in addition to the above he was several times in the year 1780 & 81 on small excursions & alarms—That during all the above service he was not stationed in the vicinity of regular troops except when on his way from New Windsor to Kingston & where he before mentioned at the close.—

That to the Interrogatories as per the Instructions of the Secretary of War this deponent answers—to the

1st That he was born in Kingston in Ulster County in the year 1748.

2nd That his age is recorded in the Dutch Church at Kingston that he was then baptized by the Reverend Mr. Marches.

3rd That when 13 years he moved from Kingston to Shawangunk aforesaid at which place he has allways [sic] since resided except when in the service and for a part of the 2 last years he has resided in the Town of Paltz with his son as aforesaid.

4 & 5 The said Deponent answers that he has explained the said enquiries in his foregoing deposition.

6th That the Commission of Ensign—is herewith transmitted & that the commission of Lieutenant is also herewith transmitted.

7th That a very many of the Inhabitants of the Town of Shawangunk can testify to his good character and that Evert Decker, Evert Hoffman, Benjamin Terwilliger, Abraham Sparks & John McCord & can testify to several of my said services.

That he hereby relinquishes his 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) Petrus Decker

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year above mentioned before me, John Jansen one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Ulster aforesaid.

Letter in folder dated May 6, 1938, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter of May 3, 1938, in which you furnish further information in regard to peter Decker and in which you state that he served from New York and had a son named Peter.

No claim for pension could be identified definitely as that of the Peter Decker in whom you are interested. You are furnished herein the record of Petrus Decker, the only soldier found of similar spelling of that name, in whose claim it is shown that he had a son named Peter.

Petrus Decker was born in the year 1748, in Kingston, Ulster County, New York and was baptized in the Dutch Church of Kingston, where his birth was recorded; the names of his parents are not shown. He moved at the age of thirteen years to Shawangunk in that same county.

While a resident of Shawangunk, New York, he enlisted in March 1776, and served four months as ensign in Captain Matthew Jansen's company, of Ulster County New York militia, during which he went to Fort Montgomery. He was commissioned July 8, 1776, 2nd Lieutenant in Captain Matthew Jansen's company, Colonel Jonathan Hasbrouck's New York regiment, served on different tours, was commissioned March 9, 1778, served on different tours, was commissioned march 9, 1778, 1st Lieutenant in that same company and regiment and served on various tours until sometime in 1781, these services amounting in all to twenty-six months as lieutenant. During the period of his service, he was in many skirmishes with the enemy.

Petrus Decker was allowed pension on his application executed July 24, 1832, at which time he resided in Ulster County, New York. He stated then that he lived a part of the time with his son in Shawangunk, and a part of the time with his son in New Paltz, in said Ulster County, but he did not designate the names of these sons.

Petrus Decker died February 20, 1834, in New Paltz, New York. He was not survived by a widow; the name of his wife, and the date and place of their marriage are not shown.

The names of the children who survived Petrus Decker are shown as follow: Zachariah Decker, Peter P. Decker, Severyn B. Decker, Elizabeth Badley, Levi Decker, Anne Irwin, Sarah Sammons, and Maria Gostchins.

In 1832, Evert Decker, the soldier's brother, resided in Shawangunk, Ulster County, New York.