

Pension Application for Peter Lake

W.26199 (Widow: Hannah) Hannah Cummings and Peter Lake married December 1, 1781. Peter died September 30, 1845.

B.L.Wt.26776-160-55

State of New York

Dutchess County SS.

On this twenty fourth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county of Dutchess now sitting Peter Lake a resident of the Town of Poughkeepsie in said County of Dutchess and State of New York aforesaid aged seventy years on the first day of August last past 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 was born in the town of Beekman Dutchess County and State of New York as he is informed and verily believes to be true on the first day of August in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty two.

That he entered the service of the United States in the Spring of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine or eighty is not certain which-as a substitute soldier for his brother Benjamin lake who was head of a class who was either to turn out one of their own numbers or furnish a man for nine months as such substitute.

That he entered the company commanded by Captain Livingston, and was examined and passed muster by Captain Phelps who was called muster master at New Town in the County of Albany and remained there in camp for a month or two and from thence as one of a detachment taken from the company of Captain Livingston was marched to the City of Albany and from thence went by water down the Hudson River to the landing at Fishkill and remained at the meeting house in that place one night during during [sic] which he was taken sick and next morning being unable to pursue the marchin[g] company with the others was left behind until Captain Phelps who was commander of the company so detached as aforesaid had disposed of the residue of the men and returned to Fishkill Landing where he entered on board a sloop bound for Albany with Captain Phelps and was from thence marched together with other comprising the company of Captain Pierce, whose Lieutenant was of the name of Pierce—to Schenectady and from thence to Johnstown and remained there in the old Jail which was Pickited [picketed] in and used as a guard house for about three months and from thence under the same officers was marched to Fort Plain at a distance of about twenty miles from the former place where they remained in camp for a short time perhaps one or two weeks and from thence under the command of Lieutenant Beacraft and Serjeant Dickinson was marched to Fort Herkimer as it was called which was also a said Picketed and occupied as a Fort where he remained his time out under the command of Major VanBenschoton and Colonel Dubois a part of the time from this place was frequently sent out on scouting parties sometimes to Fort Stanwix, where he with six others fell in with a party of Indians consisting of about

double their number who rose up from among the weeds at a distance of about thirty yards and immediately fired upon us but did no executions. The fire was immediately returned by order of Lieutenant Leak who commanded this party by which our Indian was killed on the spot.

The residence made a precipitate retreat and was pursued but was not over taken. From the Indians that fell in the skirmish his [?] Powder horn, Tomahawk & scalping knife was taken and eh left lying as he fell and returned to the Fort having been about seven days, It frequently happened while lying in this fort. That the Indians would approach within a few miles and commit murders & burn the dwelling of the defenseless inhabitants upon which occasions parties of which he was on [?] sent out in pursuit of them and at different times. They were discovered and fired upon but at no other than the above mentioned time were any of them found dead.

That he remained at and about Fort Herkimer until his time which was nine months had expired. He then enlisted for three years or during the war and remained under the same officers at different places in that neighborhood until the war ended being frequently sent out on scouting parties as before stated but from the great lapse of time, cannot recollect any material events, proper to relate here. That he then received a written discharge which was afterwards herewith together with the house and what it contained –Does not recollect by whom the discharge was given.

That he had a record of his age, contained in his father's family Bible but cannot tell whence it now is or what has become of it.

That he has since the Revolutionary War and and [sic] now does reside in the County of Dutchess aforesaid.

That he is known in the neighborhood where he now lives by John S. Myers, Daniel Hubbard, James Frear, & Lawrence B. Frear who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He 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 with his mark) Peter Lake.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Henry I. Traver, Clerk.

Letter in folder dated August 17, 1928, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.26199, it appears that Peter Lake was born August 1, 1762, at Beekman, Dutchess County, New York.

While residing in said Dutchess County, in the spring of 1779 and 1780, he served for nine months as a substitute for his brother, Benjamin Lake, under Captains Livingston, Phelps and Pearsey in Colonel DuBois' New York Regiment; at the expiration of this service, he enlisted and served as a private in same company and regiment until the close of the war.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 24, 1832, while a resident of Poughkeepsie, New York. He died September 30, 1845. Or September 30, 1846, at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York.

Soldier married December 1, 1781 at Pownal, Bennington County, Vermont, Hannah Cummings. She was allowed pension on her application executed April 22, 1852, while a resident of LaGrange, Dutchess County, New York, aged eighty-nine years. In 1855 she was living in Union Vale, New York.

Children are referred to, Anna the second child, born in 1790, is the only name stated.