

## **Pension Application for John Newkirk**

S.11134

State of New York  
Orange County SS.

On this third day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county now sitting John Newkirk a resident of the county of Montgomery in said County and State aforesaid aged sixty nine 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 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 after stated that within two years before Fort Montgomery (1) on the North River was taken by the English in the year 1777 he was out in service as a militiaman in the company commanded by Capt. Mathias Fetter (2) of said Town of Montgomery then several times—that on two of the several times he went to Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton, and that the third time he was out he with said company were on their way to said Fort Montgomery and was as far as New Windsor when the Fort was taken—that on this occasion he staid several days at New Windsor and Newburgh and then returned home that said company was in the Regiment under Command of Col. McLanghrey [McClaughrey] and that in said them several periods of services he was about about five weeks—

That on another and subsequent occasions he was out in service in said company on the frontiers in the South western part of the then county of Ulster for three weeks guarding the county against the apprehended attacks of the Indians but in what year cannot state—

That on another occasion and in the year 1779 as he thinks he was out in service in said company at Peenpack and Minisink and along the Delaware River guarding the county against the Indians scouting during the day and lying in small wood forts during the night—that on this tour he was out four weeks and it was the same time that the Goshen Regiment was destroyed by the Indians in the battle of Minisink. (3)

That about the first of May 1780 he served for a class for a period of seven months in the company commanded by Capt. Abraham Westfall (4) in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Paulding the Elder and served said seven months at Peenpack and Minisink and was discharged at Peenpack by said Captain on the first day of December 1780 that his discharge for said services is hereunto annexed.

That in the spring of the year 1781 when all the Militia for this part of the country was ordered out he went out in said Capt. Feters company to said Peenpack, Minisink and other neighboring places—that after he was out some short time fourteen men from each company were left there on duty and the residue returned home—that the applicant was one of the fourteen left out of Capt. Feters company and he was then attached to Capt. Burnets (5) Company and staid in service this time six weeks when he was discharged. That according to his recollection there was no officer that remained in service on that occasion higher than a Captain.

And the said applicant further states that on several occasions and very frequently he was ordered out and went out in cases of alarm both on the North River and to the frontiers on which occasion he would be out a few days at a time making in all this kind of service two weeks—that the reason he was in service at so early an age was that his father got hurt by a fall from a horse and was unable to go into service and Capt. Fetter insisted that he could shoot as well as an older man and requested him to go—that he cannot prove his personal services by any men living that he had no other written evidence of his service than the discharge herewith sent and never had any other that at the time all the services herein stated were performed he resided in the said town of Montgomery in Orange County, N York and has continued to reside there ever since that he was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feby 1763 in said town & county—That he has a record of his age in a bible in the possession of his daughter in the city of New York.

That one period of his services was for a class in which the militia commanded at that time as stated in this Declaration and that in some of the other periods of service he was a substitute for his father and in others served for himself—the answers to the other interrogatories put by the war Department and embraced as far as recollected in said Declaration and that Laurence Crist and Adam Newkirk will testify for him 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) John Newkirk.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Adam L. Dennine Clerk.

End Notes—S.11134—John Newkirk

1. Fort Montgomery was captured on October 6, 1777.
2. Mathias Felter (Felton) was the Captain of the Fourth Company in Colonel James McClaughrey's Second Regiment of Ulster County Militia. John was underage at this time, he would have been about 14 years of age, and this service would not have counted.
3. The Battle of Minisink was fought on July 22, 1779. The "Goshen" Regiment was Colonel William Allison's Regiment of orange County Militia. Several officers and enlisted men were killed in this battle.

4. Abraham Westfall was appointed Captain on May 11, 1780 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Albert Pawling's Regiment of New York State Levies. John's name did not appear on the payroll for this company or on any of the other companies.
5. Captain John burnet of Lieutenant-Colonel Pawling's Regiment.