

## **Pension Application for Peter Ouderkirk**

S.22926

State of New York

County of Schenectada SS.

Peter Ouderkirk of the City of Schenectada in said County aged seventy-seven years, on this thirteenth day of March 1838, personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Circuit Court & Court of Oyer & Terminer for said court and the said Peter Ouderkirk 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

He was born in the the [sic] town of Guilderland in the County of Albany, formerly called Norman's creek, on the twenty first day of March one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one (1761). The record of his age is contained in the Register of baptisms in possession of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Schenectada or in a family Register in the possession of the family of his brother Frankel being deceased.

When called into the service of the United States in the army of the revolution, he this Declarant was living at a place called the Heldebergh (now in the County of Albany) in said state. He continued to reside there after the revolutionary war, until he was thirty five years of age, to wit until the year 1794, when he moved to Williamsburgh in Upper Canada where he continued to live until he moved to said City of Schenectada. [Old style spelling of Schenectady]

When this Deponent became about sixteen years of age, to wit, in the month of March 1777, he enlisted in the Company of Batteauxmen, fatigue men & labourers commanded by Captain John Clute in the Department of the Quarter Master General of the United States at the then township of Schenectada. The term of his enlistment was for nine months, which term he served out in full at Saratoga, Fort Miller, land at other posts, faithfully discharging all such duties as were required of him.

In the fall of the year 1779, he this declarant was called upon to serve in a detachment of militia commanded by Captain Jacob Van Aernan, in the Regiment of Colonel Abraham TenBroeck. The names of his other company officers whom he recollects were John Eaker, Lieutenant & Derick Hamestreet Ensign. He thinks it was in the month of November or the latter part of October in said year 1779, that he marched with said Detachment to Schoharie, and performed garrison duty in the upper fort of Schoharie.

The garrison at that place was commanded by Colonel Vrooman, who was a resident of Schoharie. The period of his service on this occasion was six weeks in the whole, four weeks in succession—when the detachment aforesaid was ordered home. Here this declarant remained about eight day, when he with a like detachment was ordered back again to Schoharie, where he did the like duty as before for at least two weeks. The names of the other officers at said garrison at that time whom this declarant can recollect, is Captain Lawyer.

In the spring of the year 1780, he this Declarant enlisted in the company of fatigue-men, batteauman & laborers commanded by Captain Peter Adair or Odeer—in

the Department of the QuarterMaster General –from this company he was transferred to that of Captain John Denny in the same Department. The term of this enlistment was one year, which he faithfully served out and received his discharge in the spring of the year 1781. The principal places where he discharged his duties as a member of said Company, were Fishkill and Westpoint. They were at Fishkill at the time of that escape of Benedict Arnold from Westpoint.

In the fall of the year 1781, he this Declarant was detached with others from the company of militia in his boat at Guilderland aforesaid, under command of said John Acker his Lieutenant & of said Derick Hamestreet his ensign, and marched to Schenectada, whence in company with other troops and militia under command of Colonel Abraham Wemple, they marched to Fort Plain, and Stone Arabia, and were out in this expedition for the full term of two weeks.

In the month of June 1779 he was called upon & required to serve as a fatigue man & performed duty as such under a waggonmaster whose name this Deponent cannot recollect & proceeded with the troops under General Sullivan in his expedition against the Indians, to Canajoharie & Lake Otsego, and he was there dismissed. In this expedition he served four weeks with his wagon & horses, and never received any remuneration whatever for his said services from any source whatever.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew, or who were with the troops where he served, and such continental and militia regiments, or companies with which he served, or as he can recollect, viz:--General Philip Schuyler, Genl Gansevoort, Genl TenBrock, Adjt Jessis A. Fonda, who served with him when Butler was killed, Col. Marinus Willett—General Arnold, and all the Captains in the Regiment of Colonel Abraham Wemple.

He never received any written discharge from the service, except one at the conclusion of his services in the company of Captain John Denny, but said discharge he has lost.

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He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except those whose testimony is hereunto annexed.

The following are the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, to wit: Garret VanZandt, and Isaac Truax

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 Ouderkirk

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year first aforesaid. W.W. Tredway,  
Deputy Clerk