

Pension Application for Harmanus Peek

S.14161

State of New York

County of Montgomery SS.

On this Nineteenth day of September In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County, Now sitting Harmanus Peek a resident of the town of Fonda's bush in said County, aged seventy-three years & upwards, 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 7th 1832.

He was born on the 13th day of January 1759, in the (then township now) City of Schenectady. He has no record of his age except that contained in his family bible, but the time of his baptism is recorded in the Register of Baptisms belonging to the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church in said city.

When he entered the service of the United States, he lived in said township at the close of the revolutionary war, he removed to Tripes Hill & from thence to Fonda's bush aforesaid where he now lives.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

In the fall of the year 1775, he was enrolled in the company of militia within his beat, to wit, the company commanded by Captain John Mynderse in the Regiment whereof Abraham Wemple was Colonel. His other company and field officers were Lawrence Mynderse first Lieutenant, James H. Peek second Lieutenant, Abraham J. Truax Ensign, Abraham Swits and Myndert Wemple Majors, Abraham Ten Broeck General of the Brigade.

In the winter of 1775 & 1776 he was on duty with the militia under Generals Schuyler & Tenbroeck near Johnson Hall on which occasion Sir John Johnson and his tenants were disarmed and surrendered themselves prisoners of war. He was from home on this tour nearly one month.

In the spring of the year 1776 he was pursuant to a draft sent with a detachment of militia to a place called summerhouse point near the fish house in Sacondaga, and was there employed nearly a month under General Clinton in erecting fortifications. He thinks one John Ogden had the command of this expedition. During the same year he was again drafted and employed under the command of Captain Vrooman in erecting stonehouses &c at Ticonderoga landing.

His next expedition was to the State of New Jersey in the company of Captain David Gordon—Snook & Whittock Lieutenants—Bruce Ensign. L The only field officer whose name he recollects in this expedition was General David Furman. He was employed with a party of about seventy two men to guard the shore at Sandy Hook. Here they had an encounter with the enemy in which Lieutenant Whitlock and several others were killed. Out of the 72 only eleven of the Americans of whom he the claimant was one escaped, the remainder were taken prisoners. He was in this last expedition for the term of three months. After receiving his discharge from this service

he returned to Schenectady & again entered the company of Captain John Mynderse aforesaid and served therein to the end of the war.

In the beginning of the year 1777, he engaged in an expedition to Beaverdam a place much infested with Tories. He was in this expedition placed under the Command of Captain Thomas B. Banker and Major Abraham Swits.

On the third of July 1777 he was ordered to Fort Edward and performed duty at that post & the other posts in that vicinity with the troops under Generals Schuyler, Arnold, and Gates until and after the 17th October in that year when Burgoyne and his army were captured and the militia were ordered home.

During the remainder of the war he was out on numerous tours of duty, the precise periods of which and the length of time he served in each, it is entirely out of his power to specify. It is well known that alarms in this State were very frequent, and detachments of militia were continually ordered out. He was out on several occasions with detachments to guard our frontier inhabitants, when St. Leger's army approached.

Was out many times as a scout and to reconnoiter at divers posts and passes where disaffected and dangerous persons and families resided, and where Indians were supposed to lurk with hostile intentions. He has performed garrison duty sundry times at Fort Plain, Fort Plant, Fort Hunter, Fort Paris, and Schoharie, was out in the different militia campaigns when the Mohawk country was laid waste by the enemy and when Ballston was burnt. If he should be required to say how long in the whole he served in these different tours and expeditions he can honestly and sincerely say for a period exceeding two years.

In addition to the officers whose names are herein before mentioned he knew Major Copeman, Colonels VanSchaick, Gansevoort, General VanCortland; Colonels Dubois, Harper & many others, as well as most of the Regiments or companies they commanded.

He never received any written discharge from the service. He has no documentary evidence, but can produce the testimony of his Lieutenant James H. Peek and of Christopher Ward who was in service with him in some of the foregoing expeditions.

The following are the names of persons in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. Viz. John H. Lansing, & Evert A. Van Allen.

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) Harmanus Peek

Subscribed & Sworn the day & year first aforesaid. Geo: D. Ferguson, Clerk