

Pension Application for James H. Peek, Jacobus Peake, or Jacobus H. Peeck

W. 10883 (Widow: Sarah) Married July 21, 1780. James died September 21, 1835.

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this 24th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, personally appeared before me James V. S. Ryley one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County of Schenectady, James (or Jacobus) H. Peek to me well known, a resident of the town of Rotterdam in said county, aged about seventy four 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 7th 1832.

That he the said James H. Peek was born in the then township now City of Schenectady on the 16th day of August 1758, as he was informed by his parents, and as appears from a family Register left by them.

He lived in said City at the commencement of the Revolutionary War. He resided there after said war, and continued there to reside until the year 1817 when he removed to the town of Rotterdam aforesaid where he now lives.

In the fall of the year 1775, he entered the service of the United States in the army of the revolution as a volunteer, and attached himself to the company of Minute men commanded by Captain John Mynderse, and was chosen second Lieutenant thereof, Lawrence Mynderse was first Lieutenant and Abraham J. Truax Ensign. Having thus entered the service he did not leave the same until the close of said war in the year 1783.

This company of minute men was afterwards abolished or rather converted into a company of militia retaining the same officers, and was attached to the Regiment whereof Abraham Wemple was Colonel, and Abraham Swits and Myndert Wemple Majors, and to the Brigade commanded by General Abraham TenBroeck.

In confirmation of his appointment to the officer of second Lieutenant as aforesaid he received a commission (which accompanies this declaration) bearing date the 20th June 1778 & signed by George Clinton Governor of the State of New York & countersigned by Abraham B. Bancker Deputy Secretary.

On the 16th of August 1780 he was honored with a Commission (which also accompanies this declaration) by which he was appointed Lieutenant of a company in "the Levies of this State to reinforce the army of the United States", and served as such for three months and two weeks; to wit, until the 30th day of November in the year 1780 last named. While in this service his field officers were Colonel Lewis Dubois, & Major (Van) Benschoten, and his captain's name was Benjamin Dubois. The names of his to her company & field officers he does not now recollect.

His term of service in said company of Levies having expired, he immediately thereupon again entered the before named company of John Mynderse (his office therein not having become vacated during his service in the levies as aforesaid) and he served as Lieutenant therein without intermission until the end of the war.

He has one military duty on sundry occasions at the following posts and passes and has marched through all the places & necessary to reach those posts viz Albany, West Point, Tappan, & other posts along the Hudson river, Cobleskill, Schoharie. Beaverdam, Niskayuna, Ballston, Fort Edward, Fort Ann, Fort Miller, Fort Paris, Fort Hunter, Fort Plank, Fort Dayton, Fort Herkimer & other places on our then northern & Western Frontiers. But all the particular periods for which he served at those places it is impossible for him to specify. Some of the principal expeditions in which he engaged & the length of time he served in them, are as near as he can recollect them as follows.

Fin the month of January 1776, he was with his minute Company at Johnstown who with Captain Jellis Fondas Company and other troops were sent thither to capture Sir John Johnson & his dependants (supposed to be between 3 & 400 in number) but who surrendered themselves prisoners of war. He was out in this expedition more than two weeks.

In the spring of the year 1776, he was with a detachment of militia at a place called summer house point in Sacondaga, and was there in service about three weeks under General Clinton in erecting fortifications at that place.

In the month of July 1777, he marched with his company to Fort Edward & as in service there, at fort Ann at Snookkill & other posts in and about Saratoga during the retreat of General Schuyler & until after the surrender of Burgoyne & his army to wit, for the term of nearly four months—He was in the Snook kill battle, the battle at Bemis's Heights & in most of the skirmishes that took place during this campaign.

In the fall of the year 1778, he performed garrison duty as Fort Paris about three months.

In the fall of the year 1779, he performed garrison duty at the last named fort & also at German flats for about six weeks.

In the fall of the year 1780, he was sent by Colonel Dubois with 36 men to Fort Herkimer to take command there, and he had the command of this fort for about five weeks—Near the close of the month of November in the year last named, the time of service of the militia & other troops stationed there having about expired, he could with difficulty prevent them from leaving the fort—as it was reported that a party of the enemy were approaching, the desertion of this fort was an event seriously to be depreciated.

By the 26 of November the most of the troops had left the fort. The enemy were not near at hand. In this emergency hoping to elude the enemy with a show of strength, he fired off several field pieces in quick succession. This had the desired effect—the enemy took a circuitous route & did not attack this fort. By this stratagem fort Dayton & fort Herkimer were both saved, with their valuable stores.

On one occasion he took command of a party of Indians (20 in number) and went out to Beaverdam to guard the country at that place which was much infested with Tories and hostile Indians—with these he had many skirmishes, was out on numerous occasions for four or five days each as a scout & Indians spy, and often narrowly escaped with his life.

Besides the battles before mentioned, when he was with the troops at Tappan in the year 1780, they had an encounter with a British Brig. He was a member of a Court Martial seven times, at the following places; viz, Ballston, Schenectady, Albany and Niskayuna. He has performed garrison duty on two occasions for a term of about three weeks each at the Schoharie forts.

He was several times sent in search of the troublesome tory Joseph Bettis & others his associates to Niskayuna, Ballston & as far north as Lake George. He has very often served as Captain of the guard at the fortress in Schenectady—on one occasion he assisted in the apprehension of 23 tories at Norma's Kill & escorted them to Albany.

Although when in the militia he was not every day on military duty, yet if he should be required to say how long he was in actual service while in the militia, he can say within bounds for more than two years.

The following are some of the regular officers & Regiments whom & which he knew or with whom & which he served; to wit: Colonel Goosen VanSchaick & his Regiment, Colonel Cornelius VanDyck & his Regiment General Arnold, General Schuyler, General Gansvoort, General Gates, Colonel Christopher C. Yates, Colonels Harper, Dubois Willett & their troops, Colonel Dayton & many others.

He can prove different portions of his services by witnesses now living – the depositions of some of whom are annexed.

The following are the names of persons in his neighbourhood who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as soldier of the revolution: viz, Garret S. Veeder & James V.S. Ryley, the former of Rotterdam& the latter of the City of Schenectady in said County.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.
(Signed) James H. Peek

Subscribed & Sworn to this 24th July 1832 before me. James V.S. Rylery Judge of the Schenectady County Courts.