

Pension Application for Peter Rosekrans

S.14347

Albany County SS.

I Peter Rosekrans of the Town of Bethlehem in the said county, do hereby, after being duly sworn, according to law, depose and say; that as soon as he was capable of understanding what was communicated to him by language, he was told by his parents, whose names were John Rosekrans and Sarah Schoonmaker, that he was born in Fishkill town in the County of Dutchess, on the 15th day of September, anno domini, [domino] one thousand seven hundred and fifty four, and that consequently he was on the 15 Sept. now last past seventy eight years of age; that on the first day of August 1776 he enlisted in Fishkill town for five months under Captain Duryee in Coll James Swartwouts regiment of militia in the brigade commanded by Brigadier General George Clinton, raised for the purpose of guarding that part of the eastern shore of the North or Hudson's river against depredations and incursions from the British Ships Roebuck and Asia, which lay opposite Pugsley's Point nearly opposite to Tarrytown, in Westchester County; In the course of which enlistment this declarer marched to Pugley's point to Spytendevil or Kingsbridge, from thence to the White Plains and was in the battle fought there, in which a Capt VanWyck of the militia was killed.

That General McDougall['s] Brigade was on the right In the battle & that that part of the army to which this declarer was attached and who were in an entrenchment, after being driven from it by the enemy, were compelled to retreat; that the hottest part of the battle was on the right where McDougall's brigade were engaged; that during the engagement and whilst in the intrenchments [entrenchments] one man was killed in the rear of where this declarer lay, in the intrenchment to the left whilst Lieut. Horton who lay in the same intrenchment with this declarer as he was dodging his head at the word "Shot" given by our Colonel, to caution the men against cannot shot, in bringing down his head, struck his mouth and lips on a stump, which set his mouth a bleeding, which induced this declarer to say to the Lieutenant in a jocose manner, "Why, Lieut, you are wounded"—to which he replied—"Hold your tongue"—

That in the year 1777 he was ordered out with the rest of the main body of the militia of Dutchess County by command of General George Clinton, and in the company commanded by Capt. VanBenschoten in Colonel Brinckerhoffs Regt and marched from Fishkill town to the landing and performed duty as a volunteer, in preventing the enemy from landing from their shipping to destroy the property of the inhabitants along shore and setting fire to their buildings; and that they remained on duty in that quarter for in that quarter for not less than four 4 months and until dismissed and they were permitted to return home.

That in the year 1778 according to his best recollection, he did duty as a detached volunteer under and officers who, I think was a captain in the regular army, to Fort Constitution, where he was ordered at assist in building batteries there, in which he was actually engaged for a period of one month.

That in the fall of the year 1779, he this declarer was ordered to march from where he resided which was in Fishkill town, to the mouth of the highlands, at the entrance of the post road to Peekskill, and there did actual duty previous to his dismissal and return home for a period of three months.

That in the year 1780, this declarer was ordered out as a militia private to march to North Castle, where the British had, as was reported, sent, or intended to send foraging parties and that on this tour he was under the command of his former captain, VanBenschoten, and was out one month.

That in the year 1780 in consequence of an alarm, the militia was ordered out and marched from Fishkill to the landing, and returned to the Town and lay in a barn there, and remained on duty until dismissed, which tour was of ten days continuance. And that in one of the foregoing years, but which of them he cannot now recollect, he was on duty under the immediate command of Lieut. DeGraff of Capt. Hagerman's Company in pursuit of one John Miller and several other persons who were suspected of treasonable practices for the purpose of apprehending and taking them prisoners; but did not succeed in taking them excepting one Thomas Carman whom we delivered to the Committee of Safety—which tour was not less than twenty days; and on another occasion which took place in the year 1781—he was engaged under Capt. VanBenschoten in apprehending one Jacock's as a spy; who was afterwards executed, and on this tour he was engaged for two days. And or all the said service he claims a pension. (Signed Peter Rosekrans

Subscribed & Sworn to the 10th Jan'y 1833. Gerrit Dose Justice of the Justices Court &c.