

Pension Application for John Schoolcraft

S.30.689

Declaration: In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

County of Albany SS

On the sixteenth day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Justice Court of the City of Albany now sitting, John Schoolcraft a resident of the Town of Guilderland in the county of Albany and state of New York aged on 21 Oct next seventy two 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 stated: Early in the Spring of 1777 he was enrolled in Capt. John Groot (1) Company and in Col. Francis Nicholls Regt of Militia and appointed a Corporal, the first service he performed was in the County of Albany in marching with a detachment of the Militia under Capt. Groot to apprehend and bring into the City of Albany, disaffected persons and enemies of the Country for the purpose of their taking the oath of allegiance, or to imprison them—

Some time after when Burgoyne (2) and his army were advancing from Canada into the interior of the State, he the declared marched up the North River [Hudson] with the Company and were for some time stationed at Fort Edward from thence to a place called Kingsbury the American Army was first Commanded by General Philip Schuyler, (3) afterwards by General Gates; (4) he this declarer was in service during that year for six months or more—

In the winter of 1778 I served as a drafted militia man for four months under Capt. John Price (5) in Col. John Beekman's Regiment, which was stationed in the City of Albany, in which he did duty until he was discharged—At the expiration of which time, he was appointed orderly Sergeant in Capt Groots Company and was ordered with a detachment of Militia to march to Schoharie to garrison and defend the three forts built there, called the Upper, Middle and Lower Forts, which being a frontier between the Enemy and Indians on the Southwest and the City of Albany were kept garrisoned by militia, the declarer was also in the lower fort at Schoharie when Brant and Butler (6) devastated, burnt and destroyed the adjoining country and on the Mohawk River and also marched with the company to the forts on that river, and on one occasion the militia marched under the command of Governor Clinton (7) to Fort Plain in pursuit of the enemy; and after the tour of duty was ended, returned home—not long after he the declarer was ordered out under Lieutenant Commandant Van Auken, (8) then in Command of Capt. Groots Company and at that time belonging to Col. Philip P. Schuyler's Regiment and marched to Saratoga and on two different occasions to Schenectady; besides which he was ordered out as a military guard and Capt. Groot to attend the former prisoners of sequestration whilst they went into various parts of the country for the purpose of selling the personal property of those disaffected persons who had absconded after Burgoyne was taken and who had joined the British in Canada—

That this declarer has full confidence in saying and doth hereby declare that the whole period of his services as a Revolutionary War Soldier was not less than twenty four months. The greater part of that time as orderly sergeant.

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 Schoolcraft

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. J. G. Wasson Clk

We, Manning Bogardus, a Clergyman residing in the Town of Guilderland hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Schoolcraft who has subscribed and sworn the above declaration; that we believe him to be seventy two years of age, that he is reputed and believed, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Manning Bogardus, pastor of the RPDC in the Town of Guilderland. (Signed Henry Shaver)

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid, J. G. Wasson, clk.

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion, after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier, and served as he states.

And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that Nanning Bogardus who hath signed the preceding certificate, is a Clergyman resident in the Town of Guilderland; and that Henry Shaver who has also signed the same, is a resident of the same place and is a credible person, and that their statements are entitled to credit.

I, John G. Wasson Clerk of the Justices Court of the City of Albany DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of said Court in the matter of the application of John Schoolcraft for a pension.

IN TESTIMONY whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, this 16th day of August A.D. 1832. J. G. Wasson, clk.

Albany County SS

On the 14th of Nov. 1832, John Schoolcraft, the person who on the 14th of August subscribed & made oath to the written declaration now makes and subscribed the following supplementary declaration and oath that is to say, he doth hereby confirm the former declaration in every particular and doth further declare that the year 1777 he was a levy for four months from the militia and served under Capt. John Price and were billeted and served in the City of Albany and served under Capt. John Groot against Burgoyne and his army for six months.

In 1778 he served again under Capt. Groot and was stationed alternately in the middle and lower forts at Schoharie for a period of six months: In 1779 & 1780, 1781, he served for six months more on each of the said years under Lieut. Commandant Van Auken who succeeded Capt. Groot, and continued in command of the company until the end of the war and after Schohaire was burnt and destroyed—Note—the words “In each of the said year” were interlined before the foregoing supplementary declaration was subscribed and sworn to and for the before mentioned services, this delarer claims the pension granted by the act of June 7th 1832.

(Signed) John Schoolcraft

Subscribed and sworn to the words “in each of the said years” adding to 1779, 1780, &b 1781 above mentioned, having been first interlined.

Before me in open court, John G. Wasson, Clk. Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in & of the County of Albany, John Schoolcraft, named in the within papers, who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of each term of his service, but judging to the best of his recollection, he served not less that the periods mentioned below and the following grades: For ten months I served as private, and for eighteen months more, I served as an Orderly Sergeant until the close of the war and for such service I claim a pension.

(Signed) John Schoolcraft

Subscribed & Sworn before me this 19th day of December 1832. H. Shear. Justice of the Peace and one of the Justices of the Justice Court of the City of Albany.

End Notes—S.30689—John Schoolcraft

1. John Groot was the first lieutenant in Captain Jacob VanAernam's Fifth Company in Colonel Francis Nicholl's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia. On June 22, 1778, Groot was commissioned captain of a company. The company was in the same regiment but now commanded by Colonel Philip P. Schuyler. Either Groot moved into another company beat or Captain VanAernam's Company was large enough to be divided into two companies.
2. The invasion was led by Lieutenant General John Burgoyne in 1777.
3. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army.
4. Major General Horatio Gates of the Continental Army.
5. This was apparently a draft of the various Albany County Militia Regiments. John Price was a Captain in Colonel Jacob Lansing Jr., First Regiment of Albany County Militia and John H. Beekman was the Lieutenant-Colonel in Colonel Killian Van Rensselaer's Fourth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
6. On October 17, 1780 Sir John Johnson raided and destroyed the Schoharie Valley. Captain Joseph Brant and Lieutenant Colonel John Butler were also present under Johnson.
7. Governor George Clinton was a participant in the pursuit of Johnson up the Mohawk River on October 19, 1780.
8. The following were officers under Captain Groot: Barent Mynderson as first lieutenant, Levi VanAuken as second lieutenant and Dirck Hemstreet as the ensign.