

Pension Application for Robert Slater

R.9650 (Widow: Margaret)

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this fifteenth day of October one thousand eight hundred & thirty four personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting, Robert Slater a resident of the Town of Rotterdam in said County & State aged seventy three years and 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 his passage from Ireland to Quebec, as he was informed by his father, on the eleventh day of October in the year one thousand seven hundred & sixty one—He has no record of his age.

He was living in the City of Albany in the County of Albany when he entered the service of the United States. He lived there until the War terminated and then moved to Heidlebergh now called Guilderland, in said County of Albany, where he remained about eight years, then moved to the City of Schenectady in said County of Schenectady where he lived about twenty two years & then moved to the Town of Rotterdam for said last mentioned County where he has lived until the present time and still lives.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. In the fall of the year 1776 he was enrolled in a company of Militia of which Henry Ostrom was Captain, Jacob Weaver 1st Lieutenant, Philip Hamestead 2^d Lieutenant & Peter Schuyler Jun. Ensign belonging to Colonel Philip Schuyler's Regiment. After his enrollment he marched with the company & Regiment to Lake George where he remained for the space of six weeks, performing Garrison Duty with the Americans, encamped that year at that place. At the termination of the six weeks, he returned home, & was there engaged in working in the Continental Cooper Shop in the capacity of a Cooper until late in the summer or sometime in the fall of the succeeding year 1777, when he was again called out into service and was enrolled in Captain Jacob VanArnam's Company, George Waggoner being the Lieutenant and John Aker the ensign, which company also belonged to Colonel Philip Schuyler's Regiment. He at this time, under said VanArnam served at Saratoga in the Expedition against Burgoyne for as long as space of time as six weeks, during the whole of which time he continually performed service. During this expedition Burgoyne surrendered himself & army to the Americans.

This expedition being ended, he returned home & was again engaged, as before, working in the Continental Cooper shop, until sometime in the year 1778. (The time of the year he cannot recollect) when he was ordered out into service under Captain John Groot, a Militia captain, as he thinks, the other officers he does not recollect.

Under the command of Groot he marched to the Lower Fort of Schoharie, where he performed Garrison Duty, for a period of at least five or six weeks. In the fall of the year 1779 as he thinks he was again called out to serve at the Middle Fort of Schoharie, where he served for a period of five or six weeks at least, performing Garrison Duty as before. But under what Captain, he, at this time was called out he cannot precisely recollect but strongly believes it was said Captain Jacob VanAernam aforesaid.

In the fall of the year 1780 he again when out under Captain Groot to the Lower Fort of Schoharie, where he also performed Garrison Duty for the space of at least five weeks. During this last mentioned time of service, he was engaged in the Battle with Sir John Johnson & Major Ross & the enemy under their command, who made an attack upon their Fort. This Lower Fort was commanded by Major Jost Becker, Colonel Teats, & Adjutant Lawrence Schoolcraft. He knew the celebrated Murphy who at this time was at the Middle fort of Schoharie. After the burning of Schoharie he was in the pursuit of the enemy & marched through Fort Hunter, Caughnawaga & Stone Arabia. To Fort Plain, and

then returned home. During this expedition in pursuit of the enemy he was under arms at least one week. He was out on many occasions as a scout with militia men in pursuits of small parties of the enemy who were lurking about in the neighborhood of American settlements but he cannot recollect the times of such services in consequence of the terms of such services being short & numerous. He was out several times to Heidleburgh, to the Beaverdam, to Schoharie to Ballston after the noted Tory Joseph Bettis & his associates, to Saratoga Lake after said Bettis to Bowman's Kill to Norman's Kill & to other places which he cannot recollect. In those short expeditions he sometimes went out under Capt. Groot & sometimes under Capt. VanArnam & he is certain that the periods of times that he was out on these short expeditions, in the aggregate amount to at least one month.

He this declarant conscientiously believes that during the War he served on many other occasions than those he has specified, which in the whole would amount to at least one year, but in consequence of his impaired memory he cannot particularly recollect nor specify the occasions on which he was so out & accordingly he claims a pension only for those terms which he has specified which in the whole amount to seven months and an half.

Note: the word "seven" written on erasure & the words "under, "Militia" "a militia captain" interlined before signing.

The following are the names of some of the regular officer 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 Gates, VanRansaeler, Schuyler, Colonel Ten Broeck, Willett, VanSchaick, & General Gansevoort, Colonel Dubois & his regiment Capt. Nelson & Company &c.

He never received any written discharge from the service.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except those whose affidavits are 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, William Strong of the City of Schenectady, but residing in the neighborhood of the applicant and James 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) Robert Slater

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year first aforesaid. J. C. Burnham, Clerk

Letter dated January 13, 1916.

I have the pleasure of furnishing you the history of the pension claim of Robert Slater, R. File No. 9650, Rev. War, the only claim for any person named Slater of the New York troops, found in the Revolutionary War records of this Bureau.

In said claim, it is stated that Robert Slater was born October 11, 1761, on the passage from Ireland to Quebec, and it is alleged that while a resident of Albany, Albany County, New York, he enlisted and served as follows:

Fall, 1776, Captain Henry Ostrom's company, Colonel Philip Schuyler's regiment; six weeks.

Fall, 1777; Captain Jacob VanArnum's company, Colonel Philip Schuyler's regiment; six weeks.

1778; under Captain John Groot; six weeks.

Fall, 1779; under Captain Jacob AnArnum; five or six weeks.

Fall, 1780; under Captain John Groot; in battle of Schoharie; five or six weeks.

On October 15, 1834, while a resident of Rotterdam, Schenectady County, New York, he made an application for pension which was rejected on the ground of insufficient proof of service, as required by the Act of June 7, 1832, under which he applied.

He married November 9, 1829, in Schenectay County New York, Margaret Clow, he died April 4, 1839, at Rotterdam, New York, where, in 1850, the widow (said Margaret) resided, aged sixty-four years.

There is not further data relative to family.