

Pension Application for Lawrence Swart

S.11503

State of New York

Otsego County SS.

On this 15th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas of the County of Otsego now sitting at the court house in Cooperstown in said County Lawrence Swart resident of the Town of Oneonta, county of Otsego & State of New York aged 78 years on the 11th day of last Nov., who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832 that he served as a soldier in the Army of the Revolution for one year & eleven months or two years, this deponent know his service to amount to one year & eleven months & thinks it is two years, under the following circumstances—he was called out with the other militia of the Town of Schoharie in the County of Schoharie & State of New York under Capt. VanSlyke [sic] (1) Col he does not recollect and was stationed at fort Edward for upwards of forty days when he was relieved & sent home again to Schoharie.

This service was from sometime in August to sometime in November 1776 this deponent is not certain unto the day of entering into or returning from the service—but he is sure that he was engaged for more than forty days as above stated--That in the month of June 1778 he enlisted in Schoharie aforesaid under Col. Vrooman in a company commanded by Capt. Ricktmyers (2) and was stationed at a place called Middle Fort in the town of Middleburgh in said county of Schoharie in the State of New York for the space of nine months for which time he first enlisted he was discharged at Middlefort aforesaid when he returned to his home in the town of Schoharie aforesaid. He was at Middle Fort when it was attacked by a party of Tories & Indians commanded by Sir John Johnston (3) & he enlisted in this campaign in the Spring of 1777 & was discharged the following winter—and that he was called again the same year to go to Fort Edward, and was under arms in this time for about six weeks at least under the same officers as above that from the year 1778 he was constantly engaged in the defence of the Forts in Schoharie and on the frontiers until the closing of the war of the revolution—he stood as a minute man (4) and was called out to stand as sentry to the forts and aforesaid as often as two or three times a week in consequence for which he claims a pension is over two years—And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except for the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension rolls of any agency of any State—And that he has not in his possession any documentary evidence of his services nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove his services except John L. Lawyer of Schoharie & Jacob Enders of the same place.

That he was born in the Town of Esopus in the County of Ulster & State of New York on the 11th day of November 1753 and lived there until he removed to the town of Schoharie above mentioned when he was four years old—In 1801 he removed to Harpersfield in Delaware County State of New York where he resided 3 years & then removed to the County of Otsego where he has resided ever since—He refers for evidence of his good character to Eliakim R. Ford, Peter Collier, James McDonald & Wm. Angels

(Signed) Lawrence Swart

Sworn in open court the 15th day of Oct. 1832. Horace Lathrop, Jr. Clerk

End Notes—S.11503—Lawrence Swart

1. Martin VanSlyke was appointed first lieutenant in 1775 in Captain Jacob Hager's Second Company in Colonel Peter Vrooman's Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County

Militia. Sometime after 1776, Ephraim Vrooman was appointed first lieutenant in place of VanSlyck. Vrooman was commissioned on February 20, 1778.

2. George Richtmeyer, Captain of the Third Company in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment.
3. Sir John Johnson destroyed the Schoharie Valley on October 17, 1780. Johnson's troops attacked the Middle and Lower Forts with small arms, Cohorns and a three pounder cannon, which fired a solid cannon ball weighing three pounds, with little damage to the forts.
4. All militiamen were required to be ready to march to their appointed meeting places at a minutes warning. Lawrence also served in Captain Christian Stubrach's Company for a term in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment.