

Pension Application for Elias VanAuker or VanAnker

S.11599

State of New York

Steuben County SS.

On this 16th day of October in the year 1832 personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas now sitting, Elias VanAuker, a resident of the Town of Howard in the said County of Steuben aged seventy three years in December last, 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. That he first entered the service in June 1776 under Capt. Morris Courtwright, Lieut John VanTuyle and Ensign Martin Coykendall, at Minisink, Orange County and State of New York where the then resided.

This applicant marched with said company to Fort Montgomery on the North River and remained there about four weeks and was there dismissed—not in writing. Col. Ellison commanded the Regiment, Lieut Col Thurston and Major John Decker. That in the month of September or October same year this applicant performed another tour of duty under Lieut. John VanTuyle (Capt Courtwright was suspected of being a tory and was confined in goal, entered the service at Miniskink aforesaid, where he then resided—marched from thence to Fort Montgomery and remained there on duty about one month, and was there discharged, did not receive a written discharge.

That in the year 1777, he again entered the service as a three months man and as he thinks early in the Month of September of that year, at Minisink aforesaid, where he then resided under the command of Lieutenants John VanTuyle and Martiness Decker, but he is not quite sure Don't recollect the names of the other officers—marched early in September from Minisink to Fort Montgomery—was at the said Fort when it was taken in October 1777, but made his escape with the company—marched the next day after the fort was taken to Newburgh; thence to Barks Bridge at the Walkill where he remained a short time—was then ordered to Esopus, and arrived there the day Esopus was burnt—and after remaining there a few weeks, was ordered to Newburgh where he was discharged in December early in December 1777. Lieut VanTuyle's Company, at Fort Montgomery was attached to Col. Browns Regiment as he thinks. The fort was commanded by Gen. Clinton—Did not receive a written discharge.

That in the month of April of the year 1778 he again entered into the service of the United States as a militia man at Minisink, in the County of Orange & State of New York, where he then resided under Capt Levi VanAtter, Lieutenant Wilhelmus Westfall, and Martiness Decker under the command of Major John Decker built a Fort at Minisink for the protection of the inhabitants, continued to don duty until December following. During that summer he was almost constantly out on Scouting parties while out on one occasion under the command of Lieutenant Decker with a party of men took four prisoners who came from New York and were going

to Niagara. The name of one of them was Robert Land. They were put in goal at Goshen Orange County—This applicant was discharged at Minisink aforesaid but did not receive a written discharge.

That he again entered the service of the United States in the month of April in the year 1779, where he then resided under the same officers last mentioned, and did duty in the said Fort at Minisink and on scouting parties until the Fort was captured by the Indians and Tories on the 24th of July of the same year. That at the time said fort was taken this applicant was out of the fort, and not knowing that the Fort was taken this applicant was out of the fort, and not knowing that the Fort was taken, and while returning to the fort, the party to which he belonged was attacked by a large party of Indians and Tories, and he was wounded; returned into another fort that had been evacuated by our people and there defended themselves one of our party was killed. During the engagements in and out of the Fort this applicant received two wounds one through his thigh and the other through his arm. After this the inhabitants all fled and the militia were discharged the last of July 1779—not in writing, having served three months. He was confined about three months with his wound and was at his own expense for medical and other attendance.

That in the month of March in the year 1780 he resided at a place called the Drowned Lands in Orange County & State of New York, and at that place enlisted for nine months as he supposes in the militia, under Captain Abraham Westfall, Lieutenant John English—and Ensign Timothy Coleman. The regiment was commanded by Col. Newkirk but was not all at any one time stationed at the same place—Major DeWitt commanded the detachment to which this applicant belonged—was stationed in the Town of Minisink and was employed in Scouting parties and in protecting the inhabitants. Don't remember the names of any other officers was discharged in December of the same year having performed a tour of military duty of nine months. Did not receive a written discharge.

He has no documentary or other proof of said services except the affidavits of Henry VanEtten and Martin Cuykendall hereto appended.

That he was born in the year 1757—at Minisink in Orange County State of New York. Has no record of his age—lived when called into service as stated above—since the war at Minisink—at Beach Woods, Luzerne County Pennsylvania – near Ithaca Tompkins County N. York at Newtown Tioga County N. York and in Howard, Steuben County where he now lives. Called into service in the manner herein stated—Have already stated the names of officers & circumstances of service as far as he can, and also as it regards his discharges.

Can prove as to his character for veracity and their belief of service as a soldier of the Revolution by Stephen Smith and James Loghry.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state.
(Signed) Elias VanAuker

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. M. Rumsey Dept. Clk
Steuben County