
Pension Application for Henry I. Walrad (Wallradt) Middle initial either I. or J.

S.28937

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

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

On this 11th day of February 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for this county now sitting Henry J. Walrad, as resident of the town of Little Falls in said County aged 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 & served as herein stated.

That he was born in the (now) town of Palatine in the county of Montgomery in the State of New York in the year 1760 the third day of April—as appears by the record of the Dutch Reformed Church at Stone Arabia in said town of Palatine in which his name & age was entered by Charles Alexander Warner, at the time deponent was christened by him as he has always been informed by his parents & verily believes true—

That deponent resided in the said town of Palatine when he entered into the service which town was then called Canajoharie in the county of Tryon & resided there during the war save the time when he was in the service or a prisoner & resided there about two years after the war & then removed to the town of German Flats in the County of Herkimer where deponent has resided ever since, that the town is now changed to Little Falls—

That in the year 1776 in the month of May or June & which deponent cannot now distinctly recollect he was enrolled in a company of militia commanded by Capt. John Hess, (1) Peter Waggoner (2) was first & George Waggoner (3) Second Lieutenant. The company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. Jacob Klock – one Peter Waggoner (4) was Lieutenant Col. Harmanus Van Slyck was Major that after the deponent was enrolled as aforesaid he was ordered & commanded to keep himself in readiness on the north side of the Mohawk River opposite Fort Plain where there was a block house & stood guard. Deponent was frequently called to go there & stand guard, but owing to the distance of time deponent cannot now say how often—during this summer deponent was drafted to go & stand guard at Fort Herkimer—located on the south side of the Mohawk about 20 miles from the place of his residence he was at the Fort about three weeks—deponent thinks all the company to which he belonged was called out at the same time & also thinks their captain commanded at the fort during this summer deponent was also at Fort Dayton, located where the Village of Herkimer now stands about three weeks on duty.

Standing guard & keeping the fort, a report was spread through the county that the Indians & Tories were going to attack the Fort & the Militia were called into defend it. The fort was commanded at this time by Col. Dayton (5)—that during the time deponent was stationed at the Fort he was send out several times with small parties to scout the country to discover if the enemy was approaching—the enemy did not attack the fort as was expected & the militia were permitted to return home—deponent does not recollect of being out on duty from this time till the spring of the year following (1777) when it was reported that the Indians & Tories under the command of Col. Brant (6) had collected at a place called Unadilla, the militia were called out to go in pursuit of them under the command of Genl Nicholas Herkimer who commanded the militia on the Mohawk—deponent was drafted & went with Genl Herkimer & was out about three weeks, then returned home--the next time that deponent returned was the last of June or

first of July when he was drafted to go with the militia to Fort Stanwix to shut up Wood Creek that empties into Oneida Lake, the militia went to Fort Stanwix from which place a guard was set to protect the militia while they fell trees into the Creek to prevent the British from assessing [accessing] it with boats. Deponent does not recollect how long the militia was engaged there but when he returned home he thinks they had been out about three weeks—that at the time deponent returned from Fort Stanwix as above stated the county was all in commotion, it was reported that St. Leger (7) was on his way from Oswego to attack Fort Stanwix & all the militia of the country was called out by Genl Herkimer to go & defend the fort the company to which deponent belonged—joined the forces at Fort Dayton under the command of General Herkimer & they were soon after ordered to march for Fort Stanwix.

The first day the army proceeded about eight miles from Fort Dayton then encamped for the night. The next day they went as far as Oriskany Creek & encamped for the night on the East side of the creek—the next morning they commenced marching the 6th day of August & between nine & ten o' clock as deponent believes, the army were marching through a piece of woods where the underbrush was very thick. The Indians rose & with a dreadful [sic] yell poured a steady fire upon them—deponent was in the main body of the army & in the hottest of the battle & three of his companions were shot down by his side, deponent fired nine times & then the Indians rushed up & took him prisoner, tied a rope around his neck & fastened him to a tree, that soon after the Indians had to retreat beyond where he was tied & he was led off by his master.

The Indians who took deponent prisoner had plundered some of the baggage wagons & before the battle had ended commenced their march for St. Leger's Camp—There were ten or twelve of the Indians & deponent was the only prisoner among them, but they were all loaded with plunder—they took deponent into the camp and showed him to St. Leger & he asked deponent if he was hungry & gave him some victuals—the Indians then took deponent to their own camp, about a half a mile from St. Leger's. At night the Indians tied deponent to the ground so that he could not move his hands or feet & the muskitoes bit him so bad that the next morning his face was so swelled that he could scarcely see—The Indians stayed in their camp two days & then went to Oswego—from there they went to Fort Niagara, where deponent was put in Prison & kept five days—The Indians were drunk during this time & were not permitted to see deponent. They took deponent from there to Fort Erie, & from there started for Detroit. They were six days on Lake Erie by reason of a head wind that prevented their proceeding -- they landed at a place called Fort Molton by the Indians & from there went by Land to Detroit eighteen miles.

From the time deponent was taken prisoner, till he arrived at Detroit was about four weeks--& he suffered very much for want of food & from the treatment of the Indians--When deponent arrived at Detroit, the Indians thought he would die & sold him to Governor Hamilton the commander of the fort—He kept deponent but one day & then put him and another prisoner on board a small vessel & sent him back to fort Erie & from there he went to Fort Niagara & to Oswego & was then sent to Carlton Island (now Kingston) deponent was from there sent to Ogdensburg & then to Montreal where he was imprisoned fourteen days—he was then put on board a vessel & sent to Quebeck where he was imprisoned three weeks at which time he was put on board a vessel with twenty four other prisoners & started for New York, a storm arose soon after they got out to sea, & it was seven weeks before they arrived at New York--& during this time the prisoners had to subsist on condemned provisions & then had deponent & part of the prisoners put on board an Armed Vessel which proceeded up as far as Peekskill when the river was frozen & they were landed and carried in sleighs as far as Albany in the state of New York--& from there deponent came home where he arrived about the first of

January 1778—When deponent was at Quebec, he & the other prisoners had to take an oath that they would not take up arms against his Majesties Forces--if they were permitted to come home till they was exchanged for other prisoners & they were sent home on their parole of honor as it was called—deponent doesn't know whether the exchange was ever made; but fought the first opportunity that presented—

That the year after deponent returned (1778) he volunteered several times to go in pursuit of the Indians & Tories, that infested the country & held himself in readiness to go whenever his services were needed—Once during this summer the exact time deponent cannot remember the Indians & Tories burned several houses in the vicinity of Fort Plain, the militia were called out & deponent volunteered to go with them, they pursued the enemy two or three days & then returned, during this year the people on the Mohawk River were surprised so often that a guard of regular troops was kept at a block house where deponent lived & deponent was employed when not out scouting the country in guarding the block house & standing guard—deponent was sent to Schenectady twice during the summer & fall of this year for provisions for the soldiers for which he never received any pay & was not promised any as he can recollect—

The next year (1779) deponent was engaged fighting manfully—as soon as deponent heard of the enemy's being in the Country he with several others went to join Col. Brown, (8) but were to late & the battle was over before they arrived, the Indians retreated after the battle & deponent came very near being taken prisoner, he & his companions were fired on by the Indians—they returned fire & fled & escaped, the Indians were pursued, next day by the militia & Genl VanRensselaer, (9) who came up the Mohawk River from Schenectady in pursuit of the enemy & had promised to come to the aid of Col. Brown whom he had directed to attack the Indians, but did not keep his promise & then was killed as stated & much blame was attached to Genl VanRensselaer, as it was then believed that if he had done his duty the enemy might all have been taken prisoners—

The next year 1781—was several times at Fort Plain on duty, standing guard &c—the Fort was then commanded by Col. Willet (10) as deponent believes & who continued to command there till the close of the war, during this year alarms were frequent throughout the country & deponent volunteered several times to go in pursuit of the Indians & Tories, the Militia was out not more than two or three days at a time—the militia was called to Fort Dayton once or twice this season but at what particular times deponent cannot now recollect, deponent volunteered to go twice & was there some length of time, doing duty. Standing guard & from this time to the close of the war deponent does not recollect of being out on duty but once & that was in the fall of the year 1782—when a battle was fought between the militia under Col. Willet & the British, Indians & Tories at Johnstown (11) in the now County of Montgomery—the enemy was defeated and then when they fled, through the part of the country where deponent staid he joined in pursuit & followed them to West Canada Creek where Walter Butler (12) was killed. This was the last service that deponent rendered, that he can recollect. Deponent has no documentary evidence of his services & there are no persons residing in his neighborhood who he can produce to attend before the Court of Common Pleas to testify to his services, or who knows that he was a soldier of the Revolution—deponent has procured the affidavits of John Frey, Joseph Waggoner, Peter Walrad, which are hereto annexed, they severally reside in the County of Montgomery & are old & infirm & deponent could not procure their attendance at court deponent has been well acquainted with these men since a boy—

Deponent further saith that he verily believes that the time he was engaged in actual service & a prisoner as above stated was more than three years but owing to the great distance

of time or by reason of his age & infirmities he cannot be positive as to the time—deponent knows of no Clergyman in his neighborhood or town or elsewhere, who can testify as to his character or services in the Revolution & is unable to obtain one. That he was born in the town of Canajoharie (now Palatine) in the county of Montgomery in the year 1760—

That there is a record of his age made by the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at Stone Arabia in said town of Palatine where he was christened as he has always been informed & believes true.

At the time he entered into the service he entered at Canajoharie (now Palatine) & resided there about two years after the war, & then removed to the town of German Flats (now Little Falls) in the County of Herkimer – where deponent resides ever since.

When deponent first entered into the service he was drafted, & after the return from Canada where he was a prisoner, he volunteered.

The regular officers that deponent can now recollect were Col. Jacob Klock, Lieutenant Col. Peter Waggoner, Col. Marinus Willet, Genl Nicholas Herkimer, Col. Dayton, Anthony Van Vechten adjutant, Harmanus VanSlyck Major.

Deponent never received a discharge from the service.

That he is well known to William Feeter of the town of Little Falls & Peter Woolever of the town of Manheim both in Herkimer County & who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Henry J. Walrath

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. Julius Nelson Clerk

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a justice of the peace in & for the county of Herkimer & State of New York, Henry Walradt, who being duly sworn deposed & saith, that by reason of old age, and infirmity, and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the period being that of his service but according to his best recollection & belief, he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades that is to say that he entered the service as stated in his declaration hereto attached in May or June 1776 into the company & regiment therein before stated, as a private soldier in the war of the revolution, and that he served as herein stated, at divers time & for different periods from that time till the spring of the year 1777, but he cannot now state every time he was out or the places to which he went, but has already done as near as he is able from his present recollection, but he verily believes that from May or June 1776 till about the first or March 1777, he served as much as seven months actual & continued service in which time he was not engaged in any civil pursuit, that there was scarcely a week passed in which he was not called out for a longer or a shorter time & he always went when called upon & he claims to be allowed seven months actual service previous to the spring of the year 1777.

That deponent was again called out in May or June 1777 & which deponent cannot state, & served as a common soldier in the company & under the officers in his former declaration stated, & served as therein stated & was a prisoner as therein stated, but deponent cannot at this late day recollect every incident that happened during his captivity or his previous services, nor every place he went to, but states all he can remember as he remember it, but he well knows that he was banged about from post to post by the Indians during his imprisonment & was not released & restored to his liberty til about the first of January 1778, and during all the time he was a prisoner he was not engaged in any civil pursuit—he was taken in battle the 6th of August 1777, released in January thereafter as before stated, and

from June or May 1777 when he went again into service until he was taken prisoner in August he served all the time as in his declaration stated and he claims to be allowed seven months further time of service, for the campaign, actual & continued service, in addition to the previous seven months on his application for a pension.

Deponent first then saith that from January 1778 until January 1779 he was employed & did service as a soldier private in the manner in his previous declaration mentioned, he then belonged to a company commanded as he now recollects by Capt. John Hess In Colonel Jacob Klock's regiment, but the captain was not much with him, and during that year deponent saith that he served as much as ten months actual & continued service in which time he was not engaged in any civil pursuit, & deponent verily believes that he did not that year, he still as much as two months, but report it at that time for safety sake & he claims to be allowed for that year, then additional months actual service in addition to his previous service.

Deponent further saith that from January 1779 till January 1780 he did serve as a private soldier in the manner before in his previous declaration stated, but he cannot state certainly every days service he did, but he verily believes that he served that year as much as eight months of actual & continued service in which he was not engaged in any civil pursuit; he makes this statement from the best recollection he now has, and from the places he went to during this year as stated in his previous declaration, & he claims to be allowed for eight months this year as actual service.—

Deponent further saith that during the year 1781 he did not do much military service that he was worn down by fatigue & ill health, but that he did some service as mentioned in his declaration, & he cannot more particularly set it forth but he claims to be allowed for two months service during the year 1781 of actual & continued service in his application for a pension—

In the fall of 1782 & deponent thinks in September or October, he again was called out into actual service as stated in his previous declaration & served as is stated therein & he verily believes that he served during that year as much as two months of actual & continued service in which he was not engaged in any civil pursuit & he claims to be allowed for two months service. During that year—and deponent verily believes & is willing to swear positive by that he served as much as the times herein before stated, being three years actual continued & arduous service as a soldier private of the revolutionary war & claims a pension for said service.—

Deponent further saith that he cannot obtain any witnesses who can give any detailed account of his services, that he served mostly where only a few comparatively were with him, on scouts, standing guard, keeping garrison, going on express &c, except in some general battles & some times when the whole regiment was together, & he cannot now find any of the persons who served with him, who can state anything certain as to length of time of his different periods of service, that the witnesses he has heretofore gotten whose affidavits are attached are the best witnesses he can produce, that he has made diligent search for a witness who can give a detailed account but has searched in vain & is not discouraged in the hope of finding one & further deponent saith not. (Signed) Henry Wallrath

Sworn to before me this 1st day of July A.D. 1833. John Dygert Just. Pea.

Reply to letter of inquiry, dated May 27, 1932.

Reference is made to your letter requesting information in regard to Henry Walrath, a soldier of the Revolution.

The data furnished herein were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, S.28937, based upon the military service of Henry I. or J. Wallradt, Walrath, or Walrad.

He was born April 3, 1760 at Canajoharie, New York.

While a resident of Canajoharie (which was later Palatine) Tryon County, New York, he enlisted in May 1776, and served at various times until sometime in 1782 as private in the New York troops under Captain John Hess and Colonels Jacob Klock and Willett; he was taken prisoner at the battle of Oriskany, returned home on parole January 1, 1778, and again took up arms and was in the battle of West Canada Creek.

He lived in Canajoharie about two years after the Revolution when he moved to German Flats which was later Little Falls, Herkimer County, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed February 11, 1833, at which time he was a resident of Little Falls, New York.

He died there September 19, 1841.

He did not leave a widow but the following children survived him; George Henry Walrad who was a resident of Danube, New York, in 1845; Nancy Casler who was a resident of Little Falls, New York; and Catharine Post who resided in Owego, Tioga County, New York.

End Notes—S.28937—Henry J. Walrath

1. John Hess was appointed first lieutenant on August 26, 1775 in Captain William Fox, Junr's First company in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. No exact date is known when Hess was appointed captain in place of Captain Fox but it may have been sometime in 1776. Hess was commissioned Captain on June 25, 1778, as the ensign.
2. Peter Waggoner, Jun. was appointed second lieutenant in Captain Fox's Company on August 26, 1775 and promoted to first lieutenant when Hess was promoted to Captain. Waggoner was also commissioned on June 25, 1778.
3. George Waggoner was commissioned ensign in Captain Hess's Company on March 4, 1780. Mathew Wormwood was originally appointed ensign on August 26, 1775 in Captain Hess's Company and promoted to second lieutenant when Peter Waggoner was promoted. He was commissioned second lieutenant on June 25, 1778. Wormwood never saw his commission because he was killed on June 2, 1778 near Cherry Valley while taking dispatches to Fort Alden. Peter Sits who had been appointed ensign in place of Wormwood was with him and taken prisoner. Sits was held prisoner until November 9, 1780. He was commissioned second lieutenant in Captain Hess's Company on March 4, 1780. Sometime in 1780, Peter Waggoner, Jr., was appointed captain in place of Hess. Sits was promoted to first lieutenant and George Waggoner was promoted to second lieutenant.
4. Peter Waggoner, Sr., was the lieutenant colonel and Hermanus VanSlyck was first major both from Colonel Klock's Regiment.
5. Elias Dayton was the Colonel of the Third New Jersey Continental Regiment. The regiment was in the Mohawk Valley from May to the first part of October 1776. They built Fort Dayton in the present day Village of Herkimer and was sent to help rebuild Fort Schuyler in the present day City of Rome.
6. Captain Joseph Brant and Brigadier Nicholas Herkimer held their conference at Unadilla on June 27, 1777.
7. Barry St. Leger who was the lieutenant colonel of the 34th Regiment of Foot was appointed brigadier general to command the troops on the expedition to attack and capture Fort Schuyler.
8. The Battle of Stone Arabia was fought in the morning of October 19, 1780. Colonel Brown was killed in this battle.

9. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer of the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia. He commanded the American troops at the Battle of Klocksfield in the afternoon of October 19, 1780.
10. Marinus Willett was appointed lieutenant colonel commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies.
11. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
12. Captain Walter Butler was killed in the skirmish at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.
13. Anthony VanVechten was appointed the adjutant of Colonel Klock's Regiment on August 26, 1775.