

Pension Application for Peter Wolever
Name also spelled Wolleber, Woolever, Wooleben,
Woleber, Wohleben Wooliver, Woolaver

W.19659 (Widow: Catharine) Peter and Catharine were married July 10, 1785. He died September 13, 1843.

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 in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Herkimer now sitting Peter Woolaver a resident of the town of Manheim in the said County of Herkimer & state aforesaid, aged sixty, eight 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 was born in the year 1764 in Stone Arabia in the now county of Montgomery, then County of Tryon on the 17th day of November and that there was a record of his age but he has not seen it for many years & cannot now tell where it may be found.

That he entered into the service of the United States, in the New York line of Militia in the spring of the year 1779 at the Mohawk Castle in the now County of Herkimer. The Captain of his company was Joseph Dygert, the Lieutenant was John Windecker and the company belonged to a regiment commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. He (Woolaver) was a Corporal in his company—

The company marched to Fort Dayton, near where the village of Herkimer now stands and remained there for some time, as a guard and these were marched to the fort at the Mohawk Castle to repair the same, and stood guard, and Woolaver & his company were ordered to stand in readiness to march at a moments warning, to the different forts & stationed on the Mohawk river in the County of Herkimer, by the Committee of safety of that section, and they did keep themselves in rediness [readiness], and were employed in different forts in that section, and on scouts to different sections of the county, and they spent much of this year at the house of Gen Nicholason the Mohawk and which was guarded, and used in some respects as a fort at that time –

He [in?] the year 1780 he, in the same company and with the same officers marched to Stone Arabia in now Montgomery County, Then Tryon County and there was a fort there, and after they had been there as a guard for some time, but he cannot say the length of time, the Indians, & British attacked that place. He believes it must have been in the month of October in the year 1780, and a severe battle was fought in which Colonel Brown, an American and about forty two privates were killed. Colonel Brown commanded at this fort and his force was something more than one hundred men; the Americans were compelled to retreat because General Van Rensselaer who was expected to come on with some Militia from Schenectady did not arrive, and some people suspected that he intentionally kept back.

The enemy were led on by Sir John Johnson, and Joseph Brant was there, and received a wound in his heel and after this battle the enemy proceeded up the Mohawk towards Fort Plain and Gen. Van Rensselaer after the battle proceeded to attack the last enemy.

That he (Woolaver) & his company remained at Stone Arabia most of the year 1780, and both before & after the battle he was sent out on scouting parties every few days, and as a spy to bring intelligence of the operations of the Indians & Tories, and he was frequently sent with a few others from one fort to another, on the Mohawk for intelligence and as often as alarms were raised of the approach of Indians & Tories.

During the whole year of 1780 he was on duty as a soldier, either as a guard, spy, or one of a scouting party

During the whole year 1781 he belonged to the same company and was commanded by the same officers, and was under orders to march at a moment's warning, and did keep himself in readiness and was on duty at the different forts in the County of Herkimer. There was during this year, a skirmish at the house of Gen. Herkimer, in which Woolaver took part, between some Indians & Tories & the garrison at that place.

During this year, he with others was ordered to drive some fat cattle from Mohawk Castle to Fort Plain, by Col. Willet who was there. This order he performed, but on his return, a party of Indians waylaid them, and his oldest brother & his brother in law were killed, and another brother, in the same company was made a prisoner, but he (the applicant) escaped with a severe wound in his thigh [thigh] and shoulder, which disabled him doing duty about one year and until the enemy & Indians ceased to be hostile & to commit depredations, which was in the last part of the year 1782, in this section of the country, Woolaver belonged to the same company & same officers & was under orders to march from fort to fort in the county of Herkimer as a guard & spy & to go on scouts, but not battles or skirmishes ensued this year in which he took any part.

He was dismissed in the fall at Fort Plain. He never received any written discharge from the army nor did any of his company.

That he has continued to reside in the County of Herkimer ever since he left the service in the revolution, and that according to his calculation he served three years of active service in said war.

That he was born in Stone Arabia in the now County of Montgomery in the year 1764.

That there was a record of his age but it is lost & he now has none.

That he never received a discharge from the service in writing. That he has the affidavit of John Woolaver & Catharine Woolaver who reside in the town of Lenox in the county of Madison they are aged, in ill health, and quite unable to attend court in this county at this time, as witnesses.

That he is acquainted with Henry M. Walrad and William Feeter residing near his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and to their belief of his services, as a soldier of the revolution, and that there is no Clergyman in

his neighborhood with whom he is acquainted & who can certify to his character for services.

That 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) Peter Wolever

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

Letter in the file dated May 18, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Peter Wooliver, a pensioner of Manheim, Herkimer County, New York.

The data given herein were found in pension claim, W. 19659, based upon service of Peter Wolever in that war.

Peter Wolever enlisted in May 1779 and served at various times until the summer of 1781, amounting in all to at least then months and twenty-four days, as corporal in Captain Joseph Dygart's company, Colonel Peter Bellinger's regiment of New York Militia; during his service, he was stationed near Fort Mohawk, Fort Dayton and Fort Schuyler, was in the battle of Stone Arabia, was fired upon by the Indians and received a wound in his shoulder, and July 18, 178 was shot in his right thigh when attacked by the Indians. Peter's oldest brother and a brother-in-law were killed t the same time, and his younger brother, John Wolever, was taken prisoner and was carried to Montreal. The names of the other brother and of the brother-in-law are not shown.

Peter Wolever applied February 11, 1833 for pension on account of his service in the Revolutionary War, at which time he resided in Manheim, Herkimer County, New York. His claim was allowed. His name was borne Peter Woolever on the pension roll. The soldier died September 13, 1843 in Manheim, New York.

Peter Wolever married July 10, 1785, Catharine, daughter of Jacob Snell; they were married by the Pastor of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of German Flatts, New York. The names of her parents are not shown.

Catharine Wolever, the soldier's widow, was allowed pension on her application executed December 23, 1843; she was aged then seventy-nine years, and resided in Manheim, New York, where she was living in 1848. Her name was born on the pension roll as Catharine Wooliver.

The soldier and his wife, Catharine, had six children, Margaret, the eldest, born in the year 1786, were residents of Manheim, New York, in 1845, her name then Margaret Leppart, Nicholas Wolever, the fifth child, resided in said Manheim in 1847, at which time he gave his age as forty-seven years. No other names of soldier's children were designated.

In 1833, John Wolever, Peter's brother, was a resident of Lenox, Madison County, New York; John's wife, Catharine, also of Lenox, stated then that when Peer was wounded in the Revolutionary War he was brought to her house.

John P. Snell was a resident of Manheim Centre, Herkimer County, New York in 1839; no relationship to the soldier's wife was stated.