

Pension Application for Abraham Becker

S.12,994

Pension granted \$80.00 per annum

State of New York

Otsego County SS.

On this 19th day of June AD 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Otsego aforesaid now sitting, Abraham Becker a resident of the Town of Worcester in the County of Otsego and State of New York aged Eighty three 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 7th 1832—

That early in the spring of the year 1776 he the said Abraham Becker volunteered and enlisted into a company commanded by Capt. Marcellus (1) of the City of Albany in the State of New York in Col. Gansevorts Regiment (2) for the period of nine months at this time he resided with his father on the Charlotte in the County of Tryon, now Otsego County in the State of New York—he volunteered at Schoharie and immediately went to Albany where he joined in Capt. Marcellus Company and which was as early as the first of April in the year 1776—and he further saith that he remained with said company in the City of Albany about one month and then marched in said company to Fort George and was there stationed and continued in actual service for the full period of nine months and was then discharged and received a discharge in writing signed by Capt. Marcellus—but which has been lost or destroyed for a great number of years past.—

And he further saith that some part of Col. Gansevort's Regiment was stationed at Skeensburgh (3), some part at Ticonderoga and at Fort George—That he was frequently at Ticonderoga during the said nine months service—and was frequently out in scouting parties in different directions—recollects that Col. Dubois (4) of Catskill had command of a regiment at Fort George at the time he the said Abraham Becker was at Fort George several times, recollects well of having marched there—and at Ticonderoga. He was not engaged in any Battle during the said nine months and when he was discharged, he returned home to his father on the Charlotte—

And he further states that in the month of April 1777 he again volunteered into a Company of militia commanded by Capt. Alexander Harper (5) and Lieutenant Bartholomew (6) in a Regiment commanded by Col. John Harper for the period of nine months—That he joined the company on the Charlotte—and within a few days thereafter Capt. Harpers Company took John Dockstader, Daniel Servos & Jacob Servos prisoners – who were all Tories then residing on the Charlotte, and who were harbouring and had joined with the Indians in opposition to the Revolution. That Capt. Harpers company took said Tories as far as Cherry Valley and there delivered them over to the Committee of Safety to be conveyed to Johnstown Jail and Capt Harpers company return back to Charlotte and remained there stationed at Lieut. Bartholomews for a considerable time how long cannot precisely recollect from the Charlotte was marched to Brakebeens on the Schoharie Kill and was there stationed for some time, cannot exactly recollect—and was stationed at Turlough now Sharon in Schoharie County—and at Harpersfield Delaware County during that nine months service and in the fall of the year he and the soldiers under Capt. Harper assisted in building the Forts in Schoharie which were erected this season and he the said Abraham Becker was stationed at the upper Fort for some time cannot say how long, but well recollects of marching to Harpersfield and was then discharged by Col. Harper at the expiration of the said nine months service—and at this time the snow was about six inches deep—and he further saith that during this nine months service his father and family removed from the Charlotte to Schoharie near the upper fort—and on receiving his discharge he went to his fathers house and continued there through the winter.

And the said Abraham Becker further declares that in the Spring of the year 1778 he volunteered at Schoharie into a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Jacob Hager (7) in Col. Peter Vrooman's Regiment—He went into the service at the time as early as the first of May and continued in actual service in said company until between Christmas and New Year—during this season Col. Harper went to Albany to obtain assistance to repel the Indians and Tories who were destroying every thing that came in their way—Col. Harper obtained a company of light horses at Albany and came back to Schoharie and the enemy [?] was well acquainted with Col. Vroomans and Col. Hager—during this year he was frequently out in Scouting parties in CoblesKill and the country in the region of the forts and he further states that he was in the service this year at least seven months. And the said Abraham Becker further declares that he entered into a company of Militia Commanded by Capt. Gray (8) in Col. Van Schaick (9) Regiment the first of April 1782 for the period of nine months and was stationed with said company in said Regiment at the Middle Fort on the Schoharie Kill and continued then in actual service for the full period of nine months and was then marched to Schenectady and discharged from the service—was frequently out in Scouting parties during this nine months service—well recollects that Col. Dubois (10) was stationed at Schoharie at this same time—recollects that Storm Becker (11) was a Lieutenant in Capt. Grays Company.

And that when he was discharged from this nine months service he received a written discharge but cannot recollect by whom it was signed and the same has been lost or destroyed for a great number of years—

And he further declares that he was Born in New Jersey nigh Hackensack in the year 1750—

That he has no record of his age to his knowledge or believe.

That he was living when first called into service on the Charlotte as above stated—and also the second time he went into the service as above stated and during the remainder of his service and until the close of the war he resided at Schoharie in the State of New York—The manner of his being called into service is as above stated—and that he never served as a substitute for any person.

The names of the officers who were with the troops where he served are as fully set forth as the same can now be recollected—

That since the Revolution has resided in Coeymans in Albany – also in Upper Canada—from which place he removed to Worcester in the County of Otsego New York where he now resides—

That he received written discharges from the service at the times and in the manner above stated—and which have been lost or destroyed—

And he further declares that he is known to John Flansburgh, Abraham Fisher Esq., Jacob P. Becker who reside 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—

And he further declares that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except the testimony of Jacob France and Catharine Flansburg which is hereunto annexed—and also that there is not any clergyman residing in his neighborhood, or in the section where he resides, wherefore he cannot procure the testimony of a clergyman in compliance with the instructions from the War Department.—

And the said Abraham Becker 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—and he the said Abraham Becker further saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear more positive as to the precise length of service than as herein before set forth and further saith not. (Signed with his mark) Abraham Becker

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Horace Lathrop. Clerk.

And the said Abraham Becker further states and declares in answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the War department in manner following that is to say.

1st I was born in the State of New Jersey nigh Hackensack in the year 1750.

2d I have no record of my age.

3d I was living at Charlotte in the County of Otsego New York and at Schoharie in the County of Schoharie when called into service—That since the revolution I have resided in Coeymans in the County of Albany New York—also in the Province of Upper Canada—and on the Charlotte in the Town of Worcester in the County of Otsego New York where I now reside.

4th I volunteered at each time I was called into service, and never served as a substitute for any person.

5th I have stated the names of the officers who were with the troops where I served in my original declaration hereto annexed as fully as I recollect the service and also the general circumstances of my service I have therein stated as fully as I now recollect the same.

6th I received a written discharge from the first nine months service performed in the year 1776 signed by Capt. Marcellus in whose company I served. I also received a written discharge from the nine months service performed in the year 1782 but by whom it was signed I cannot recollect both of which said discharges have been lost for many years.

7th I am acquainted with John Flansburgh, Jacob P. Becker, and Abraham Becker of my present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed with his mark) Abraham Becker

Sworn & subscribed in open court June 19, 1833. Horace Lathrop, Clerk

End Notes—S.12994—Abraham Becker

1. Henry Merselis was a Captain in Colonel Cornelius Van Dyck's Additional New York Continental Regiment.
2. He is mistaken as Peter Gansevoort was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel on March 19, 1776 in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Continental Regiment. He was appointed Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment on November 21, 1776.
3. Skenesborough is present day Whitehall, Washington County, N.Y.
4. Colonel Lewis DuBois was appointed Colonel of a regiment of New York Continentals (not numbered) on June 21, 1776. On November 21, 1776 he was appointed Colonel of the Fifth New York Continental Regiment.
5. Captain Alexander Harper in Colonel John Harper's Fifth Regiment of Tryon County Militia.

6. First Lieutenant Joseph Bartholomew in Captain Lodowick Brakeman's (Breakman, etc.) Company in the Fifth Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
7. Captain Jacob Hager of the Second Company in Colonel Peter Vrooman's Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
8. Captain Silas Gray's Company in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. This company did not reach its enlistment quota and by July of 1782, all of Captain Gray's recruits were transferred to other companies in Willett's Regiment. Abraham was transferred to Captain Joseph Harrison's Company.
9. Several other pensioners also claim to have enlisted in Captain Gray's Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Continental Regiment of New York in 1782 but as the enlistments never reached the quota needed and Willett was not filling his own regiment with badly needed recruits, it became necessary to discharge several company officers and keep the recruits for his regiment.
10. Abraham is wrong on this tour. Colonel DuBois and the Fifth New York were at the Schoharie Forts from December 1778 to about June of 1779. The regiment then marched under Brigadier General James Clinton to join Major General John Sullivan in an expedition against the Iroquois in the western part of New York. Colonel DuBois resigned from the Fifth New York on December 22, 1779. Colonel DuBois was appointed on July 1, 1780 to command a regiment of New York State Levies but for the most part he was in the Mohawk Valley. He retired from the service after 1780.
11. Storm A. Becker was a Lieutenant in Captain Joseph Harrison's Company in Colonel Willett's Regiment.