

Pension Application for Jacob Becker

R.693

State of New York
County of Erie
City of Buffalo SS.

On this fifteenth day of September AD 1847 personally appeared in open Court before the Recorders Court of the City of Buffalo now sitting, Jacob Becker a resident of the township of Walsingham in the County of Norfolk, Talbot District in the Province of Canada West, aged Eighty-Six years the twenty second day of May last according to his best recollection 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 by reason of old age and consequence loss of memory he cannot swear positively but according to his best recollection he was born on the twenty second day of May 1761, that he was born in the then County of Albany in that part thereof which has since been erected into the County of Columbia in the State of New York and as he believes in that part of said County of Columbia which has since known as the town of Clarmont. That he has now no record of his age, that a record of his birth was made in his fathers family bible but that the same is lost, that he resided at the place of his birth when called into the service of the Unites States as hereinafter set forth; that he did subsequently resided in Catskill in said State of New York and that in the year 1815 he removed from Catskill aforesaid to his parents place of residence in Canada West, where he has since continued to reside; that he was draughted into the service of the United States for the term of nine months and served until he was regularly discharged as hereinafter mentioned; that he subsequently volunteered under Captain T. Roguefeller (as hereinafter particularly set forth) in the same Regiment with Capt. Smith under whom he served when draughted as aforesaid.

And this declarant on his oath aforesaid further declares that he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated. He was first draughted into Captain Philip Smith's (1) Company subsequent to the declaration of independence by the Continental Congress and as he believes in the year following until the year 1777 and in the fore part of that year, but by reason of his age and impaired memory he cannot state precisely the year or month in which he was draughted, that to the best of his recollection the Regiment in which he served was commanded by Colonel Henry Livingston or Colonel VanRensselaer, Bartel Hendricks or Hendricks was Ensign in said Captain Smiths Company and he thinks Frederick Myer was a second Lieutenant in said Company, he also recollects that John Myer, Adam Inkler, Simon Barnet, Philip M. Morse, Simon Coon, Henrick Seisher, Peter Sargendorp and several by the name of Plank served in Captain Smiths Company. That when first draughted he marched with Capt. Smiths Company to Greenbush Which was then the headquarters of the Regiment and thence to the vicinity of Saratoga where he remained a few days, but he does not recollect the precise length of times, but from thence he marched to Fort Stanwix,(2) that he was placed under the command of Captain Ellsworth who was then stationed at Fort Stanwix; that while at Fort Stanwix volunteers were called for to pursue Col. Butler who had been in the vicinity of said Fort and that this declarant volunteered under an Irish officers whose name he does not now recollect, that Butler and his party were overtaken by the party with which this declarant volunteered after a forced march of one day from said fort, the said Butler having been two days in marching the same distance; that said Butler was overtaken on the bank of a Creek which declarant believes was Wood Creek and was killed by one of the American Indians in the engagement or skirmish which then took place, that declarant returned with the party to Fort Stanwix where he remained until discharged some time in the fall of the year; that the whole time of his service from the time he was draughted as aforesaid and up to the time of his discharge at Fort Stanwix was more than four month but the precise time he does not now recollect but he declares that he served the full periods for which he was draughted, that after his return from Fort Stanwix he remained under the Command of the aforesaid Capt. Smith, that he remained for some time and so near as he can recollect for the term of three months under said Smith's Command and engaged in guard duty on the road leading from the City of New York up the Hudson that the Company to which he belonged was employed in this service for the purpose of capturing spies or other persons who might be employed in carrying communications between the British Forces under General Burgoyne (3) and the Forces at the south, that while under command of Captain Smith and engaged in the last mentioned duty he volunteered under Captain Teal Roginifeller (4) of the same Regiment & was employed under him in guarding ammunition & Baggage Wagons from Albany to Schenectady that when draughted as aforesaid he was draughted for the term of nine months the whole of which time he served and that he then after such time aforesaid had expired hired a substitute to do his duty as a Militia Man named Peter Tuff, who remained his substitute during the war.

This declarant further declares that during his term of service when draughted he was not employed in any civil pursuit and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State whatever.

Declarant further states that he has lost his discharge which he received at the termination of his period of service. (Signed) Jacob Becker

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & Year aforesaid. JK Smith, Recorder of the City of Buffalo.

End Notes—Jacob Becker R.693

1. Captain Philip Smith of the Eighth company in Colonel Peter R. Livingston's Tenth Regiment of Albany County Militia. The other company officers were as follows: First Lieutenant Casper Schults, Second Lieutenant Adam Segendorph and Ensign Bastian J. Lasher. On July 24, 1782 the following officers were commissioned in Captain Smith's Company: Bartel Hendricks as Second Lieutenant and Frederick Myers as Ensign.

2. In this part of his testimony his memory of what and where is wrong. Fort Stanwix (Fort Schuyler) was abandoned in May 1781 due to extensive flooding to the fort and the barracks having burned down. Colonel Philip VanCortlandt who commanded the Second New York Continental Regiment and Captain Andrew Moody's Company of Artillery had been the garrison at this fort. Captain Peter Elsworth in 1781 was in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies and was killed in an ambush near Steele's Creek on July 6, 1781. Elsworth's Company had been stationed at Fort Herkimer prior to July 6th. Elsworth previously to his enlistment in Willett's had been appointed Lieutenant on November 21, 1776 in the Fourth New York Continental Regiment. Elsworth served in this regiment until January 1781 when the Fourth New York was consolidated with the Second New York. Elsworth with the Fourth New York did march to Fort Stanwix in November of 1780 to relieve the garrison of Colonel John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies under Major James M. Hughes. From the returns of the garrison at the fort and diaries of the Fourth New York for that time period there is no mention of any militia except for the inhabitants from the nearby settlement that were living at the fort. Captain Walter Butler was killed on October 30, 1781 at West Canada Creek. The American forces were under the command of Colonel Marinus Willet and marched from Fort Dayton in pursuit of the British forces.
3. General John Burgoyne with his British forces marched towards Albany in 1777 but his campaign failed and he surrendered his forces on October 17, 1777 at present day Schuylerville, Saratoga County, N.Y.
4. Tiel Rockefeller Captain of the Tenth Company in Colonel Livingston's Regiment. In an undated list "Levy certificates issued to Lieut. Col. Henry Livingston to Distribute", Jacob is listed with 2 certificates, numbers 27891 and 27880 and the amount was £ 2..11..6. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 75, folder 124, National Archives, Washington D.C.