

## **Pension Application for Philip Bergh**

S.28999

State of New York  
Schoharie County SS.

On this twenty third day of Dec'r in the year of our Lord 1838, personally appeared before William Mann a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Schoharie aforesaid, Philip Bergh a resident of the Town of Schoharie in said County for Schoharie who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he is Seventy four or seventy five years old on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Dec'r inst. That he was born in the said town of Schoharie & has always lived in said town up to this time. That the record of his age is kept in the Records of the Lutheran Church at the Court House in the Town of Schoharie. That he was not able in making this application to appear in Court by reason of bodily infirmity, having been afflicted with palsy for the period of more than eight years last past.

That about two years after the commencement of the war of the revolution he was first called in service as a minute man in a company of Malitia [militia]—The captain of said company at that time to his best recollection was either Captain Struback (1) or Captain Schoolcraft—(2)

That Jacob Snyder (3) he believes was at the time a Lieutenant in said company.—That said company belonged to the regiment commanded by Col. Vrooman—That on being called out as aforesaid he went with said company of Malitia to Vrooman's land to protect the inhabitants at that place against the Indians—The company by the direction of Col. Vrooman started from the town of Schoharie & went to Vrooman's land—The Indians having been expected there about that time—that a few days thereafter this deponent with the company were ordered back to the Stone Fort in Schoharie—while they were at Vrooman's land intelligence was brought there that there was a large collection of Indians at Cobleskill & that they had taken & killed a number of our people. On receiving this intelligence Col. Vrooman ordered the company to which deponent belonged to go back to the Stone Fort at Schoharie—that they then went to the Stone Fort at Schoharie & there met some of the inhabitants from Cobleskill who informed them of the massacre at Cobleskill (4)–

That the next day they intended to have gone to Cobleskill to bury the dead—that deponent & the company started for that purpose & when they had proceeded about two miles & had got on the west side of the Schoharie Creek they met an express from Cobleskill who told them that the Indians in Cobleskill were as numerous as the trees in the woods.—The company then turned back & went to the Stone Fort & remained there to his best recollection eight days , probably longer.

Some time after this period the Indians made a descent on Vrooman's land & killed many of its inhabitants—among the killed were Adam Vrooman & Derick Hagadorn (5)—That at this time deponent was in service as a minute man at the picket Fort in Kneskarn Dorph. Col. Vrooman sent down for the Malitia to come up—That a company among whom was deponent immediately I started for Vrooman's land & went to the picket Fort at that place—on the next morning deponent & the company started in pursuit of the Indians after proceeding some six or eight miles the foremost of their company were attacked by the Indians & a man by the name of Falk was killed & another by the name of John Jost Hagaman wounded by the Indians—next day deponent went back to the Fort at Schoharie.

Deponent further states that at another time he was ordered out as a minute man & went to the picket fort in Vrooman's land & remained there & the command of Col. Vrooman for four or five weeks – Deponent further stated that he has done duty at other & different times at Vrooman's land But the precise times or the period of each service he cannot state with exactness—that he also was in the service as a minute man at different times at the fort in the Town of Middleburgh—He said that at that time was under the command of Col.

Ziele (6)—That he was engaged in watching the Fort & the ordinance & remained there a week or longer at each time—That he was there at least two or three times for that purpose. That he also had duty at the fort at other times but cannot say how often or how long—Deponent also states, that he did duty as a minute man at the Stone Fort in Schoharie from time to time & at different times in each of the forts for a period of four or five years—that he assisted in picketing the Stone Fort at Schoharie—That he was engaged in that service for more than a month, That after the Stone Fort was picketed & secured he was on duty at the fort at the time that Johnson & Butler passed through Schoharie.

That in his opinion he was called out on duty & did duty as a minute man in said Col. Vrooman's regiment for at least one third of the time for four or five years, during the revolutionary war—that he aided in building the picket fort in Kneskarns Dorph & was called out on duty there at different times & aided in watching said fort—that the length of time he served at each time varied from one day to a month.

The said Philip Bergh relinquishes every claim 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 with his mark) Philip Bergh

Sworn to the subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me. Wm. Mann a Judge of the Court of Common pleas of the county of Schoharie.

End Notes—S.28999—Philip Bergh

1. Christian Stubrach was appointed the first lieutenant in Captain George Mann's First Company in Colonel Peter Vrooman's Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia. Captain Mann being "disaffected" in loyalty to the American cause was replaced by Stubrach as captain.
2. Lawrence Schoolcraft served as the adjutant of Vrooman's Regiment with the rank of lieutenant.
3. Jacob Snyder had served as ensign under Captain Mann and was commissioned as first lieutenant on February 20, 1778 in Stubrach's Company
4. Captain Joseph Brant destroyed Cobleskill on May 30, 1778.
5. Captain Joseph Brant and Lieutenant Adam Chrysler attacked the settlement on November 10, 1781 near the Upper Fort and Isaac Vrooman was killed. The militia from Colonel Vrooman's Regiment went in pursuit and in a skirmish near Bouck's Island Derick (Richard) Hagadorn (Hagidorn, etc.) was killed and the militia retreated. They caught up with Brant near Lake Utsayantho and another skirmish took place. Joachim VanValkenburgh (Valk, Falk, etc.) was killed and Joseph Hager was wounded. The militia and levies now retreated after suffering these casualties and Brant and his party returned to Canada.
6. Peter W. Zielie was the lieutenant-colonel of Vrooman's Regiment.