

Pension Application for Jeremiah Burger or Burgher

R.1452 (Widow: Maria)

State of New York

Columbia County SS

On this sixteenth day of April in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Hudson Justices Court of the City of Hudson, Jeremiah Burger a resident of Gallatin in Columbia County and State of New York aged about seventy 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.

This deponent Jeremiah Burger says that he was born in Staatsburgh in the County of Dutchess is a son of Martinus Burger this deponent has no other record of his age except his own recollection and he believes that he was seventy years of age in September last past. This deponent says that he continued to reside in the Town of Staatsburgh during the whole Revolutionary War and for some years after the war until this deponent was upwards of thirty years of age and that since this deponent left the County of Dutchess, he removed into the County of Columbia into that part of the said county now called Gallatin where this deponent has resided for nearly forty years and where he now resides.

This deponent says that he performed service in the Revolutionary War as a private soldier.

This deponent says that he was quite young when he first entered the service. This deponent says that his father was a very warm whitt and was a contractor for the army and he sent this deponent with his team to draw flour to Fishkill and to draw ammunition this was in 1777 sometime in the fall of that year.

This deponent was large for his age. The next service and which was the first service that this deponent did as a soldier was when the British shipping came up the Hudson River and burnt Esopus. This deponent turned out as a volunteer and marched as far as Rhinebeck under command of General Putnam. This deponent thinks under Captain Kipp.—This deponent was out on duty three days. The next duty performed by this deponent was in 1778—from the month of April till the following January this deponent volunteered in the United States service for nine months service under Captain Wood one Henry Paulding was Lieutenant marched under one VanBenschoten and one Paulding this deponent does not recollect whether VanBenschoten was Colonel or Major or whether Levi Paulding was those two [sic] were the Colonel and Major of the Regiment to which this deponent belonged. This deponent says that the regiment was sent across the Hudson River to guard the settlers who had settled west of the Catskill Mountains who were very much annoyed by the Indians and British who would attack them burn the habitations of the Inhabitants and butcher the Inhabitants and so frequent were the attacks made on those defenceless people that the United States sent out detachments against those brutal savages to prevent any further attacks. The regiment to which this deponent belonged & in which he served marched to Big & Little Shendaken to Monboccus, Esopus, Hurley, Marbletown, Saugerties, Mamacating [Mamakating] hollow, and continued marching from place to place until late in the fall of the year then was marched to West Point and lay there also was at Stoney Point and was discharged at the end of the nine months service which this deponent believes was on the 1st of January 1779.

This deponent says that the next service he performed was under one Captain Cornelius Paulding was six months in active service at this time lay a part of the time at Fishkill also at Peekskill and recollects of marching to Croton ferry to surprise some British soldiers who was expected to cross the River called Croton River at or near the ferry the company was commanded by Cornelius Paulding and this deponent says that there were forty volunteers who marched with this deponent on this expedition. That after the British party had crossed the river and come alighting from their horses. The Americans who had lain concealed started upon the British who immediately remounted and plunged through the River and the Americans fired upon them and killed one of the enemy a British Dragoon. This was in the summer of 1780 as near as this deponent can recollect he served from the month of May

till the month of November the name of his colonel he think was Jacob VanBentschoten in this expedition of six months.

This deponent says he also served in 1781 under Captain Ellward Conor lay at West Point also lay at Fort Montgomery was out in this expedition for six months from April till some time in October served under Captain Conor and he believes the name of his Colonel was VanBenschoten but is not certain thinks that General Wayne had command of the fort while this deponent lay at West Point and Fort Montgomery.

This deponent says that he has no documentary proof in his possession of the services performed by him during the revolutionary war. That as he has been informed and verily believes all his officers under whom this deponent served are dead and this deponent knows of no one now living except one Jacob Spaunburgh who was in the service with this deponent on one other expeditions performed by this deponent who can testify to his services performed.

This deponent hereby relinquishes ever 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.

To the following Interrogatories this deponent Jeremiah Burger answers as follows.

1st Ques. Where & in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Staatsburgh in the County of Dutchess in September 1763 or 1764.

2d Ques. Have you and record of your age?

Ans. I have none except my recollection.

3d Ques. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I resided in Staatsburgh County of Dutchess during the war, continued to reside there till I was thirty four or five [???] and since then I removed into the County of Columbia where I have resided ever since in the town now called Gallatin.

4th Ques. How were you called into service?

Ans. I went as a volunteer as a private soldier.

5th Ques. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental & militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service?

Ans. Genl. Wayne, Genl Putnam, Colonel VanBentschoten, Colonel Paulding, Capt. Wood, Capt. Conor, Capt. Kipp and as to the places & the times when I performed the services I cannot state the same more fully than I have in this my declaration.

6. Ques. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given:

Ans. I was regularly discharged by the officers at the expiration of my service—but never received any discharge in writing.

7. State the names of persons in your present neighborhood & who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Ans. I would refer to John J. Killmore, James N. Miller & others who have known me for years and can testify as to my character.

(Signed) Jeremiah Burger

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Henry Mangee, Clk.

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34th Congress, 1st Session, House of Representatives. Report No. 229.

Maria Burgher (To accompany bill H.R. No. 469. July 19, 1856.

Mr. K. Miller, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Maria Burgher, widow of Jeremiah Burgher, a revolutionary soldier, for a pension, report:

That they have, agreeably to the prayer in the petition, caused the proofs submitted to the Pension Department, on the application of her husband for a pension, to be examined for the purpose of establishing her claim on the proofs then offered as to his services, the witnesses, as is alleged, now being dead. It appears in the declaration of the said Jeremiah Burgher, made on the 16th day of April 1834, in open court, in the city of Hudson, county of Columbia, in the State of New York, to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832, and certified by the judges, that, in their opinion, after the interrogation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, the said Jeremiah Burgher was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he stated. The services are related, in substance, as follows: That he was a native of the town of Stattsburgh, in the County of Dutchess, in the State of New York; that his father being a contractor for the supplies of the army, he was set to driving teams in 1777, but this service he does not claim. When Esopus was burnt in 1777, after the team service, he volunteered, and served three days for that particular occasion; that in April, 1778, he volunteered in Captain Wood's company, in Col. VanBentschoten's regiment of New York militia, to serve nine months, and served that period, and was honorably discharged the 1st of January, 1779; then six months as a volunteer private in the company commanded by Capt. Cornelius Paulding, in Col. Jacob VanBentschoten's regiment—from the month of May till November, 1780; then he served as such volunteer in Captain Conors company in Col. VanBentschoten's regiment, from April to October, 1781. The declaration claimed service, in the aggregate, to one year nine months and three days, and only nine months' services were proved, as appears by the testimony of one Jacob Spaunenburgh, whose veracity is sufficiently vouched for by the certifying officer. For the deficiency in proof, the Pension Department called for further proof and specifications, and the case was placed on the suspended files, awaiting the called for proofs. On the 22d of August 1836, a supplemental declaration was filed in the Pension Office, but subject to the same objections as before. In this situation the case remained until his death, which occurred on the 9th day of May, A.D. 1854.

In support of the claim of his widow, it is made now to appear, to the satisfaction of your committee, that the said Jeremiah Burgher was a volunteer private in the company of Captain Wood, in Col. VanBenschoten's regiment of New York State militia, in the nine months' service—from April 1, 1778, to January 1, 1779—in the revolutionary war; and that he was honorably discharged, and was entitled to the provisions of the act of Congress of June 7, 1832, for nine months' service. That the said Maria Burgher was his widow, and that she was married to him, the said Jeremiah Burgher, in Stattsburgh, in the county of Dutchess, in the State of New York, in the year seventeen hundred and ninety, as proven by the testimony of Hannah Gibbs, who was an eye-witness of the marriage ceremony, and who is certified to be a person of credibility; it being shown that there are no public or private records of said marriage in existence, and that there are no public or private records of said marriage in existence, and that there are no other living witnesses of said marriage.

Your committee are therefore of opinion that the prayer of the petitioner ought to be granted, and they report a bill accordingly.