

Pension Application for David Freemoyer

Deponent entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated, to wit, that in May 1778 deponent was residing in Albany County, then a frontier county of the state of New York on a creek called Cobleskill, a branch of the Schoharie River, when a party of Indians consisting of Mohawks, Senecas, and Anaquaquas, besides some Tories, principally from the Unandilla and Anaquaqua settlements of Indians on the north branch of the Susquehanna River, having penetrated into the settlement where deponent lived, Capt. Christopher Brown of the militia with his whole company was ordered out, of which applicant was one (the deponent, having been enrolled on this occasion for the first time). A company of Continental troops was also detailed and sent from Fort Clinton, which was situated on Schoharie River about nine miles from the settlement in which deponent lived, to go against the Indians, which company was commanded by a Captain Patrick. Captain Patrick's company joined deponent's company at the house of George Warner, who resided on Cobleskill, aforesaid, thirty-first [sic] day of May of said year 1778.

Before the junction of the two companies, Indians had been seen running across the fields backwards and forwards, which was done no doubt for the purpose of decoying deponent's company into the woods where the Indians would be lying in ambush for them, as it afterwards proved to be the case, for as soon as Captain Patrick's company arrived, the officers sent out three men as scouts, and when but a very little way in the woods, they were fired on and one of them shot through the body. Nevertheless, being so near to the house, he got in and afterwards recovered. Deponent states that as soon as they heard the guns fired, they all ran in great haste out in pursuit of the enemy, being entirely ignorant of their number, and met the scouts in the edge of the woods returning and a parcel of the enemy in close pursuit. Deponent states that they immediately encountered the fire of the enemy, who kept firing and retreating for at least a mile until they fell back upon their main body, who was commanded by Colonel Brandt. Deponent states that they were in such hot pursuit of the Indians that they were precipitated upon the main body of them before they were aware of it, who were lying in ambush behind a small knoll of some two or three hundred yards in length and about four feet in height. A singular break of nature this, if natural, but being on a level gravelly spot of ground and of such equal height and width, and withal so straight from one end to the other, that deponent thinks it was the work of some ancient race of people long since extinct and at present unknown to the world (if ever), thrown up for defense in some of their wars with hostile foes. This knoll or ridge was covered with timber, but not so large as the timber on the ground surrounding, owing probably to the fact that the knoll was not so rich. There was no ditch on either side, but on the side the Indians lay, the surface of the earth near the knoll seemed to the deponent, when viewing the ground since the battle, to be somewhat lower than on the opposite side. Behind the knoll the Indians had driven stakes into the ground, fastened a stick across the top, on which they had put pieces of blankets and stuck a hat or cap thereon in order to deceive deponent's party. An excellent device, too, as deponent states that many in their zeal to destroy the enemy, and not being able to distinguish well for the smoke occasioned by the firing, were deceived and fired at the supposed bodies of the Indians, while the real Indians were lying or stooped below their imaginary men and firing upon deponent's party.

Captain Patrick (who was in advance of his men) discovered the situation of the enemy, he directed his men who had fixed bayonets on their muskets to charge upon the enemy, but before his order could be executed, he was shot dead, and one of his lieutenants was killed at the same instant. Captain Brown ordered a retreat, and they retreated with great precipitation to Fort Clinton before spoken of. The enemy only made prisoner the ensign belonging to Captain Patrick's company, who they kept about two years before he was exchanged, when he returned home and reported that the enemy in this engagement was 350 strong and had lost thirty-six killed. Deponent states that deponent's party lost twenty-one men killed including officers and had nine wounded. That the enemy laid waste the whole settlement on Cobleskill by burning Houses, barns, stables, etc., and shooting such horses as they could not conveniently catch to take away with them.

That he remained voluntarily in the service of the United States until in September or October (he thinks) of said year, when he was sent from Fort Clinton in a company of rangers, about thirty-two in number, and placed under command of a Capt. John Bitz and, attached to a regiment commanded by Colonel Butler, sent on an expedition against the towns of the Unandilla and Anaquaqua Indians. That the Indians had left their towns when Colonel Butler arrived, leaving only two very old squaws who deponent's party left in a hut together with some provision to sustain them until they might be taken away or be provided for by the tribe to which they belonged. Colonel Butler burnt all their buildings, save the one just spoken of, and destroyed their orchard and a large quantity of corn, after which they returned to Fort Clinton again, where deponent remained in the service stationed in Fort Clinton until the latter end of June, 1779, under Captain Brown, aforesaid, Lieutenant Boist, and Ens. Nicholas Warner. That the fort was commanded by Col. Peter Vrooman. Deponent was employed in guarding the fort, aforesaid, which contained women and children who had taken refuge there from the savage ferocity of the enemy..... as soldiers for the protection of the fort and the inhabitants generally. Deponent, being at that time amazingly fleet and a good marksman as well as woodsman for one of his years, was frequently while in service sent out as a spy or scout to range the country round about, which he performed faithfully, sometimes skirmishing with small parties of Indians, the relation of which would swell this narrative to too great a length to admit insertion. That deponent was discharged about the last of June, 1779, after having served one year and about one month, but whether he received a discharge or not he does not now recollect. Deponent, in this thirteen-month service, knew, in addition to the officers already named, Colonel Ziele, Captain Hager, and Lts. John Lawyer, John Baker, and Ditts or Ditz. The five last named were militia officers, as deponent believes. The names or number of any Continental or militia regiment with which he served he does not now recollect, but believes the regiment commanded by Colonel Butler was called the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment.

That an expedition being meditated against the Six Nations of Indians, deponent volunteered for that campaign immediately after his discharge in the latter part of June, 1779, aforesaid, and was sent under a Captain or Major Parr of the Continental troops, who commanded a company of rangers, and was marched from Fort Clinton, aforesaid, and joined Colonel Butler's regiment at what was then called the Middle Fort on Schoharie River and marched by way of Cobleskill Creek, thence through Cherry Valley to Otsego Lake, at which place they were joined by General Clinton with a large body of the American army. Finding the water too low to float their boats down to Tioga Point, General Clinton ordered a dam erected across the mouth of the lake, which caused the water soon to raise to the height of the whole dam, and, having everything in readiness, they opened a passage through the dam for the water to flow, which raised the river so as to enable them to embark and float down to Tioga Point, at which place in a few days they were joined by General Sullivan, the commander-in-chief of the expedition. The two divisions then united and marched up what was called the Cayuga or western branch of the Susquehanna River, which led them immediately into the Indian country. That, after having routed a few small bodies of the enemy while on their march, they found the main body of the enemy collected near Newtown, well fortified, composed of Indians and Tories, who they defeated and routed after a somewhat obstinate resistance on the part of the enemy, who escaped across the Cayuga River and made for the lake of that name.

That General Sullivan with his army pursued the enemy to the Cayuga [Conesus] Lake, where General Sullivan detached a Lieutenant Boyd with this deponent and some eighteen or twenty men, including two friendly Indians who went as pilots, and sent them in the night across the river at its outlet from the lake to ascertain if the enemy were not lying in ambush in a large cedar swamp on the opposite side for the purpose of attacking General Sullivan's army as they crossed the river. Their orders were to cross over (which they did on rafts made of cedar poles tied together with leatherwood bark) and examine the banks along. If the enemy were not discovered, they were then to penetrate the swamp and go through, which was not more than from one quarter to a half mile wide, and to go to a certain high knob which was a quarter of a mile or more beyond the swamp, upon which knob the detachment was to lie concealed on the next day and watch the movements of the enemy in case any were there, and the succeeding night they were to return to General Sullivan's camp.

Deponent states that they crossed as aforesaid in the night, examined the banks, made no discoveries of the enemy, passed through the swamp also without making any, and passed on to the high knob before spoken of, where they remained until the next morning, all the next day, and the next night (as Lieutenant Boyd refused to return the second night as he was ordered to do) until the second morning after they had crossed the river, when Boyd determined to return to Sullivan, declaring that there were no Indians there, as they had had scouts out all the day before, who had not been able to make any discoveries of them. True, scouts had been out, but the enemy had not left the swamp, into which the scouts did not penetrate, and of course they had made no discoveries. Against this rash proposition of the lieutenant, deponent declares every man he believes remonstrated, urging upon him the danger of returning by day in case any of the enemy should be lying in wait, because if they had left a force sufficient to annoy General Sullivan in crossing the river, it must be a large party and of course much superior to the lieutenant's detachment, and in that event, being between them and our crossing, we must certainly be destroyed. But all in vain.

The ill-fated lieutenant declared that there were no Indians there, and having determined to return that morning, no entreaty availed to shake him from his purpose. So about eight o'clock the lieutenant started with the detachment to the swamp, where they commenced marching by a single file, this deponent and one Timothy Murphy in front, Lieutenant Boyd in the rear. When they had passed [the] greater part of the swamp along a path leading through, the enemy, lying in ambush for deponent's party (having discovered their trail no doubt the day before and expecting their return), commenced firing upon their rear and instantaneously thereafter fired all along the two lines they had formed on each side of the path extending beyond deponent and Murphy, at the same time closing the extremes of the two lines, whereby the whole detachment were entirely surrounded and hemmed in by the enemy.

Deponent and Murphy, upon the first fire of the enemy in front, dropped and lay flat on the ground to avoid the effects of their fire and so continued to lay until the firing had nearly ceased, when they sprang to their feet, and fortunately for deponent and Murphy the morning was foggy, and amidst the fog and smoke occasioned by the firing of the enemy in front, deponent and Murphy were enabled to escape through the line of the enemy unhurt, running against and knocking over several Indians as they broke through their lines. Deponent and Murphy kept together and, holding a consultation, agreed to run around the lake, although a distance of about ninety-two miles, to reach General Sullivan again, as Murphy declared (which deponent knew well to be true) that it was out of the question to attempt an escape by recrossing the river again, as the enemy would certainly be upon them before they could leave the shore.

Deponent and Murphy ran about four or five miles, when they were overtaken by five large dogs the Indians had set after them. Three of these dogs were very severe and would take hold in an instant. The other two would not bite but would follow after and bay them. Two of these dogs ran up to Murphy and seized and lacerated him much before he could kill them, which he succeeded in doing with his tomahawk. While Murphy was engaged with the two dogs, deponent was engaged with the third dog, who had seized deponent just at the time the others had seized Murphy. But deponent was not so well prepared by far for the fight as his companion was, although deponent had but one to contend with while his companion had two, for deponent had lost his tomahawk at the time he fell down to avoid the fire of the Indians in the swamp, and he and Murphy thought it most prudent and had agreed, when they discovered the dogs coming after them, not to shoot the dogs for fear some of the Indians, who they were certain were near them, might come upon them while their guns were empty. And, excepting his

rifle, deponent had no weapon to defend himself with other than a very thin case knife ground sharp at the point, deponent having sometime before lost his butcher knife.

The dog first seized deponent by the fleshy part of the thigh, in front and near his crotch. Deponent struck at him with his knife and occasionally with his fist but did not hurt the dog materially. He eventually succeeded in disengaging the dog's hold of his thigh, however not until he had torn it considerably. The dog next seized deponent by the side of the leg and sunk one of his tusks deep into his leg just by the side of the bone. After loosing the dog's hold of the leg, he seized deponent by the throat and held on until from loss of wind occasioned by deponent's choking him severely, he was compelled to let go, when he dropped to the ground on his forefeet and stood close by deponent an instant, gaping for breath. In this situation, deponent made an underhanded thrust at the dog's flank, which struck low and penetrated into the intestines, when deponent making a considerable effort (considering his exhausted state) and ripped the dog open across to the backbone and let out his entrails. Notwithstanding this, the dog made another spring at deponent's neck, but from exhaustion and the wound just given him, only sprang high enough to reach deponent's breast, upon which he inflicted a wound of some three or four inches in length, when he fell down and died.

Just at this instant, Murphy, having finished the two that had attacked him, came to deponent's assistance. Glad would deponent have been, after he was in contact with the dog, to have been able to shoot him. The consequence of the enemy coming upon him and he with an empty gun he would willingly have risked; but then it was too late. He could not disengage himself from the dog, and his knife was so weak in the blade that he was afraid to make a heavy plunge for fear it would break, and sorely indeed did he repent not shooting the dog while it had been in his power.

Immediately after the conclusion of the fight, Murphy discovered standing at a small distance and pointed out to deponent Captain Yoke, a friendly Indian of the Stockbridge tribe who had went out as one of the pilots on this excursion. Simultaneously with discovering Captain Yoke, deponent and Murphy discovered about forty naked Indians within fifty yards of them, all with tomahawks in their hands, deponent thinks not a rifle amongst them, having left them to make the better speed, no doubt expecting to find deponent and those they pursued with no guns, or empty, if any, when they would be able, with the assistance of their dogs, to deprive us of, or take our scalps. Here, had deponent and Murphy not been wounded, and fresh as when the race commenced, the Indians would have paid dearly for their temerity in leaving their guns behind, but, situated as deponent and Murphy were, wounded much by the dogs they had killed, already much fatigued by running and their fight with the dogs, and having a great way to travel before they could reach camp, and withal two dogs and about forty Indians close at their heels, prudence forbid any other course for them to pursue but to seek safety in flight and reach the army they had left with all possible speed. Deponent and Murphy, therefore, instantly on discovering the Indians so close, put off at the top of their speed and ran on, followed by the dogs and Indians, about fifteen miles as deponent supposes from where they had had the encounter with the dogs, when deponent and Murphy, believing the Indians to be some distance behind, had leisure and shot the remaining two dogs. To this place deponent thinks the enemy pursued him and his companion and gave up further pursuit.

Deponent and Murphy went on until in the night sometime, when, being much fatigued, they stepped out of the path to one side to rest and to observe if any of the enemy passed. After sitting and resting some time, they discovered Captain Yoke passing along, who they had not seen before, since the time they started when the Indians were so close upon them. They, knowing it to be Yoke, hailed him, and from that time went on in company, all three together, to where they had left General Sullivan encamped, which they reached the next morning about eight o'clock. When they arrived, General Sullivan had with his whole army crossed the river, whereupon deponent, Murphy, and their Indian ally constructed a log raft, immediately crossed the river, and overtook the army just as they were engaged in collecting for burial the bodies of the scouts killed the previous morning and putting together the body of Lieutenant Boyd, which the enemy had severed in five pieces-the head cut off, the body then split in twain, and then each half cut into again. Here deponent and Murphy had their wounds dressed for the first time after their infliction, except the wound on the side of deponent's leg, which gave deponent so much pain in traveling the day before that he was compelled to do something if possible to relieve it, which he done by killing a striped squirrel and putting the brains of the squirrel on the wound and fastening them on with the skin thereof. Deponent's wounds were so bad and disabled him so much, that he was placed on a packhorse and rode for six days.

In due time, General Sullivan reached the Indian settlements on the Genesee River, but, finding no enemy to contend with, he destroyed all their buildings, orchards, gardens, and their immense crops of corn, after which General Sullivan returned by the same route again to the Susquehanna River, thence down the same to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, thence to Easton, Pennsylvania, where deponent and such of the rangers as were yet living were discharged and ordered to return to Fort Clinton again, where they arrived about the last of October, 1779, making in all which he served this tour four months. Deponent did not receive any written discharge for this tour that he remembers of. A letter was sent by them to Colonel Vrooman, who was in command at Fort Clinton, stating the particulars of the expedition and that the rangers (of which deponent was one) had acquitted themselves well, etc. In this campaign, deponent knew Generals Sullivan, Clinton, and Maxwell, Colonel Butler, Major Parr, Lieutenant Boyd, and many other officers whose names he has now forgotten.

That about the first of May, 1780, deponent still residing in Albany County, New York, enlisted under Captain Cannon or Kennon for the term of one year and was attached to a regiment commanded by the said Col. Peter Vrooman and stationed at the Middle Fort on the Schoharie River. That deponent was appointed and served as orderly sergeant of the company to which he was attached during the whole term of his enlistment. That he served during the season of 1780, until the expiration of his tour in May 1781, mostly as a ranger, generally having

command of scouting parties sent out to scour the country for the protection of the fort and safety of the settlement.

That, sometime in the fall of the year 1780, a large body of British, Indians, and Tories from Niagara, under command of Sir John Johnson, penetrated the country, meditating an attack on the Middle Fort, it being the strongest and of most consequence to the enemy to possess. The enemy marched by the Upper Fort without molesting it, which they could easily have taken, as that fort was weak, being only a picket fort with two small pieces of artillery. As soon as the enemy passed the fort, the garrison perceiving it to be the object of the enemy to take either the Middle or Lower Fort by surprise, they fired off one of their pieces of artillery to alarm the Middle Fort, which was only about four miles off. This gun they heard very plainly at the Middle Fort, and immediately Colonel Vrooman sent out a detachment of about one hundred riflemen, of whom deponent was one, under command of Captain Woolsey of the Continental or state troops, but who just happened there by accident (as deponent believes), he not belonging to the fort. This detachment were to go with all possible speed to the Upper Fort to ascertain the cause of the alarm and then act as circumstances might require.

As they were proceeding along in haste by a route not usually traveled, deponent voluntarily took the place of one Jacob Franks who was placed as a flank guard on the left of the company. Franks was a messmate and particular friend of deponent's, and deponent, knowing him to be unwell, took his place on the left as aforesaid. While they were passing through a large pasture in which the cattle and horses belonging to the fort were usually pastured (this pasture was very large and considerably grown up with willows and other bushes growing about in bunches), deponent, proceeding expeditiously and cautiously along, discovered in front of him five or six Indians running very closely together in the same direction deponent was moving. Deponent took deliberate aim and fired at the bunch, for they were running as before stated in very close order, and deponent noticed immediately after that his shot produced considerable confusion among the squad. Deponent does not therefore doubt that he killed one of them, as it was the only gun fired at the enemy there, and an Indian was found a few days afterward lying dead with a rifle and knapsack at a spring near where deponent fired. As soon as deponent fired (as was his duty), he ran in and joined his company. By this time the enemy made their appearance in sight, and so numerous were they that Captain Woolsey ordered a retreat to the fort, which was effected without any loss, although the enemy closely pursued, firing many shots at them, but fortunately none took effect. The enemy then invested the fort and threw three bombs at it, one of them only falling into it, which, however, done no particular injury. Sir John Johnson then sent two men with a flag of truce, it was supposed to summon the fort to surrender, and, contrary to the order of Colonel Vrooman (whose valor the men in the fort placed but little reliance upon), the man bearing the flag was shot when about 140 yards of the fort by Timothy Murphy, the same person with whom deponent had suffered so much in the unfortunate expedition under Lieutenant Boyd. The other person ran back without attempting to proceed further with the flag.

The enemy succeeded only in killing one man in the fort. This was a Samuel Runnels, or Reynolds, who went on top of one of the buildings in the fort and there foolishly and indecently exposed his hind parts to the enemy in contempt of them and there remained, contrary to the admonition of those in the fort, until one of the enemy under cover of some sprouts put up from bushes and saplings that had been previously cut off crept near enough to shoot and fired at him, the ball just breaking the skin across above one of his eyebrows. This stunned Reynolds, and he fell off the house on the pavement or some stone below on his head and broke his neck.

It was afterwards said that Sir John Johnson, having discovered Reynolds's contempt of them with a spyglass, gave a guinea, half johannes, or some gold coin to an expert marksman to shoot Reynolds, which was accomplished in the manner before related. But for the truth of this story deponent cannot vouch. Colonel Vrooman then commenced firing at the enemy, who were some four or five hundred yards off, with some small brass cannon, when the enemy marched off, not, however, without getting a good warming before they left the neighborhood. Seeing the route they took and knowing that the enemy had to head a long and deep ravine after leaving the fort, the road passing very near the same place back again after heading the ravine, Captain Woolsey, aforesaid, with about one hundred riflemen, including deponent, was dispatched to a certain place from which the enemy could be much annoyed without endangering Captain Woolsey's men. This was an elevated spot of ground on which had been erected a blockhouse (but at this time not in use) which commanded the road on the opposite side of the deep ravine, by which road the enemy must of necessity pass and where it would be impossible for them to cross the ravine to drive Captain Woolsey from his position and impracticable to return by the road, being one and a one-fourth miles. This place Captain Woolsey and his men reached in time, from which they fired three rounds at the enemy, when they retreated to the fort again, as the enemy instantly started a large detachment back by the way of the road to dislodge them, which detachment Captain Woolsey did not think it prudent to wait for. They followed Captain Woolsey to the fort, but, on firing a cannon shot at them, they again retired. In this engagement across the ravine, deponent believes they killed many of the enemy, as on viewing the ground soon afterwards, he seen much blood in and about the road and a very large fresh-dug grave nearby, where they had buried their dead. But what number they killed, deponent did not know, as they did not open the grave.

Previous to the enemy's attack on the Middle Fort, they set fire to and burned a mill on the Schoharie River which ran six pair of stone, owned by John Baker. This mill the enemy had made frequent attempts to burn before but did not succeed until the present time. After this the enemy passed down the Schoharie and then up the Mohawk River, laying waste and destroying everything before them, and returned to Niagara again. When deponent completed his one year's service as orderly sergeant, he was regularly discharged, but who signed it, deponent does not recollect, but remembers that about 1790 he had some pieces of it, the same having worn out where folded, but what became of them, he does not now recollect. In the course of this last year's service,

deponent knew in addition to the officers already named, Colonel Ziele, Captains Hager, John Ziele, and David Baker, and Lieutenant Ditts or Ditz, besides others at present not recollected.

In the year 1781, deponent, still residing in Albany County in the state of New York, in the month of May volunteered under Colonel Vrooman for a term of eight months and served as orderly sergeant in a company commanded by Capt. Christopher Brown and was stationed at the Middle Fort on the Schoharie River. That he served principally as a ranger, having generally when out (as in the last year) command of a parcel of scouts.

That sometime in the year 1781 (deponent thinks it was), the time deponent cannot now recollect, deponent was in an engagement under Colonel Willett with the enemy under command of Colonel Brandt, who had taken a number of whites prisoner on Tripes Hill, a place not far from the Mohawk River, and Colonel Willett with about four hundred men had been sent in pursuit of Brandt, who he surprised and defeated at the place called Turloch, or Turlach, on a water emptying into the Mohawk River, killing many of the enemy, number not now known. But before Colonel Willett succeeded in recapturing the prisoners, the enemy had put them to death. In this engagement deponent received a slight wound on the left side, just above the hip, by a rifle ball.

That sometime in October of said year 1781, the country was penetrated by a large body of British, Indians, and Tories commanded (deponent thinks) by a Major Ross; that they commenced hostilities on the Mohawk River, whence an express was immediately sent from Colonel Willett, the commander of Fort Plain on the Mohawk River, to Colonel Vrooman, who had in command the three forts on the Schoharie River, for assistance. That detachments were detailed and sent from each of the forts on the Schoharie and rendezvoused at the Middle Fort -and were marched (deponent being one of the number) under Capt. John Titts, Ditts, or Ditz to Fort Plain, where they joined Colonel Willett, who marched on in quest of the enemy and came in contact with them at a place known by the name of Johnstown. Deponent states that, when they discovered the enemy, they were engaged in killing and destroying cattle. That a sharp skirmish ensued, which continued a considerable time. Colonel Willett gained a partial and his party came within a few steps of the camp of the Indians before they discovered any sign, in consequence of a rise of ground. That before their campfires- there was a great parcel of meat stuck round about on spears or sticks roasting and not an Indian there. They had gone down the hill some distance to an old waste field to gather (as deponent supposes) rasp and black berries. On discovering the enemy's camp, deponent's "chosen few" immediately deserted him and fled to a man.

Deponent, feeling himself bound to comply with the orders received from his colonel, or at all events not to return until he had made some further effort to discover the strength of the enemy, went off some small distance from the encampment and lay concealed in some brush near a place where he supposed the Indians would pass in returning to their camp by the way of an old trail. After being there a little while, deponent heard some noise in the leaves and looked behind, or rather to one side, and discovered an Indian alone approaching very near deponent and making towards the camp but coming from a different quarter from which deponent expected and entirely to one side of the trail. He came very near before deponent discovered him. Deponent being but poorly concealed, and knowing from the direction of the camp for which the Indian was evidently making that he would certainly pass within a few feet of deponent and that it would be impossible for him to remain undiscovered to the Indian, deponent therefore instantly determined to shoot him, as the best and perhaps only means of escape, although danger and great hazard to his life attended him either way, as the main body of the Indians must in all probability be very near, as (before stated) they had left their meat roasting before their fires, to which they would of course soon return. Deponent rose from his squatting position to his feet unperceived by the Indian. As the Indian was coming up a little rise within eighteen or twenty feet of deponent, about half the length of his body being exposed to deponent, deponent shot him through the breast. The Indian fell and was dead in an instant.

Deponent, seeing that the Indian had a beautiful English fusee such as (from information deponent received) the English were in the habit of presenting to the chief warriors and captains of their savage allies to stimulate them to greater action in their murderous and predatory incursions upon the whites, determined to make himself master of that. From the circumstance of his having this gun and of his having so many silver ornaments about him, deponent is confident he was an Indian chief and probably the commander of the party. One of the principal silver ornaments deponent also took a fancy to, being a large one that bound his hair growing immediately on the crown of his head. Being cylindrical and so fastened that it was not easily disengaged from the hair, deponent with his knife severed it from the Indian's head, hair and all, together with a little of the skin, which was accidental, deponent being in great haste.

Deponent put off at full speed in the direction to the fort, and when he had run about three hundred yards or more, he heard the Indians setting their dogs on his trail. That he ran on until the first crossing of a small stream on his route that empties into Cobleskill, after crossing which he heard the dogs at some distance back coming on his trail. When he came to the second crossing of said stream, he ran up some distance in the stream to prevent them following him further. After he left the stream, he ran up a bottom about two miles, when he took to a ridge. At this time he heard the dogs again and, supposing them to be on his trail (it somewhat alarmed him, recollecting well his former scrape with the dogs), but which deponent afterwards learned was the trail of his deserting companions, the dogs at the second crossing, aforesaid, taking theirs, and at this place, deponent passing near thereto and hearing the dogs, was deceived. And the better to enable deponent to escape the Indians and dogs, deponent pulled off his clothes, except pantaloons and moccasins, and threw them behind a log and then ran on until he reached the fort, where he arrived safely and some time before his comrades arrived, who reported deponent dead, as they were within hearing of deponent's fire at the Indian, aforesaid, and supposed that it was deponent that was shot at. It was purposely kept secret from them that deponent had reached the fort for the purpose of seeing what tale they would tell, and, on being asked what had become of their leader, [they] replied

that "the damned fool was dead," that they had discovered the enemy's camp, etc., and that Freemoyer would not leave there with them, and before they were out of hearing, they heard the report of a rifle, and they were certain he was dead. After they had finished their tale and at the expense of deponent, as they supposed, deponent left his concealment, much to their astonishment and chagrin.

The place where deponent killed the Indian was afterwards always called and known while deponent lived in that country by the name of Freemoyer's Battleground. Deponent served nine months as orderly sergeant, the time for which he enlisted, and received a discharge from Col. Peter Vrooman, which he has long since lost; he neglecting to take care of it as well as all other discharges he received in the service, as he considered them of no value to him whatever. That this last tour completed deponent's service in the Revolutionary struggle.