

Pension Application for Robert Meeker

W.4027 (Widow: Catharine)

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

Broome County SS.

On this 30th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of common Pleas, now sitting, Robert Meeker a resident of Chenango in the County of Broome and State of New York, aged 80 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

He entered the service of the United States while living at Hillsdale in the County of Columbia N.Y. under Capt. Bigsbe of the New York militia in May 1775 and was engaged about six weeks, during this period he had several skirmishes with the Tories, a small party of whom had encamped on Livingston's Manor Columbia County which the said Militia took prisoners and put on board of a Sloop Capt. Fonda & sent to Esopus, thence across the River to Poughkeepsie Dutchess Co. where they were left.

He afterwards in the months of July and August was engaged with others of the militia under Capt. Bigsbe in cutting and getting one timber below Fishkill for the barracks for the Continental troops he served in this business six weeks and was dismissed.

In September of the same year (1775) he enlisted in the same company Capt. Bigsbe, Col. Robt. VanRenssalaer, in guarding the property exposed to the enemy, taking up the disaffected and collecting forces in Columbia & Dutchess Counties he served under this enlistment for the term of six weeks, and was dismissed.

In April 1776 he volunteered for the term of one month in said Bigsbe's Company and marched from Hillsdale to Johnstown for the purpose of guarding the frontier, remained in the vicinity of that place until the period of his enlistment expired and returned home, passing Schenectady on the north.

On the 1st of June (1776) he again volunteered in the same company for the term of six weeks, marched to Stillwater and remained there during said period and then returned home.

In August 1776 he enlisted in a company of State troops commanded by Capt. Joshua Whitney of Hillsdale and marched by order of Col. Van Ness to Cherry Valley to guard the inhabitants of that country from the depredations of the Western Indians—Col. Alden of the regular troops from Boston precluded the march of the N. York troops; they passed through Albany, Schenectady and fort Hunter to Cherry Valley, where they encamped, the militia and Regulars built a fort and Block house, and the inhabitants were invited to come in but many [many?] remained at their homes who afterwards became an easy prey to the Indians, under Brant & Butler who about

this time burnt and destroyed considerable property—he served under the enlistment six weeks.—

In November 1776 he volunteered and entered a company commanded by Cornelius Hogeboom of the militia and was marched to Albany where he was billeted out for the term of four weeks the period of his enlistment and then returned home.

About the last of January 1777 he volunteered for the period of one month under Capt. Vosburgh who had been ordered by Col. VanNess to raise men, horses and sleighs and proceed on to the Mohawk River near Johnstown for the purpose of disarming the Tories in this expedition they effected their object and returned home.

In May 1777, The Militia were called out to go to Stillwater as it was understood that the enemy under Burgoyne were marching into the state from Canada.

The applicant under Capt. Bigsbe again shouldered his musket and marched immediately to Stillwater, remained here a short time and thence to Fort Edward where Schuyler then commanded the militia—then ordered with a detachment to Lake George, hauled [hauled] the boats out of the Lake and brought them down to Fort Edward where they were put in the River.

The American troops lay here until Burgoyne approached and encamped near the Fort, in the night the Americans evacuated the Fort a part of whom with the applicant retired to Moses Creek where he remained a few days, after some skirmishing on the out posts moved to Saratoga from Saratoga to Stillwater—Burgoyne followed down the river and the American and British armies lay near each other for some time.

About three weeks after applicant had been at Stillwater, and engagement was had with the enemy & the Americans succeeded in taking the Hessian Breastworks and Burgoyne retreated.—the applicant with the American forces crossed the River the 2d morning after his retreat and followed him to Saratoga where he was hemmed in by the Militia and Regulars and on the 16th October 1777 Burgoyne sent in a flag and surrendered—the prisoners were march'd down near N. York and the applicant (with the militia) was discharged in Columbia County having served six months the full period of his enlistment.

In July & August 1778 was called out under Capt. Whitney in Col. Peter Van Ness Regt to Fort Hunter and served in the Militia during said July & Augt. Six weeks.

October 1, 1778 Volunteered for the term of three months in a Corps of Militia raised from the Northern parts of New York and Vermont under Colonel Clagborne for the purpose of guarding the northern frontiers and was stationed as a spy at Sudbury Vermont with directions to pass out as far as could be done safely into the enemys Country and make returns to head quarters.—

While out with others on a scout he quartered for a short time in Brandon at the house of a Mr. Robbins and while here a party of 500 Indians, Canadians, & Tories attacked & killed two of the Robbins' the applicant was in sight but escaped and after remaining without provision three days & [?] nights succeeded in reaching his quarters—he served out the full time of this enlistment and returned home.

In April 1779 was called out and appointed to the command of a Party of Militia to act as rangers and take up and secure the disaffected and protect the property of the inhabitants in Columbia & Dutchess Counties and served as such for the full period of six months.

In October was again called out under Col. VanNess and Major [Alstine?] and marched to Schoharie and remained there 4 weeks, in defending the persons & property of the inhabitants from the Indians.

He also until the close of the War stood ready as a "minute man" to march where his services were required to defend his country and was out frequently on short excursions under Capt. Whitney & Lieut Whalen in the years '80, '81 & '82.

The applicant believes he received no written discharge, if he did the same is lost.

He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He was born at Reading Fairfield Col. Connecticut on the 22d day of May 1752 but has no record of the same but a memorandum thereof in his Bible at the close of the War he lived in Columbia Co., N.Y. then removed to Windsor Broom Co. about the year 1802 remained there until 1808 when he moved to Lackawana [Lackawanna] Penn'a thence in 1814 to Chenango Brome where he now resides.

He 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. (Signed with his mark) Robert Meeker

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. B. Marvin Clerk

Letter in folder dated June 17, 1913, written in response to an inquiry.

In addition to the military history of Robert Meeker, W. File No. 4,027, Rev. War, you are furnished the following family data from the papers on file in the claim.

Robert Meeker born May 22, 1752, married December 23, 1777 9?0

Elizabeth Wiltse who died July 11, 1783.

Cate born December 10, 1780.

Elizabeth Born September 14, 1782.

Robert Meeker married March 26, 1787, Catherine Vandusen.

Polly born February 22, 1788.

Robert born October 6, 1789.

Hannah born October 13, 1791.

John born January 30, 1794.

Becca born September 13, 1795.

Martin born October 29, 1797, died August 9, 1796.

George born July 8, 1800.

Phebe born July 13, 1802.

Luse born April 18, 1808 or 1810.

Betse born December 12, 1811.

Catharine Meeker died in LaGrange County, Indiana, March 24, 1844, and her only surviving children in 1850, were Lucy Blair of Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio, and Robert Meeker and Betsey Lewis of LaGrange County, Indiana.
[There is no letter detailing the military service in the folder.]