

Pension Application for Reuben Schuyler

S.28869 (Private. Captain Gordon, Col. Cuyler) Transcriber's note, the earlier deposition he mentions is not in good shape and difficult to read.

State of New York

County of Albany SS

On this 7th day of December 1832, personally appeared before the Justices Court of the City of Albany now sitting, Reuben Schuyler of the town of Watervliet who being duly sworn, doth on his oath, make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That by reason of his age and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below.

In the year 1778 I served one month in Col. Philip P. Schuyler's Regt of Militia in the company commanded by Capt. Henry Ostrom (1) of which Peter S. Schuyler was Ensign.

In the years 1779 and 1780 I served eleven months in the Regiment commanded by Col. Abraham Wemple (2) of which Regt Abm. Swits (3) was Major in Capt. Jellis Fonda's (4) Company of which Myndert A. Wemple was Lieutenant and Nicholas Yates Ensign.

In 1781—1782 & 1783 I served thirteen months in Col. Abm. Cuyler's (5) Regt of which Volkert VanVechten (6) was Major, in Capt. Wm. Hun's (7) Company all of which terms as a private—for which services I claim a Pension.

To the Interrogatories proposed by the War Department I answer:

1st I was born in the town of WaterVliet on 7th January 1762—2nd My brother Jeremiah Schuyler has the record of the ages of my Father's Family—3rd In 1778 I lived in WaterVliet. In 1779 & 1780 in Schenectady. In 1781—1782 & 1783 in the City of Albany. In 1784 & 1785 in the town of Half Moon in the now County of Saratoga. Since which time to this present I have resided and do now reside in WaterVliet. 4th I was called into service by the company officers under orders (as I presume) from the Committee of Safety or from Governor George Clinton. I have also volunteered on several occasions. At one time with a party in search of Tories to a place called Beaverdam where we captured 9 tories who were sent to Hartford at another time as an express to carry letters from Col. Wemple to Gov. Clinton at the time Col. Gordon (8) was taken prisoner at Ballston. Also to carry letters from Col. Wemple to the officer (whose name I have forgotten) commanding at Fort Plain on the Mohawk River.—Also as noted in my original declaration at the time Walter Butler (9) was killed—Col. Van Schaick (10) commanded at Fort Hunter when I was stationed there. During the other terms of my service which consisted for the most in mounting guard in the Cities of Albany & Schenectady and in excursion of small parties in search of Tories and Indians I do not recollect that any officers of the regular Army were with the Troops with whom I served. 6th I did not receive a regular discharge nor am I aware that any of the Militia did. This deponent begs leave respectfully to refer for such proof as he has been able to obtain of his services during the years 1779 & 1780 to the affidavits of James J. VanVorst & John Quackenboss and to the Certificate of the Hon. John J. DeGraff as to their credibility and to state that after diligent search for Witnesses to prove the remainder of his service he has not been able to find any person who can testify as to the time of said services as all the officers under whom he served being now dead. (Signed) Reuben Schuyler

I, John G. Wasson, Clerk of the Justice's Court of the City of Albany do hereby certify, that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of said Court in the matter of the amended application of Reuben Schuyler for a pension. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this seventh day of December AD 1832. John G. Wasson, Clk.

End Notes—S.28869—Reuben Schuyler

1. Henry Ostrom was commissioned Captain of the Third Company on June 22, 1778 in Colonel Philip P. Schuyler's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia (First Rensselaerwyck Battalion). The following served as officers under Captain-Ostrom: Jacob Weaver as First Lieutenant, Philip Hemstreet as Second Lieutenant and Peter S. Schuyler as Ensign.
2. Colonel Abraham Wemple of the Second Regiment of Albany County Militia (Schenectady District).
3. Abraham Switz served as the First Major under Colonel Wemple.
4. Jellis J. Fonda was Captain of the First Company in Colonel Wemple's Regiment. The following served as officers under Captain Fonda: Andrew Van Patten as First Lieutenant, Myndert A. Wemple as Second Lieutenant and Nicholas Yates as Ensign.
5. Abraham Cuyler was the Second Major of Colonel Jacob Lansing Jr.'s First Regiment of Albany County Militia, City of Albany. On March 3, 1780, Major Cuyler was appointed Colonel as Lansing had resigned.
6. Volkert VanVechten or VanVeghten that appears only as a captain of the Third Company in Colonel Stephen Schuyler's Fifth Regiment of Albany County Militia, Third Rensselaerwyck Battalion. Dirck TenBroeck was the Lieutenant—Colonel since TenBroeck also had resigned.

7. William Hunn or Hun had served as First Lieutenant under Captain Harmanus Wendell of the Fifth Company. When Wendell was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, Hunn was promoted to Captain.
8. James Gordon was the Lieutenant-Colonel in Colonel Jacobus VanSchoonhoven's Twelfth Regiment of Albany County Militia, Half Moon and Ballston Districts. Gordon was taken prisoner on October 17, 1780
9. Captain Walter Butler of Butler's Rangers was killed in a skirmish at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.
10. Goose VanSchaick was the Colonel of the First New York Continental Regiment. It is possible Colonel VanSchaick visited the fort while going to Fort Schuyler as his regiment was stationed there but he never stayed at Fort Hunter for any length of time. The way this declaration is written it is not clear if Reuben meant that Colonel VanSchaick was at Fort Hunter when Butler was killed. To clarify these two statements made by Reuben is that Colonel VanSchaick with his regiment was in the Yorktown, Virginia Campaign from September 28-Ocrober 19, 1781, and were not even in New York State until later in November.