

Pension Application for Peter Segar or Seger

W.19333 (Widow: Mary)

State of New York

Schenectady Co. SS.

On this seventh day of December 1846, personally came before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of said county John Segar of the town of Duanesburgh in said County of Schenectady—aged ninety five years on the 30th day of Nov. last who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration.

That he enlisted into the service of the United States in the year 1776 under Capt. John Williams for six months and that he this deponent draws the yearly pension of forty dollars a year, at the time he enlisted he resided at the foot of the Helderberg in Albany County—and that he knew Peter Segar who was a brother of his, older than he this deponent, and that Peter Segar was married and lived at what was then called the Helderberg in Albany County at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, and that said Peter Segar was in the service of the United States the most part of the time during the war—does not know who the officers were that his brother Peter Segar served under as he this deponent was in a different part of the service from that of his brother Peter.

This deponent believes that Peter Segar was engaged as a spy a considerable part of the time during the war—at the time Peter Segar and another man brought seven prisoners to Capt. Disby and that he—this deponent was with Capt. Disby at the time, the prisoners were Tories who were engaged in Robing the Whigs—the Prisoners were taken to Albany where they were all hung but one—who turned States Evidence—This Deponent is very certain that his Brother Peter Segar was engaged in the Service of the United States a great part of the time during the war—but does not recollect of seeing the said Peter Segar in the Service but once and that was the time that he and the other man brought the prisoners to Capt. Disby, thinks that his Brother served under Capt. Vedder but is not positive. (Signed with his mark) John Segar

Subscribed and sworn before me Dec. 7th 1846. Marvin Strong, Justice

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

On this Eleventh day of April 1843 personally came before me the undersigned a Supreme Court Commissioner in and for the said County Mary Seger of the Town of Herkimer in said County of Herkimer aged ninety four years as she believes but is not certain who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration supplemental to her former declaration made in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed July 4, 1836.

That she resided during the Revolutionary War as part of the time at Albany and a part of the time at Schenectady and a part of the time at Old Schoharie in the State of New York, but she cannot now specify the precise length of time she resided at either place. She and her family having been obliged to remove on a number of occasions on account of the Indians.

That her late husband Peter Seger was in the Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War more or less every year from the commencement to the close of the war. That he served a part of the time under Captain Abram Vedder.

That she recollects that her said husband served a tour of about three months in the year 1777, and that he was in the battle at Saratoga. That after the battle her said husband was taken sick and carried to Half Moon Point on the Hudson River at which place he sent for this declarant and that before she arrived at that place her husband was removed to the hospital at Albany to which place she followed him and remained and took care of him until he recovered which was about six weeks from the time he was taken to Albany.

That in the year 1778 although she cannot state precisely the year, her said husband served a period of nine months but she cannot state the names of the officers under whom he served at the time his enlistment he resided at Bethlehem in Albany County. That from the year 1778 after his said enlistment, her said husband served every year to the close of the war and that a great part of the time he served as an Indian Spy—Having been employed as she understood by Colonel Gansevoort and that he was in the services each year after 1778 a period of from three to six months that in taking his whole service in the course of the whole year together.

That she resided a considerable part of the time during the Revolutionary War in the forts at Schenectady and Schoharrie with her little children two of whom were born in and during the Revolutionary War.

That he said husband was in the battle at Schoharrie at the time that place was burnt and that this declarant was also in the fort at that place at that time with her little children. That in this engagement the number of men in the fort was so small and insufficient to defend the fort against the superior force of the enemy and that this deponent with other women in the fort assisted and fired guns out of the port holes at the enemy. That this deponent & here cousin during the engagement, with a feather bed smothered a [?] pound shell through into the fort by the enemy, that she recollects seeing a Mr. Murphy engaged in this latter, he was a brave man.

That the reason why her said husband was selected as an Indian Spy was on account his having previous to the Revolution had been engaged in hunting making that his principal business and was therefore well acquainted with the wilderness and the various section of country through which it became necessary to pass.

That she cannot remember where the commissary was.

That her said husband had no education and could neither read nor write and that after the war and for many years her said husband had a paper signed by Genl Schuyler, Col. VanSchanick and she thinks by Doctor Steiger which was said to be a certificate entitling him to a large sum of money and also to land eight hundred pounds & a free farm which he used to carry in his pocket book. And that in a hunting excursion or otherwise he casually lost the same.

She recollects hearing her said husband speak of Capt. McKean and of his being killed at or near Sharon in battle, and that her husband was engaged in that battle, hear him also speak of Captain or Lieutenant Vrooman who was taken prisoner by a British near Fort Stanwix—hear him speak of going with said Vrooman on Scouting Excursions she heard him also speak of Capt. VanDyke and also of Cap[t. VanSlyke but she cannot now recollect of the particular places or the services he performed with or under them.

That when she made her former declaration she resided at Lowville Lewis County but has since removed to and now resides in Herkimer Herkimer [sic] County. (Signed with her mark) Mary Seger

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of April 1843. Chas Gray, Supreme Court Commissioner.

29th Congress 1st Session. Rep. No. 460. Ho. Or Repts.

Mary Segar (To accompany bill H.R. No. 337.) March 27, 1846.

Mr. Seaman, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following.

Report:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Mary Segar, of Jefferson County, State of New York Report:

The petitioner represents that she is the widow of Peter Segar, a soldier of the revolutionary army, to whom she was married on the 15th June, 1775. That in the year 1776 he served three months under Captain Van ornum, Gen. Schuyler's brigade. That, in 1777, he again served two months under Capt. VanOrnum, or Capt. Abraham Vedder, and was at the battle of Saratoga. That in 1778, he was out

in the New York militia, and served nine months under Capt. Vedder, in Col. Leonard Gansevoort's regiment. That, from the spring of 1779 to 1782, he was employed as an Indian spy, and served six months in each year.

The marriage is proved by the affidavit of Garret I. Segar, and by Henry Show and James Segar, who swear that they are reputed to have been married as stated, and that they lived together as man and wife.

Garret I. Segar swears that Peter Segar served in Capt. VanOrnum and Capt. Vedder's companies; that he served as a spy during the Revolution, and performed other service. David Davoe and James Segar (the son of the petitioner) swear that it is believed in the neighborhood where Peter Segar lived, that he was a revolutionary soldier, and they concur in the opinion.

The Commissioner of Pensions, to whom the case has been referred, could not admit the petition, but thinks that a part of the service may have been rendered. The committee think that sufficient evidence has been offered to connect Peter Segar with the service during the war of the Revolution; but as the term of service is not clearly established, they report a bill granting his widow a pension for six months' service, under the act of 4th July, 1836, to commence the 8th day of August, 1837.