

Pension Application for Peter Walradt

S.11684

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On the eighteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared before me Henry J. Dievendorf, Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Montgomery being a Court of Record—Peter Walradt of Canajoharie & County of Montgomery & State aforesaid—at his residence in Canajoharie aforesaid—aged 76 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath maketh following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832—that he entered the service in the State of New York under the following officers & served as herein stated.—

Deponent was born May 30th 1756, as appears from the family record of his Father in the then county of Tryon now county of Montgomery & state of New York & town of Palatine—at which place Deponent resided at the commencement of the Revolutionary War. In January 1776 General Nicholas Herkimer (1) ordered out all the militia of Tryon County, they were paraded on the ice near Johnsons Hall (2). And the expedition terminated in the surrender of Sir John Johnson as prisoner; Deponent was present on this expedition as a private soldier length of time deponent does not recollect distinctly but verily believes it was about 2 weeks—In the early part of the spring following deponent entered into Capt. Jacob Seebers (3) Company of Volunteers. Entered at Palatine aforesaid in the month as he believes March or April. Does not recollect the day of the month to go to Fort Schuyler (4) to repair & strengthen that place against the Indians—Was entered for 6 months—but to the best of his recollection & believe staid at said Fort in the summer months when he was discharged & returned home—Col. Peter Gansevoort commanded the Fort at the time which was then called Fort Stanwix—Deponent was also called out by order of General Herkimer, together with other of the Provincial troops or Militia to relieve the garrison at Oriskany when a severe battle took place on the 5th day of August as deponent believes 1777—(5) deponent was in the battle—Has not now a distinct recollection of the length of time from hone on this expedition—Remembers that part of the Country was then a wilderness—roads very bad & distance nearly fifty miles from deponents recollection.—Thinks they must have been absent from home from 10-15 days—In the same year in the Latter part of August—(6) Col. Willet ordered a draft to be made of the Tryon County Militia to go to Saratoga or Fort Edward to meet Burgoyne—Deponents Brother was drafted & this deponent volunteered—took his place & marched in company commanded by Capt. Richter or Richter - -Shrall Lieutenant—to Stillwater in Saratoga County—Staid about one month & was relieved by the arrival of other militia drafts & returned home by way of Johnstown home of between 50-60 miles.

In the month of June 1780--the Militia of Tryon County were again ordered out to guard the boats which were passing up the Mohawk river—To Fort Schuyler with provisions for the troops—as they were expecting an attack from Brant—Deponent was on that duty several times but cannot undertake to state to what amount of time in a manner sufficiently definite to have it count. In the fall of 1780—Sir Johnson passed up the north side of the Mohawk & halted at Foxes Mills in Palatine the residence of this deponent with a company of Indians & Tories—This deponent [was] in Gen'l Vanrenselae's (7) Brigade, Col. Dubois Regt (8), and after a skirmish (9) the enemy forded the river & fled—this deponent was then out

3 or 4 days only—this deponent further says that in the latter part of the winter or the early part of the Spring of 1781 he was pressed with his team to carry provisions from Fort Plank otherwise called Fort Plain opposite Palatine to carry provisions to Fort Stanwix a distance of about 60 miles over very bad roads & after arriving there was compelled to draw wood for the use of the fort several days this was done without pay—thinks he was from home from 6 to [?] weeks—The snow being very deep deponent some days could not travel with his team more than 2 or 3 miles per day—

In the early part of summer the day of the month nor the month deponent is not quite certain in 1781. Col. Willett (10) commanded at Fort Plank or Fort Plain as it is called & ordered a company of men to the town of Turlock or Durlock (12) now Sharon & county of Schoharie—to attack the Indians under the command of the Tory Dockstader (11) a distance of 16 or 18 miles from Palatine—Deponent Volunteered in this expedition – a battle ensued—where the Indians & Tories were defeated & disposed—Col. McKean (13) was killed. Col. Willett Commanded in person – started from Fort Plank in the afternoon – traveled all night—was absent three or four days & returned home.--

In the month of October 1781—as he now thinks—Major Ross (14) & Butler appeared in Johnstown then Tryon County—with an armed force. Col. Willett moved from Fort Plain with his troops to meet them—This deponent with many others, volunteered & joined the expedition under Col. Willett arrived in the vicinity of Johnstown near where the village now is—When a severe battle ensued—deponent was in the battle (15). When after the engagement—Ross retreated up the Mohawk—Butler was soon after killed (16)—Was absent from home on this expedition several days not distinctly recollected how long—knows the distance to be 20 miles—

This deponent at the time lived in a frontier settlement, volunteered at different times not mentioned above on short excursions—alarms etc., & Joined Scouting Parties—by order and under the command of Capt. Peter Waggoner of the Militia to go as spies—Deponent had the command of a party of men—cannot with sufficient certainty say how long but verily believes 30 or 40 days in all—at various times as scouting parties as a Sergeant, Deponent says he was on duty at periods not mentioned above—in the several Forts Plank—Fort Parris—so called—worked at a place called Fort Fox—I think in all nearly over a month—was also on duty—thinks in the Fall of 1778 at Cherry Valley (17)—marched there on the [? o'clock] of that place but arrived too late—to afford assistance was absent 3 or 4 days—distance 15 miles--& was acquainted during his revolutionary services with General Gates, Gen'l Washington, General Schuyler, Gen'l. Gansevoort (18) & many others.—

Deponent saith also that he has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except those whose affidavits are hereto annexed—Deponent relinquishes hereby 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) Peter Walradt

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me. Henry J. Dievendorff.

End Notes—S.11684—Peter Walradt

1. Nicholas Herkimer, January 1776, was the Colonel of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. He was appointed Brigadier General of the Tryon County Militia Brigade on September 5, 1776.

2. The Albany and Tryon County Militia Brigade paraded on the ice of the Mohawk River near Caughnawaga. Major General Philip Schuyler was in Command when Sir John Johnson gave his parole not to take up arms against the newly formed American government.
3. According to Captain Jacob W, Seeber's Company's muster roll, peter enlisted as a private. Seeber's company were part of the Fourth New York Continental Regiment under Colonel Cornelius D. Wynkoop.
4. Actually Captain Seeber's and his company were sent to help the Third New Jersey Continental Regiment to build a fort at what is now the Village of Herkimer, Herkimer County, New York. The fort was named Fort Dayton in honor of Elias Dayton the colonel of the Third New Jersey. Captain Seeber's Company with the Third New Jersey went to Fort Stanwix later, which was renamed Fort Schuyler in honor of General Schuyler. Peter Gansevoort was appointed Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment on November 21, 1776 and was not at Fort Schuyler until April 1777. Peter in 1777 was in Captain John Hess' Company in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. In about 1780, First Lieutenant Peter Wagner, Jr., replaces Hess as captain of the company. Peter served as sergeant under both captains. The militia under General Herkimer were on their way to relieve the garrison at Fort Schuyler under the command of Colonel Gansevoort. Fort Schuyler was besieged by British forces under Brigadier General Barry St. Leger but Herkimer and his troops were ambushed at Oriskany on August 6, 1777.
5. Marinus Willett was the lieutenant-Colonel of the Third New York in 1777 and did not have the authority to order the militia to Saratoga. In August Willett was with Major General Benedict Arnold with another relief column marching to Fort Schuyler which arrived there on August 22, 1777.
6. Nicholas Richter was the Captain of the Sixth Company in Colonel Klock's Regiment. His company officers were as follows: John Williams as first lieutenant, George Smith as second lieutenant and John Scholl as ensign. They were all appointed on August 26, 1775. Members of the Tryon County Regiments were used to build fortifications at Stillwater for Major General Horatio Gates and his army there. They were preparing to attack the British Army under Lieutenant General John Burgoyne. After two major battles and several skirmishes Burgoyne surrendered his forces on October 17, 1777.
7. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer, commanded the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia, and the Tryon County Militia was attached to this brigade.
8. Lewis DuBois was appointed Colonel on July 1, 1780 of a regiment of New York State Levies.
9. The Battle of Klocksfield was fought in the afternoon of October 19, 1780.
10. On April 27, 1781, Marinus Willett was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a regiment of New York States Levies.
11. Lieutenant John Dockstader of the Indian Department.
12. The Battle of New Dorlach which is the present day Village of Sharon Springs, Schoharie County, N.Y., was fought on July 10, 1781.
13. Captain Robert McKean of Willett's Regiment.
14. Major John Ross of the Second Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York and Captain Walter Butler of Lieutenant-Colonel John Butler's Corp of Rangers.

15. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
16. Captain Butler was killed in the skirmish at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.
17. Cherry Valley was attacked and destroyed on November 11, 1778 by forces under Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant.
18. General and Commander-in-Chief George Washington.
19. Peter Gansevoort after retiring from Continental service on January 1, 1781 was appointed Brigadier General on March 26, 1781 of the First Brigade of the Albany County Militia in place of Abraham TenBroeck who had resigned due to illness.