

## **Pension Application for Robert H. Wendell**

R.11321

Declaration of Robert H. Wendell in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

State of New York, City and  
County of Schenectady SS.

On this first day of May 1845 personally appeared before me Samuel W. Jones first Judge of the court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Schenectady Robert H. Wendell a resident of the said City of Schenectady in the said County of Schenectady and State of New York aged eighty five years the seventh day of January last.

He being prevented from appearing in open court by means of bodily infirmity which I hereby certify;--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<sup>th</sup> 1832. (The said Court of common Pleas is a Court of Record having a common seal)

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That this declarant served in the Militia of the State of New York and the following are the names and rank of the field and company officers under whom he served viz:

Brigadier Generals Abraham TenBroeck, Robert Van Rensselaer—Colonels Kilian Van Rensselaer, Jacob Lansing, Philip P. Schuyler Peter Gansvoort, Lieutenant Colonel Herman Wendell a cousin of this declarant Abraham Cuyler formerly Major, Major Harmanus Wendell an Uncle of this declarant. Captains John Price and Jacob Roseboom. The latter the forepart of his service was a Lieutenant, and the said John Price after part of the time a Major and Captain Yates.

This declarant was born in the City of Albany and a resident there during the whole of his service there after mentioned.

This declarant received orders immediately after the declaration of War to hold himself in readiness to march at a moments warning, and was appointed an orderly Sergeant in Captain John Prices Company of Militia. Colo Abraham Cuyler commanding in General Ten Broecks Brigade and served therein as guard to the Arsenal: The Barracks & the Prison at Albany till the year 1783 as such Sergeant when this declarant was appointed by the Governor & Council 2d Lieutenant but his Commission has been lost or destroyed and all his officers are now dead during which time this declarant in the summer of each year, spring & fall was sent out in expeditions under Captains Price & Roseboom at Schoharie, up the Mohawk River at Saratoga & Lake George. The precise dates this declarant cannot now accurately state, nor the whole number of said expeditions against the enemy. But the following are among the number to wit.

The fore part of July 1778 news arrived at Albany that the Indians had made a descent on Schoharie, aided by some Tories: and that a battle had ensued. Between a small party of our men—and some 400 of the enemy—that our men were over

powered, and that the enemy were engaged in burning the houses and plundering the inhabitants & party of horse were sent ahead under Captain Woodbeck. This declarant marched in a detachment of the Albany Militia consisting of between one & two hundred men under Captain John Price & Lieutenant Jacob Roseboom, marched through the [Hillebureak?] to Schoharie near Cobuskill at a place then called the Lower Fort occupying the church there as our Barracks—we remained there to protect the Inhabitants from the incursions of the Tories and Indians.

Detachments of scouting parties were daily sent out in which this declarant was included. After an absence in said expedition the said party returned to Albany having been engaged in this Tour six weeks, which ended sometime in August and according to the best recollection of this declarant—the latter part of said month.

This declarant resuming his station for the remainder of the year, as one of the guards there as aforesaid.

In the spring of 1779 Information was communicated at Albany that the enemy had made another descent upon Cobuskill in Schoharie and had drawn our troops in Ambush & cut them off.

The Albany Militia were again called out under Colonel Abraham Cuyler this declarant served in that expedition under Captain Jacob Roseboom, marching through the Hillebanck to Schoharie County at a place called the Upper Fort near Cobuskill and took up our Quarters at Beckers, serving as the season before as a guard to protect the inhabitants and engaged in scouting parties.

This expedition started from Albany as nigh as this declarant can recollect in the months of March, and returned after an absence of six weeks in the month of April, the precise time of returning to Albany this declarant cannot farther state.

This declarant then resumed his former duties as guard in said City of Albany as before stated, and continued therein till called out in the following spring.

In the spring of the year 1780 and as nigh as this declarant can recollect. Information was received at Albany that Sir John Johnson with a part of Tories and Indians has made a descent on Johnstown and along the Mohawk. A detachment of the Albany Militia were ordered out and this declarant marched to Caughnawaga through Schenectady under Colonel Cuyler & Captain Roseboom. A party of the enemy crossed the Mohawk River near Tripes Hill, a skirmish took place at a place called Foxes. Major Elias Van Benschoten of the eight months Levies joined us—the enemy gave way. The Baggage wagon of Sir John Johnson was taken. The next day the said Major pursued with his men and about 30 volunteer Militia of which this declarant was one of them. We arrived at Herkimer of which this declarant was one of them. We arrived at Herkimer at Breakfast, but the enemy escaped our pursuit. And we returned to Albany after an expedition of three weeks.

In the forepart of August of the same year 1780. Another alarm was given at Albany. That the celebrated Joseph Brant the Indian Chief was making a descent on the Inhabitants of the Mohawk Valley with a party of Indians.

A detachment of Albany Militia of which Colo Abm Cuyler was commander and Captain Roseboom or Abraham Yates he forgets which, commanded the Company in

which this declarant served, marched to Schenectady where we met the Schenectady Militia under Colo Wemp or Wemple as he was sometimes called, and proceeded thence up the Mohawk River in company—we found that the enemy had just burned Canajoharie, Fort Plain and the adjoining places.

Arrived at Fort Plain while the church was burning which was surrounded by 7 or 8 Indians who fled at our approach. Found a girl/woman there lying on the ground who was scalped, but yet living. She said she had been knocked down with a stone by one Hans Richter a Tory, and that an Indian had scalped her. We took care of her. A number of houses were then burning among them John Abeels.

From thence we proceeded to Fort Plank a short distance further several houses on the road were consumed at one of the houses. We found a boy scalped & his feet in the fire. We took him out but he was dead. On arriving at Fort Plank we collected 9 children, and an old woman who had been murdered by the enemy & we buried them in one grave. We were stationed at Fort Plain and engaged in scouting parties for five weeks, about 4 miles from Fort Plank while this declarant was engaged with a part of scouts. We found a woman with 4 children who had been murdered. Her womb ripped open and an unborn infant torn therefrom. We buried them all in one grave—we also found two boys sons of a Mr. [blank] Dieffendorf who had just been scalped but were alive—brought them to Fort Plain and had them taken care of—and they recovered as this declarant has been informed. We returned to Albany after being engaged in this tour six weeks, and this declarant resumed his former station in the guards there and continued to serve therein until he was called out again in the fall of the year 1781 hereafter mentioned.

In the month of August 1781 while this declarant was so doing duty as a Guard as aforesaid John Waltermeyer a Tory with a party made an attempt to capture General Schuyler at his residence in Albany. This Declarant had just stationed the guards at the jail where British prisoners were confined and a little after dark walked near the then Ferry. He heard a gun fired from General Schuylers house.

This declarant immediately ran to the guard and directed them to follow him to General Schuylers house. This declarant out running the guard, reached the said house first. He entered and proclaimed that 50 men were at hand, that the house would be surrounded and that the general would be safe. The General was upstairs. He met his three daughters in the Hall to wit Anna. Betsey and Margaret then called Peggy Waltermeyer and his men hastily ran out of the house by the back door as the next of the guard came up in front. They took off the General's silver plate, but dropped a silver tea pot and they escaped. This declarant was the first person that entered the generals house after Waltermeyer and his men had entered. General Schuyler being a cousin of declarants Father and intimate in his family. They expressed great joy at my appearance and their rescue.

In the fall of the said year 1781 and as late as November this declarant was again called out with a detachment of Militia from Albany, under the command of Captain Roseboom to go up the Mohawk River. We marched to Schenectady-We were joined by the Schenectady Militia under Colonel Wemple and Captain Jelles Fonda we

marched together from thence to Caughnawaga, and from thence to Fort Herkimer where we joined Colonel Willet—we marched through Klocks bush. The Royal Grant and on to West Canada Creek—where we met the enemy under Colonel Walter Butler, Brandt and Major Ross and after a contest with them, the enemy fled—leaving Colonel Walter Butler—who was killed in that engagement—which caused great rejoicing as he was a Tory and has committed great cruelties on the Inhabitants, James Van Vorst of the City of Schenectady now living was in that expedition which lasted 4 weeks and upwards—we returned to Albany and declarant resumed his station in the guard there again.

Declarant was called out to Saratoga 4 weeks—and to Lake George for a longer period. But declarants memory has failed him and he cannot state the precise times, but well remembers that he continued in the service till 1783 when peace took place. He got married & removed to Schenectady thereafter where he has ever since resided.

All his officers are dead & most of his fellow soldiers. He knows of no one save those whose affidavits are hereto annexed to wit Philip A. Truax son of Abraham Truax James Van Vorst and John J. Schermahorn.

He has not documentary evidence. He does not recollect of receiving any discharges.

He turned out when ordered, and returned home with his officers and performed his duty as a guard at Albany. When not ordered out on expeditions, which was after the case, but cannot be more particular than above stated. All which is sent forth according to the best of his knowledge, recollection and belief.

This declarant did not charge his mind with the several services he was engaged, nor can he now recollect them all. it was not his intention to apply for a Pension for his services during the Revolutionary War.

But this declarant finds himself reduced in his old age and now unable to labor or gain a livelihood. He is reduced to the necessity of making his application at this late day when his memory has failed him; and his old companions are dead by whom he could have fully corroborated his declaration.

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) Robert H. Wendell

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. S.W. Jones, First Judge of Schy County.