

Pension Application for John Barker

R.502 (Widow: Prudence) Married in 1790 and John died January 1816.

State of Vermont

District of Addison SS.

On this 23rd day of August 1845, personally appeared before the Probate Court at a session thereof, held at Leicester in and for said district, Prudence Barker, a resident of Leicester in the county of Addison and State of Vermont, aged ninety eight years the 12th day of March last, who being duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed, July 4th 1836:--

That she is the widow of John Barker who was a private in what were called the minute men in the Province of Massachusetts:--

That at the commencement of hostilities by the attack of our citizens by the British troops at Lexington in April 1775, the said John Barker resided at Princeton in Massachusetts and was a minute man as before stated:--

That on the evening after the said battle of Lexington the alarm to assemble the minute men in Princeton was made at sun [set] about an hour hight at night, and the minute men of said town immediately assembled at the meeting house and marched all night towards Boston;.

This applicant set up all night baking bread to send after the men;--She baked two ovens full of bread, which with two hams and nearly a laying of pork she sent on after them by the baggage wagon the next morning. The provision was called for before sunrise the next morning.

During the absence of her husband at this time she well recollects procuring one Mr. Harris to plant their corn after the departure of her husband. She recollects her husband coming home on furlough or with leave for a short time in the season for hoeing corn, and returned to the army again before the battle of Bunker Hill.

During the battle of Bunker Hill she well recollects hearing the cannon and has always understood that the said John Barker was in said battle.

The said Barker remained doing duty as a soldier in the army near Boston until after General Washington arrived and took the command.

The applicant verily believes that the said John Barker served as a soldier in the army of the revolution during the spring and summer of 1775 in the vicinity of Boston no less than three months.

In the year 1776 about the time of the expected attack by the British troops on the City of New York, the said John Barker was again called into the service of the United States and marched into or near to the said city of New York, that he was absent on this tour of duty according to the best recollection of the applicant about five months. She has heard him speak of being in the battle of White Plains, at the storming of Stoney point and that he assisted in constructing or putting a chevaudefrieze [Cheval de frise] across the North river to prevent the British vessels from ascending the river. She recollects that he said the first vessel which came to it sailed over without touching it.

According to her recollection her husband was at home a short time in the haying season and that she assisted him every day in the field in securing their crops.

In 1777 the said John Barker was out on a tour of service at the taking of Gen. Burgoynes army, and applicant recollects hearing him relate some difficulties they had in crossing Hoosick mountain; she thinks he was absent about one month.

From the advanced age and impaired memory of the applicant she is unable to tell the company or regiment in which her husband served, except that she thinks that some part of the service was performed in the company of Capt Norman Clark and that the service was mainly as a minute man.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Barker on the 1st day of October 1770 as she thinks by the Rev. Mr. Fuller the ordained Congregationalist minister of Princeton. She is not absolutely certain of the year of her marriage but the above is according to her best recollection she being as she thinks twenty three years old before she was married. She has had children born as follows. John Barker who died at 17 months old and John Barker born early in the year 1775—William Barker, Robert Barker, Jonas Barker and Abagail Barker all born in Princeton and Prudence Barker born in Leicester Vermont.

That her husband the aforesaid John Barker, died on the 11th day of January 1819 in the said town of Leicester and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

She further declares that her said husband had in his possession certain papers which she understood to be discharges from service while he was a soldier in the revolutionary army, and which at his decease were left in the possession of the applicant and remained in her possession until the were consumed by the burning of the house in which she then lived ten or twelve years since.

She further states that she has no documentary evidence except what is hereto annexed. (Signed with her mark) Prudence Barker

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first before written before Silas H. Jenison, Judge.

Letter in folder dated December 28, 1921, written in response to an inquiry.

In response to your letter dated December 6, 1921 you are advised that from the papers in the Revolutionary War claim R. file No. 502, it is alleged that John Barker of Princeton, Mass. Served during the French War, and was called out the evening after the battle of Lexington, as a minute man, and served during the spring and summer of 1775 about 3 months; that in 1776 he served 5 months under Captain Norman Clark that he served under Captain James Mirick and Colonel Josiah Whitney from October 2 to 18, 1777; also under Colonel Buckminster, dates not stated; and was in the battles of Bunker Hill, at the surrender of Burgoyne, Stony Point and White Plains.

He married October 1, 1770, Prudence Gleason of Princeton, Mass; he died January 11, 1819 in Leicester, Addison County, Vermont, and she lived there when she applied for pension August 23, 1845, but her claim was not allowed as she failed to furnish satisfactory proof of service as required by the pension laws. Their children

were John born April 10, 1773, who died when 17b months old, John born early in 1775, who died in November 1826; he married Sarah ----, who later married Phiny Flagg; William born March 22, 1775, Robert born 29, 1777, [sic] Jonas and Abigail all born in Princeton, and Prudence born in Leicester, Vermont.