

Pension Application for Silas Bowker

W.21684 (Widow: Amy) Silas died Oct 14, 1834.

State of New York

Cayuga County SS.

On this 26th day of November 1832 appeared before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County, Silas Bowker a resident of the Town of Locke in the County of Cayuga and State of New York, aged sixty nine years the twenty sixth day of last April who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the services of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated – viz—first that he entered the s'd services about the last of September in the year 1778 at MarbleTown in Ulster County in the State of New York where he then resided and marched from MarbleTown to a place then called Sharon, and there joined the company commanded by Capt. John Hasbrook in Col. John Cantine's Regiment of Militia in the New York forces, and was placed under the command of a sergeant by the name of Henry NewKurk, as there was only a sergents gar [guard] and stationed at Sharon, and served there one month as a private soldier and that he served as a substitute for his father whose name was also Silas Bowker, and that about the last of October 1778 was relieved by his father and returned home to MarbleTown and that the said services was done in the New York Line.

And the deponent doth further testify that he again enlisted at Marbletown in Ulster County where he then resided, about the first day of April in the year 1779, for the term of two months, and was hired as a substitute for a class of men in Colonel Cantine's Regiment of Militia by one Lewis Broadhead who was the head on agent for the class, then went from Marbletown to a place then cald [called] Pine Bush at the house of Joel Hornbeck and there joined the company commanded by Lieut. Fradrick Wesbrook in Colonel John Cantine's Regiment of Militia and was a part of the time at the Hornbecks and a part of the time was imployed [employed] in traveling in small scouting parties along the Ulster County frontier and so continued to serve under the command of the s'd Westbrook as a private soldier until his two month services expired and that he so served in the New York lines, and that he was discharged from the s'd service at Pine Bush in Ulster County about the first of June 1779 by the s'd Westbrook and was discharged verbally and had no written discharge and then returned home to Marble Town.

And further the deponent doth testify that he again enlisted at MarbleTown in Ulster County, where he then resided on or about the tenth day of June in the the [sic] [year] 1779 for the term of two months and served in the company commanded by Capt. John Hasbrook in Colonel John Cantine's Regiment of Militia and that he enlisted as a substitute for a class of men who lived in MarbleTown and belonged the the s'd Cantine's Regt and was hired by Henry Rosecrantz who was the head of the said class then marched to Wawasing, [Wawarsing] stayed there a short time, marched from there to Larawack fort and joined Colonel Albert Pawling's Regt of nine month men stayed there a few days, and then marched with the s'd Pawling's Regt to the west from the purpose of joining Genl Sullivan at Tioga Point, marched from Larawack Fort Pepalonek on the Delleware River, there [their] own advance gard [guard] a scout of Indians, and fired on them, but the Indians ran of [off] without returning the fire, from there to the mouth of the BeverKill, there Abraham Corgeland one Myers had a hard fight with fist and

teeth, in which Myers was was [sic] much skinned with Congals Teeth, then move had Cookhouse, and there John Mack shot a horse, through mistake, for an enemy, while he was on sentinel one dark night in our rear gard, from the banks of the s'd river overflowed with water, so that it could not be forded on cross with horse and the s'd Regt was defeated from joining Genl Sullivan [Sullivan] and returned to Larawack fort on the same rout [route] stayed there a few days and then marched to Wawasing in Ulster County and from there to [Lunen?] Kill. Stated there a short time and returned back to Wawasing and stayed there until his tow month service had expired and that the deponent served the s'd two month as a private soldier, and was discharged from the s'd services at Wawasing in Ulster County, verbally and that he had no written discharge and that he was discharged on or about the tenth day of August 1779 by the said Capt. John Hosbrook under whom [sic] he had served, and that he then returned home to Marble Town and that the s'd services was done in the New York line as a private soldier.

And further the deponent doth testify that he again enlisted at Marble Town in Ulster County where he resided on or about the first day [of] September 1779 for the term of three months, and served in the company commanded by Capt. Vanburen in Colonel John Cantine's Regiment of Militia in the New York line, and that he enlisted as a substitute for a class of men who lived in Marble Town and beloned to the said Cantine's Regiment and was hired by Martinus Osterhoudt who was head of the calss then marched to Shindakin Fort and there continued to serve by mounting gard and going on scouts until the the [sic] s'd three months had expired and was discharged at Windakin fort in Ulster County on or about the first day of December 1779 by his s'd Capt. Vanburin, and had so serv'd in the said company and regiment as a private soldier and that he had no written discharge but was discharged verbally by his said Capt. and returned home to MarbleTown.

And further this deponent doth testify that he again entered the service of the United States on or about the first day of March 1780 by orders of Colonel John Cantine, who was Colonel of the Rigement [Regiment] to which this deponent belonged when at home, in the Militia, and that the said order directed the deponent to join company with his father (whose name was also Silas Bowker) and William Ross, to go to the Deleware [sic] River to spy out the Indians paths at Pepaenuck, which order this deponent obeyed and went and performed the s'd expedition and made returns of the s'd expedition to the s'd Colonel Cantine, and was discharged by him verbally on or about the fifteenth day of March 1780 and that he had no written discharge and that the deponent served in the s'd expedition fifteen days, and served as an Indian Spy—and that the deponent well remembers that the s'd order from his s'd colonel was a written order, which the deponent believes to have been lost or worn out in his pocket, and that the deponent then resided at Marbletown in Ulster County and that the s'd services was done on the New York line.

And further this deponent doth testify that he again enlisted in the service of the United States on or about the first day of April 1780, for the term of nine months at Rinebeck [Rhinebeck] flats in Dutchis [Dutchess] County, and that he then resided in MarbleTown in Ulster County and State of New York and that he was hired as a substitute by a class of men who resided at Rinebeck flats and that he was first entered in the company commanded by Capt. Henry Pawling in Colonel Albert Pawling's Rigement of nine month men in the New York line, and that the deponent marched from Rinebeck flats to fort Shindakin in Ulster County and that he well recollects that his Lieutenant's name was Frederick Hovenbergh, and that he the deponent served at fort Shindakin under the command of the s'd Henry Pawling, and that he so served by mounting gard, a part of the time, and a part of the time going on long

scouts, and that he was once during the campaign, placed under the command of Capt. Derick Westerbook & who commanded a company of Rangers in the said Pawling's Regiment and then marched from fort Shindakin to [?] Town on the head waters of the Delleware River from there to Pessasack [Passaic?] and from there to Larawack? fort, staid there a short time and then marched from Larawack fort to Wawasing stayed there considerable time and then marched under the command of the said Capt. Westbrook from Wawasing to fort Shindakin where he joined his old company again, and was commanded by Capt. Henry Pawling. The deponent have remarks that during this campaign and and [sic] while under the command of the s'd Capt. Henry Pawling, that in a small Indian engagement, shot and killed dead, John Riden an intimate friend of the deponent was killed dead and Capt Pawlings horse shot dead under him, and that they took two prisoners (white men) who was s'd to be Indian commanders, they refused to give any account of the Indian [?] that was then lurking on the frontier, and were whipped and sent to Poughkeepsie gail [jail] and that one of their names was Lough and the other was Cole, and further that the deponent continued to serve under the command of the s'd Capt. Henry Pawling and the s'd Capt. Derick Westbrook until about the middle of December 1780 when he was discharged verbally by the Capt. Pawling at Winkskin, he had no written discharge and that he served under s'd Capt Pawling & Westbrook as above stated the term of eight month and a half and that his rank and pay was that of a private soldier which was fifty three shillings and four pence New York currency, but that he did the duty of an Indian Spy a part of the time while serving in the above campaign but did it as a private soldier and for the same pay, and rand for which services he claim nothing more than a private soldier.

And further this deponent doth testify that he again enlisted in the Levies of the United States on or about the first day of April 1781 for the term of nine months at Poughkeepsie and that he then resided in Marbletown in Ulster County and State of New York, and that he was hired as a substitute by a class of men who resided at Poughkeepsie and that his father enlisted at the same time and place whose name was also Silas Bowker, and that the deponent expects that his name is distinguished from that of his father, by the addition of Junior, on all roles [rolls] and records during the s'd war, and that he so enlisted for the term of nine months, and that at the same time and before he left Poughkeepsie, that he the deponent and his father, went to the house of George Clinton (then governor of the State of New York) and lived at Poughkeepsie and that then and there on or about the first day of April 1781 that the deponent and his Father made a contract with the said Governor Clinton to go and join Colonel Albert Pawling's Regiment of minutemen on the Northwestern frontier of this s'd state, and there to act as Indian Spyes [spies] and gides [guides] to the s'd Pawling's Regiment in consideration for which the deponent's monthly pay was to be raised from that of a private soldier by adding four pounds ten shillings to the wages and monthly pay of that of a private soldier which made the deponents monthly pay Seventeen Dollars and ninety one cents per month and that the deponent rec'd a warrant from the s'd gov. stating his rank and pay as above stated whereupon he immediately joined the s'd regiment commanded by Colonel Albert Pawling and in Capt. [?] Company in the New York line, and that he joined s'd company and regiment at Wawasing in Ulster County, stayed there a few days and then rec'd orders from the s'd Colonel Pawling to go to Pepaconck on a spying expedition which the deponent performed and made returns to his said colonel and so continued to serve as Indian spy and give to the said regiment for the term of nine month and that the deponent was frequently in the wood on the [?] of Delaware River watching Indian paths, from then to twenty days at a time, a distance from forty to fifty

miles from any inhabitants or from any of his s'd regiment except one soldier which was with him and that this deponent was in the Indian Battle at Wawasing he thinks in 1781 and that the Indians burnt and plundered a principle part of the town of Wawasing and that the deponent together with part of the s'd Pawling's Regiment and a part of Colonel Cantine's Regiment of Militia pursued the s'd Indians and came up with them at the Bever [Beaver?] Kill and retook the principle part of the plunder although we got none of the cattle and horses alive, they was all shot by the Indians, rather then to let them be retaken alive.

And that deponent was at the Battle at Wawasing, got into the house of one Kittle in company of Lieut John L. Hardenburgh, Semion Crumb, Vallentine Davis, William Davis and others and defended the s'd house and saved it, the roof being burned partly of [off] by the Indians [?] fire, Mr. Kittle was kil'd by the Indians the same time, and this deponent's father was taken prisoner together with one Hains and that the deponent does not know what has become of his s'd warrant or commission, which he rec'd from the gov. authorizing him to receive the rank and pay of Indian Spy and gide [guide] to the s'd Pawling's Regiment, but that, he verily believes that it was left in the hands of his s'd Colonel Pawling but that he does know that he had such warrant or commission and that he did serve as such Indian Spy and gide in the s'd [?] Company and in the s'd Pawling's N.Y. line from about the first day of April 1781 until about the first day of January 1782 making about nine months service, and that on or about the first day of January 1782 he was discharged from s'd Levies at Wawasing in Ulster County by his said Colonel Pawling, and that he was discharged verbally and had no written discharge.

And further this deponent doth testify that he again entered the service of the United States on or about the first day of March 1782 by order of Colonel John Cantine, who was Colonel of the Regiment of Militia to which the deponent belonged when at home in Ulster County, Tow of Marble and that the s'd ordered directed the deponent to join company with Lieutenant John L. Hardenburgh and others and to go to the Delleware River at Pepaconck to spy out the Indian paths—which order the deponent obeyed and went and joined the company under the command of the s'd Hardenburgh at Wawasing on or about the first first [sic] of of [sic] March 1782 statyed there a few days then went to Pepaaconck on on [sic] the Dellaware River then scouted and watched the Indians paths for several days and found a considerable sum of Indian packs some of which had small Brass Kittles [kettles] lashed to them, and bound on with Indian Belts the deponent thinks the packs in No. was about fifty, then returned to Larawack fort and stayed there a short time, and then went to Nepenock and sold the packs at publick auction, and from there to Wawasing, and stayed there a few days, until about the first of April 1782—and was discharged by the s'd John L. Hardenburgh at Wawasing, making about one month service, and that he was discharged verbally and that he had no written discharge and that he served the s'd town as Indian Spy and gide or Company to the s'd party or Company and that the s'd orders the s'd Colonel Cantine was in writing but deponent does not know what has become of it, but thinks it was alost amongst old wast [waste] papers and further that the s'd services was done in the New York Line.

And further the deponent doth testify, that he did receive his monthly pat at seventeen dollars and ninety one cents for month while acting as such Indian Spy and gide and that while acting as a private soldier he rec'd only fifty three shilling and four pence New York Currency.

And further the deponent doth testify that he rec'd a part of his monthly pay in Continental new [?] money, which money was good and did not depreciate like the old Continental money, but that he did not receive all his monthly pay in the time of the war, but that he rec'd Jerad Bouke s'd Note (then

treasurer of the State of New York) for all the rearages of pay and final settlement and that s'd bankers Notes were on Interest at five percent and that about three or four years after the s'd war ended that he rec'd a note for the interest that had become due on the s'd treasurer's note which was also on interest at five percent, and that a long time after the war terminated the deponent rec'd the whole of the s'd final settlement notes both interest and principle and the s'd notes was returned to the Treasurer of s'd state, and that he knows not where the s'd treasurer's books and the roles and records of the s'd regiment are and this deponent does further testify that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except those herewith forwarded to the War Department.

And that he relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension [pension] roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Silas Bowker

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Garshom Morse, la Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Cayuga.

Letter in folder dated December 16, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of Silas Bowker, Junior of Locke, Cayuga County, New York, who received pension for service in the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, W.21684, based upon the military service in that war of Silas Bowker.

Silas Bowker, the son of Silas was born April 26, 1763. The place of his birth and name of his mother are not shown. Before the Revolution, soldier and his father resided in Papacnuck (probably meant for Pataukunk) Ulster County, New York on the Delaware River, among the Delaware Indians, from whom Silas, Junior, Learned to be very expert in the woods.

While residing in Marbletown, Ulster County, New York, Silas Bowker, Junior, volunteered and served with the New York troops, as follows: in September 1778, one month as a substitute for his father in Captain John Hasbrouck's Company, Colonel John Cantine's Regiment; from about April 1, 1779 two months as a private under Lieutenant Frederick Wesbrock, Colonel John Cantine's Regiment from about June 10, 1779, two months as private in Captain John Hasbrouck's Company, Colonels Albert Pawling's and John Cantine's Regiments; from in September, 1779 three months as a private in Captain VanBuren's Company, Colonel John Cantine's Regiment; from March 1, 1780 fifteen days as an Indian Spy in Colonel Cantine's Regiment; his father served on this tour with him from April 1, 1780 nine months as private, scout and Indians Spy in Captains Henry Pawling's and Derick Westbrooks' Companies, Colonel Albert Pawling's Regiment; from about April 1, 1781 as an Indian Spy and guide in Captain Pearsey's Company, Colonel Albert Pawling's Regiment, was in the battle of Wawarsing and was discharged in February 1782. During the last tour, his father served with him in the same capacity and was taken prisoner at the battle of Wawarsing; length of time held in captivity, not stated; from March 1782, Silas Bowker, Junior, served one month under Lieutenant John L. Hardenburgh, Colonel Cantine's Regiment.

Silas Bowker, Junior, was allowed pension on his application executed July 16, 1832, while a resident of Locke, Cayuga County, New York.

He died at said Locke, October 14, 1834.

The soldier married November 6, 1786, at Papacnuck or Patsukunk, New York, Amy Hardin, date and place of her birth and names of her parents not shown.

Soldier's widow, Amy, was allowed pension on her application executed December 6, 1836, at which time she was residing in Locke, New York, and aged sixty-nine years.

She died at said Locke, November 25, 1843.

The following children survived their mother:

Joseph Bowker of Walworth County, Wisconsin.

Liza Drake of Portage County, Ohio.

Mathittable or Mehitable Taber of Cayuga County, New York.

Areli, wife of Levi Henry of Cayuga County, New York.

The ages of the above named children are not stated.

In 1836, John Bowker, brother of the soldier was a resident of Lansing, Tompkins County, New York, and stated that he (John) was born September 10, 1771.