

Pension Application for George Danbar, Dunbar, Dornberger, Dunberger

S.10,540

State of New York

Oswego County SS.

On this 24th day of September personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the said County of Oswego & State aforesaid now sitting George Danbar in English but in his native tongue called George Dunburgher a resident of the town of Alburn in said County of Oswego aged seventy two years on the 10th day of November next 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 7th 1832—That he entered service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the winter of 1777, he was residing at a place now called Herkimer in the State of New York near the Mohawk River—then called Tryon County—and in the month of February & before he was 16 years old (1) he was called out by Captain Frederick Getman or Gatman (2) with a part of his company & marched from that place to Lake George being about one hundred miles—they went by Ballstown & Halfmoon Point—Part of Captain Edick's Company, Capt. Small's & Capt. Hendrick Harters (3) company also went, under the command of Col. Peter Belinger, Frederick Belinger (4) (who was taken prisoner at the Herkimer battle) was Lieutenant. That they were called out on an alarm & after remaining in the service about four weeks he & the other soldiers came home—having all been dismissed—John Myers was the Lieutenant & Jacob Myers (5) was ensign to Capt. Getman's Company. This service was about 8 or 9 months before Burgoyne (6) was taken—That a year or two after Burgoyne was taken he volunteered in Captain Henry Keysor's (7) company at Palatine, Montgomery County. (8) Colonel Brown commanded -- the whole county turned out to repel the Indians & Tories—sometime in September or October had a battle with the Tories & Indians at Sharon (9)—That the Indians & Tories were defeated between 20 & 40 Indians & Tories were killed & but one American by the name of Caspinier (10) whom it was supposed was killed by our own people—That the Americans lay in ambush in the shape of a half moon in the forest & sent out two scouts to fire on the Indians & retreat & fire & retreat & so led them into the ambush—that he was engaged in the this tour of service about one week—That in the year 1781-1782 believes tho it was in the year 1781, he enlisted in Capt. Garret Butman's (11) Company, Dorus Butman Lieutenant, Garret Cornelius' was Ensign—Colonel Marinus Willett commanded the Regiment - Capt. Vroman (12) commanded another company—That he enlisted for nine months at Stone Roby (now Palatine) in said State & faithfully served out his tour of service & was dismissed with the whole company at the expiration of the term of service & enlistment—on New Year's day morning at Schenectady—soon after he joined the company under his enlistment he marched to Johnstown from thence to fort Hunter—from thence to Schenectady from thence to old Schoharrie—from thence to Albany—thence to FishKill—from thence to Albany—from thence to Schenectady—then to Fort Hunter again—There he had a battle with Major Ross, (13) Tories & Indians & some regulars—The battle was on Sunday afternoon—there were 500 or 600 American commanded by Willett—The battle lasted about two hours, the British were defeated. We took about fifty prisoners & many were killed—Michael Myers (14) was wounded—Jacob Myers mortally wounded—George Stansel wounded & many was killed & wounded. A few days after this Captain Walter Butler (15) of the British forces was killed on West Canada Creek with several of his followers—That he was in the skirmish - Captain John (16) an Oneida Indian killed & scalpt Butler & took his regimental & commission & watch &c, then the troops marched to Schenectady & then discharged—barefooted & ragged—the nine months having expired.

That after the battle at Sharon & before he enlisted in the nine months service as here stated he volunteered in Capt. Henry Keysons Company at Stone Roby (now Palatine) that they went out to repel the forces under the command of Sir John Johnson (17)—Had a battle with his forces Brown commanded the American forces—The Americans lay behind a British fence & gave the first fire & cut up the refugee forces—that the second brigade came on & the Americans had to retreat and Colonel Brown was killed being shot from his horse—The Americans retreated to the fort being about a mile & a half from the battle ground at Palatine—the British & Indians left the county immediately—General Van Rensselaer (18) at this time lay five or six miles below the fort with a large force—a family of Snells (19) were mostly kill off in this battle—One Willson (20) was in Browns regiment & in this battle he was a 3 years man—a great many Americans were killed—John Pyer (21) was a fifer in Brown's regiment was in this battle knocked down by the Indians & scapl'd—That he was enaged in this tour of service about one week—

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

1st Question. Where & in what year were you born?

A. At Burnetsfield (now called Herkimer) A.D. 1760. (22)

2d Question. Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

A. Has none, but his father had a record of it in the Family bible.

3d. Where were you living when called into service were you drafted—did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

A. Living at Stone Roby (now Palatine aforesaid) volunteered that is Keyser's Company had to make out a certain number of men for man for the nine months service & I was not drafted but voluntarily went & the man that staid at home & were not drafted, paid me in grain &c, corn.

4th Q. Where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you now live?

A. Moved from Palatine to Guilderland in said state from Guilderland to Herkimer – from Herkimer to Montgomery – from thence to Otsego—thence to Alburn in Oswego County where his now resides.

5th Q. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental & militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your services?

A. Col. Willett—Lieutenant Doras Butman, Capt. Gross, Colonel Brown—Capt Keyser—General VanRenselaer, Governor George Clinton—Major Elias Vanbenschowen, Lieutenant Bloomfield—Col. Peter Belinger.

6th Q. Did you ever received discharge from the service & if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it?

A. Never to my recollection but we were dismissed.

7th Q. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior [for] your services as a soldier of the revolution.

A. Matthias Hoke—Henry Davey—John Hake. There is no clergyman residing within about 6 miles of his present place of residence—that they have travelling preachers occasionally in the neighborhood-- (Signed) George Dornber

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. E. McPherson, Dep. Clk.

End Notes—S.10540—George Dunbar or Dunbar, Dornberger

1. The date of his birth and his surname makes it likely that he wasn't 16 until 1781. Johann George Dornberger was born on November 11, 1765 and baptized on December

- 4, 1765. The parents were Frederick and Elizabeth Hilts Dornberger. FROM: Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch of Stone Arabia, ed. R. W. Vosburgh, Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. I, Page 41, 1918. In 1777 he would have been only 12 years old and if he served he would not have been legally enrolled in the militia.
2. Frederick Getman was a Captain in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The existing muster rolls for this company are for 1779 and 1780 and there are no Danbers, Dunbars or Dorenbergers listed.
 3. Jacob Small, Henry Herter or Harter, Herder, etc., and Michael Ittig or Edick, Ittick, etc., served as captains in Colonel Bellinger's Regiment. Again none of George's possible last names appeared in any of these companies.
 4. Frederick Bellinger served as the Lieutenant Colonel in Colonel Bellinger's Regiment. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777.
 5. Actually Jacob Myers was the Lieutenant and John Myers was the ensign in Captain Getman's Company.
 6. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne with his army of British and Allies nearly 6,000 men surrendered to Major General Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777.
 7. There was a John Keyser who served as a Captain in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia and not a Henry. As George is giving service for the year 1780, Captain Keyser and his sons had been taken prisoners on March 15, 1780. Captain Keyser was released on September 3, 1781. Again none of George's possible surnames are found in Colonel Klock's Regiment.
 8. Colonel John Brown commanded a regiment of 3 months men in the Massachusetts State Levies in 1780. They were sent to the Mohawk Valley to reinforce the Tryon County Militia.
 9. George has the wrong year and commander for this battle. The Battle of New Dorlach was fought on July 10, 1781. The commander of the American troops at this battle was Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett. The New Dorlach settlement was in the present Town of Sharon and the Village of Sharon Springs, Schoharie County.
 10. Casper Nier served as a private in captain Lawrence Gross' Company in Willett's Regiment. He was killed in the Battle of New Dorlach.
 11. George does not appear on any muster rolls for Willett's Regiment. He is referring to Captain Garret Putman, Lieutenants Victor Putman and Garret Cornelius Newkirk all of Willett's Regiment.
 12. Walter Vrooman and Garret Putman served as Captains in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1780. Captain Vrooman was taken prisoner on October 23, 1780 near Oneida Lake. He was held prisoner until July 29, 1783.
 13. Major John Ross of the King's Royal Regiment of New York and Captain Walter Butler burned several settlements along the Mohawk River and then headed for the Village of Johnstown on October 25, 1781. Willett pursuing him with a small force of about 400 men finally caught up with Major Ross near Johnson Hall late in the afternoon and a battle took place.
 14. George is correct on the names of the wounded and dead of some of Willett's men. Michael Myers was wounded, Jacob Myers who had been the lieutenant in Captain Getman's Company had moved to the Palatine District with his family was killed, and George Stansel was wounded.
 15. Captain Butler was killed at the skirmish at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.

16. Captain John Otaawighton was one of 60 Oneidas under Willett. Several pensions usually give Anthony as the one who shot Butler, but there have been a few others like Captain John who were given the credit for Butler's death.
17. The Battle of Stone Arabia was fought in the morning of October 19, 1780.
18. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer late in the afternoon of October 19th, caught up with Sir John Johnson near present day Village of St. Johnsville and another battle was fought until darkness. Johnson and his forces crossed the Mohawk River and finally escaped back to Fort Oswego.
19. George is mistaken. Seven out of Nine Snells were killed at Oriskany. Sergeant Jacob Snell of Klock's Regiment was wounded at Stone Arabia and no members of the Snell family were killed at Stone Arabia.
20. There was a private Shuball Wilson in Captain Foord's Company in Colonel Brown's Regiment. Brown's regiment was raised for 3 months only.
21. Abner Pior or Pier, etc., was a private in Captain John Spoor's Company in Colonel Brown's Regiment.
22. Unfortunately Dornberger's name is found in the birth records but has not been found in any variation in any muster rolls but it appears from some of his testimony he had to have been present at Stone Arabia, New Dorlach, Johnstown, and at West Canada Creek. The strongest evidence is his mentioning names of the casualties in those battles. As Dornberger's home was destroyed on September 17, 1778 by Captains William Caldwell and Joseph Brant was the reason they moved from the German Flats to Palatine.

ADDITONAL NOTES: In "A Return of the Refugees, or inhabitants of the German Flatts, that was burn'd off, and lost their Effects by the Enemy. All above 16 years old, are allow'd one lb. Bread & one 1 lb. Beef; and all under 16 years old, half a lb. of Bread, and half a lb. Beef, pr. Day."

NAME	Above 16 years	Under 16 years
Frederick Dornberger	1	7

This return was sent with a return of the Cherry Valley Sufferers to Brigadier General Edward Hand on November 26, 1778, and who in turn forwarded it to Governor George Clinton. FROM: Public Papers of George Clinton, First Governor of New York, ed. Hugh Hastings, James B. Lyon, State Printer, Albany, N.Y., 1900, Vol. IV, p 341.

This puts George in 1778 under 15 and also adds more proof that many young boys served in the Tryon County Militia while under the age of 16 and were not given credit for said service.