

Pension Application for Abraham Lawyer

S.23296

State of New York
Schoharie County SS.

On this fourth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Honorable the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Schoharie and State of New York now sitting Abraham Lawyer a resident of the Town of Middleburgh in the said County of Schoharie & State of New York aged seventy five years 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 was born & has always resided in that part of the State of New York now the town of Middleburgh in the County of Schoharie. That he was enrolled as a private in the Militia of the State of New York as early as the first day of August in the year 1775. That the Regiment & Company in which he was enrolled at the time of his enrollment was commanded by the following named officers, Colonel Peter Vrooman, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Zelie, Major Thomas Eckerson and Joseph Becker (1), Captain Jacob Hager (2) & Lieutenant Cornelius Feek. That he does not recollect the name of the ensign. That he belonged to the same Militia Regiment & company until the first day of April in the year 1783. That the said Regiment and company were commanded by the above named officers during that time as near as he can recollect.

That from the said first day of August in the year 1775 until the first day of April in the year 1783 he was very frequently on duty in the service of the United States for short periods of from one day to one month at a time. That he does not recollect the number of different times he was on duty.

That he was during most of those periods under the immediate command of some officers of the Regiment or Company to which he belonged but which officer had the command each period he cannot tell. That he does not recollect the exact time he entered the service each or any of those periods nor the time when he left the service nor how long he was engaged on duty each time.

That he was not drafted, a volunteer, or substitute any of the above periods to his knowledge. That he was ordered into the service by some officer of his regiment or company and entered the service in obedience to such orders.

That he was in no Battle during the war. That he marched from the middle Fort in Schoharie in the year 1780 under Colonel Vrooman in pursuit of the Indians & Tories under McDonald (3) who had been massacring the inhabitants of Schoharie. Colonel Harper with a party of Light Horse from Albany were with the American party. That he was in the upper Fort in Schoharie when Schoharie was burnt in the year 1780 (4). That he went several times into that part of the State of New York now counties of Delaware, Green[e] & Albany.

That he was frequently in the Fort in the now County of Schoharie on garrison duty. That he does not recollect where he was engaged on duty each period. And the said Lawyer saith he is positive he was engaged on duty in the service of the United States as a private Soldier from the said first day of August in the year 1775 until the first day of April in the year 1783 at different periods in the whole amounting to at least three years. [End of written declaration.]

Letter in the pension application folder, dated November 9, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

November 9, 1937

Mrs. T. L. Adama
288 Bell Court, East
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of John Bray who died in 1823 in North Carolina, and Abraham Lawyer who was born 1767 and died in 1824 in New Jersey.

The data furnished relative to John Bray are not sufficient to enable this office to identify the record of the John Bray in whom you are particularly interested; as much as possible of the following data in regard to him are essential—approximate date of his birth and places of residence at enlistment and after service.

The record of Abraham Lawyer which follows was obtained from papers on file in pension claim, S.23296, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War. This is the record of the only Abraham Lawyer found on file in the Revolutionary War records of this office.

Abraham Lawyer was born and reared in Schoharie County, New York, near what was later the town of Middleburgh. The date of his birth and names of his parents were not given.

While residing in said Schoharie County, Abraham Lawyer enlisted August 1, 1775, served as private and corporal at various times under Captains Becker (5), Jacob Heager, Miller, Brown, Stubrach, in Colonel Peter Vrooman's New York Regiment, during the service he was out in pursuit of Tories and Indians, and did garrison duty in forts in Schoharie County, and continued in the service until April 1, 1783.

The soldier, Abraham Lawyer, was allowed pension on his application executed June 4, 1833, at which time he was seventy-four years of age and living in Middleburgh, Schoharie County, New York.

It was not stated whether soldier was ever married. One John J. Lawyer was referred to, but it was not shown that he was related to the soldier.

End Notes—S.23296—Abraham Lawyer

1. These officers belonged to the Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia, which were the united districts of Schoharie and Duanesburgh. Colonel Vrooman was in command of the regiment for the entire war. Thomas Eckerson was the First Major and Jost or Joseph Becker was the Second Major.
2. Jacob Hager was appointed October 20, 1775 as Captain of the Second Company in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment. The other company officers that were appointed at this time were Martin VanSlyck as the First Lieutenant, Johannes W. Bouck as the Second Lieutenant and Johannes L. Lawyer as the Ensign. On February 20, 1778 the new officers under Captain Hager were as follows: Ephraim Vrooman as the First Lieutenant, Cornelius Feeck as the Second Lieutenant, and Peter Swart as the Ensign.
3. This incident happened in August of 1777. The Loyalists were led by Captain John McDonell. Colonel John Harper of the Fifth Regiment of Tryon County Militia was able to obtain a troop of dragoons commanded by Captain Jean Louis deVernejoux from the Second Connecticut Continental Dragoons of Light Horse or Cavalry to reinforce the militia at Schoharie. There was a battle on August 14, 1777 between the Americans and Loyalists called the Battle of the Flockey.
4. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Johnson burnt the Schoharie Valley on October 17, 1780.
5. Captains Storm Becker, Dirk Miller, Christian Brown and Christian Stubrach served in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment.