

**Pension Application for Nicholas Rightor, Richter, etc.**

S.14,309

Otsego Common Pleas

October Term 1832

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress Passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

Otsego County SS.

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of Common Pleas in & for the county of Otsego, being a court of record & now sitting Nicholas Rightor a resident of the Town of Milford in the county & State aforesaid aged 79 years on the first day of September 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated to wit.

In the year 1775 or 1776 & this deponent cannot recollect which he enlisted in the month of April into the service of the United States at the Town of Duanesborough in the State of New York, his then place of residence for the term of Six Months under Lieut Abraham Becker in a company commanded by Captain Sandford. (1)

At the time of his enlistment he was making sugar in the woods by the roadside when called upon by Lieut Becker above named the recruiting officer one John Myers was the orderly Sergeant of his company. He was marched to Stillwater in said State where he was stationed until the expiration of his term when he was discharged & returned home.

In December following when Genl Schuyler (2) was ordered to disarm the Tories then embodie under Johnson this deponent volunteered for that purpose in a company commanded by Capt.Hager (3) & Lieut John Myers who had been lately promoted to a Lieutenant from an orderly Sergeant as above stated in a Regt commanded by Col. Vrooman. He was very cold & the troops were paraded on the ice in the Mohawk river we suffered keenly but effected our purpose Genl Schuyler commanded the combined forces.

Genl Herkimer (5) upon our arrival had ordered the militia of the county to assist us. It resulted in Sir John Johnson surrendering himself a prisoner & disarming his tenants. It took place in January 1776—

The spring following he enlisted into the service at Fort Schoharie to guard it from the Indians & Tories in a company commanded by John Lawyer (6) Capt., & Lieut. Jacob Lawyer brother to Capt. John.

He was stationed at this fort during the summer for four or five months & Col. Peter Vrooman whom mentioned was the commandant of the fort. He was discharged in the fall & returned home until spring when he again enlisted at the same place for the tours under the same officers. In this way he was engaged during the five following summers. It was in the fall of 1776 or 1777 & he cannot recollect which that two other Forts men built in Schoharie at which he worked and assisted.

The three forts were then called the Upper, Lower & Middle Forts. They consisted of entrenchments of earth & wood thrown up in the usual form around some building which served as a shelter for the women & children. In the middle fort this building was a stone dwelling house in the Lower fort it was a Stone Church. The forts were garrisoned with a few continental soldiers together with the volunteers from the surrounding country. Many of the inhabitants usually [went?] to the forts at night for shelter & protection & returning in the morning to their employment on their farms.

This deponent was stationed sometimes at one fort & sometimes at another as circumstances required & as many different were officers among whom he recollects Lieut Snyder,(7) Major Becker,(8) Capt. Bouch (9) besides Col. Vrooman & above mentioned & many others whom he is advised it is unnecessary to name.

In the years 1777, 78 & 79, the country was not often disturbed by the enemy except on occasion as alarms from the Indians & Tories when we men called out to make that excursion & returned to the forts when as before stated this deponent was during & every summer [?]

But in the fall of 1780 after Sullivans (10) expedition against the Western Indians in 1779 as he believes the Tories & Indians made [?] under Johnson Brant & Butler (11) made preparations to destroy the valley of the Mohawk & the forts in Schoharie. They succeeded in burning most of one of the settlements. They demanded our fort to surrender then in command of Major Woolsey (12) who appeared inclined to submit it but was prevented by the other officers. The enemy sent a flag two or three times but they were fired upon from the fort by a soldier of the name of Murphy (13) & driven back—For this act the officers ordered Murphy to be arrested but he was too good a soldier to brave & popular that none would obey. The enemy seeing our determined spirit abandoned the siege & it was supposed that Murphy's rash act saved the fort.

They returned up the valley of the Mohawk & we followed them. This deponent marched under Capt. Lawyer above named when they arrived at the Mohawk River they were joined by forces from Albany under command of Genl Gansevoort (14) several skirmishes took place & after pursuing the enemy up the river for a few days, the pursuit was abandoned & the men returned to Fort Schoharie.

The next summer he was marched upon on alarm that the enemy were coming down from the north to Bennington Vt then he was discharged in the fall & returned home. At a subsequent time but what year he cannot tell, he was marched from Schoharie under the above named Captain to Fort Ticonderoga at Fort Ti—they were stationed some time when they were marched to Fort Ann (15) & from thence to Johnstown at Fort Ann & from thence to Johnstown at Fort Ann one Miller was our commandant who is named in the affidavit of Dorothy Lou (White).

When they arrived at Johnstown it was late in the fall me under one Capt. Sturack but cannot recollect the year. This deponent well knew Col. Willet (16) & was several times placed under his command for short periods. He was also many times in service under Col. Butler (17) of the Continental Army whom he well knew. He knew Capt. Schull & Capt. Bird of Col. Butlers Regt. They were for a time stationed at the Middle fort in Schoharie. This deponent in the whole served about three years but at different periods in the manner above told & was a volunteer in the Militia except for one enlistment for six months before mentioned.

He has no documentary or other evidence of his services except what he herewith transmits nor can he procure any other narration of his Revolutionary Services in detail would confirm almost a complete history of the Border warfare in the State of New York.

He was in many skirmishes & Battles with the Indians & Tories whom he recollects notice. He is advised that it is unnecessary to relate more of his services. He has much difficulty in recollecting dates & hope that any mistakes in that particular way not prejudice his application for a pension—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. He had a written discharge but has lost it.

He was born on September 1<sup>st</sup> 1754. Has no record of his age but [?] as [?] from what [????] when about two years he removed to Duanesborough with his parents where he lived

until about 34 years since when he removed to Middlefield where he does now & has ever since resided. He refers to [?] Moulton, Dart Samuel Elyce Dart Todd Capt. William Temple [?] for his character for truth & veracity. He can procure no other evidence of his service except what is herewith put. (Signed with his mark) Nicholas Rightor

Reply to inquiry dated August 24, 1927

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.14309, it appears that Nicholas Rightor was born September 1, 1754, place not stated.

While a resident of Duanesburg, New York, he enlisted and served as a private in the New York Troops, as follows—

From April 1775, six months in Captain Sanford's Company; from January 1776, one month in Captain Heger's Company, Colonel Peter Vrooman's Regiment; from the spring of 1776, five months in Captain John Lawyer's Company, Colonel Peter Vrooman's Regiment; in 1777 and 1778, five months in each year under Captain John Lawyer and Colonel Peter Vrooman, was in the battle of Cobleskill; (18) and in 1779, 1780, and 1781, five months each year, against the Indians, under Colonels M. Willett, Gansevoort, Butler and Dubois, (19) was in the battle of Schoharie.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 16, 1832, while residing at Milford or Middlefield (he alleged both places), Otsego County, New York.

In 1832, soldier's sister, Dorothy Longenhelt of Sharon, New York, aged seventy years, testified that he served in Captain Miller's Company; and Mary McCallum of Milford, New York, aged eighty-six years, testified that soldier married her daughter, but did not state her name or date of marriage. There are no further family data.

End Notes—S.14309—Nicholas Rightor, Richter, etc.

1. Cornelius Van Santfoort or Sandford, etc., was appointed Captain on March 1, 1776 in Colonel Cornelius D. Wynkoop's Fourth New York Continental Regiment. The following were appointed in Captain VanSantvoort's Company: Abraham Becker as first lieutenant; Obadiah Vaughan as second lieutenant, and Samuel Carpenter as ensign. Samuel Carpenter declined the appointment and Leonard Conyne was appointed ensign in his place on March 15, 1776.
2. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army.
3. Jacob Hager was the Captain of the Second Company in Colonel Peter Vrooman's Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
4. John Myers or Meyers was the First Lieutenant of Captain Dirck Miller's Company in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment. Myers was commissioned as first lieutenant on February 20, 1778.
5. Nicholas Herkimer was the colonel of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia in January of 1776. Herkimer was appointed on September 5, 1776 as Brigadier General of the Tryon County Militia.
6. Johannes J. Lawyer was the First Lieutenant of Captain George Richtmyer's Third Company in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment. A Jacob Lawyer served as a sergeant in this company but not as an officer.
7. Jacob Snyder was the Ensign of Captain George Mann's First Company in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment. Captain Mann was disaffected (Loyalist Sympathizer) and First Lieutenant Christian Stubrack was appointed Captain in his place Jacob Snyder was then appointed first Lieutenant under Captain Stubrack. They were commissioned on February 20, 1778.
8. Several Major Jost Becker of Colonel Vrooman's Regiment.
9. Johannes W. Bouck was the Second Lieutenant in Captain Hager's Company.

10. Major General John Sullivan and Brigadier James Clinton lead an expedition in 1779 against Iroquois Villages in Western New York.
11. Sir John Johnson attacked and burned the Schoharie Valley on October 17, 1780. Captain Joseph Brant and Lieutenant Colonel John Butler were with Johnson on this raid.
12. Major Melancton Woolsey of Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment of New York State Levies.
13. Timothy Murphy was serving in Captain Isaac Bogart's Company in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1780.
14. Peter Gansevoort was the Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment from November 21, 1776 to January 1, 1781. Neither Gansevoort nor his regiment were in the Mohawk Valley in October of 1780. On March 26, 1781, Gansevoort was appointed Brigadier General of the First Brigade of the Albany County Militia.
15. This service was in the early part of 1777 to Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Ann. Fort Ann was destroyed in October of 1780.
16. Marinus Willett had served as the Lieutenant Colonel of the Third New York, the Fifth New York and on April 7, 1781 as the Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies.
17. Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William Butler of the Fourth Pennsylvania Continental Regiment.
18. The Battle of Cobleskill was fought on May 30, 1778.
19. Lewis DuBois was the Colonel of the Fifth New York Continental Regiment until he resigned on December 22, 1779. On July 1, 1780 he was appointed colonel of a regiment of New York State Levies.