

### Pension Application for John Duesler or Deusler

W.16244

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

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

On this twelfth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred the thirty three personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Herkimer now sitting, John Duesler, a resident of the town of Danube in the County of Herkimer and State of New York, aged seventy five years on the twenty first day of August last past, 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 at the commencement of the Revolutionary War this deponent was a private in a company of Militia, commanded by Capt. Abraham Copeman, in Col. Cox's Regiment, & he thinks the Colonel's Christian name was Ebenezer—that deponent resided at that time in the then town of Canajoharie in the County of Tryon, now Danube Herkimer County—and once Minden Montgomery County—that the first time they were called out they went to Caughnawaga, that Genl Herkimer had the command, Col. Cox was then with his Regiment, and there was a report when they went out that there would be a battle, but when they got there they did not fight, the regiment was paraded several times on the ice of the Mohawk River, and they remained there three or four days, and then they marched up to Johnstown about a mile above the village they were then about a day he thinks & then they marched down to Caughnawaga where they staid about a day & then they went home—that it was said that a treaty had been made with Sir John Johnson that he should not take up arms against the county—thinks they were absent from home ten or twelve days—thinks it was about twenty four or five miles that they went from home—that in the spring of the same year & he thinks in May there was a report that the Indians & Tories were collecting in Johnstown the company was called out to go down there, that the company came up with the rest of the regiment or rather the regiment assembled first before the Nose so called on the Mohawk Rivers at a tavern which was kept close by that he thinks his [?] was McKinsey—then the regiment under the command of Col. Cox marched down to Caughnawaga again, where they remained a day or two thinks two days & then they returned home again, did not find any Indians or Tories, the Regiment he thinks was dismissed at Kursey's Tavern was the Nose as above mentioned, that he thinks he was out this time a week—that in a short time after they came back it was reported that Guy Johnson & one Col. Clause who lived below Johnstown & down by Tripes Hill, was coming up the Mohawk with flour, rum & other liquors brandy, gin [?] and it was said that the flour barrels had kegs of powder inside of the flour—when Capt. Copemans' company & Capt. Crouses Company were called out to march up and follow the boats up the Mohawk River, and when they came up to Fort Herkimer they [?] the Herkimer, [?] under Col. Bellinger thinks his name was Peter Bellinger & Major Clapsattle was there. Bellinger took command of the detachment and then marched up to Fort Stanwix and found the boats there, the boats were mostly unloaded and the barrels were carried across to Wood Creek about two miles, they went to this place & found them lying on the banks of the creek & Capt. Copeman was the man who inspected the boats& the barrels, bore holes in the flour Bbls & tossed the liquor barrels & threw some liquor out—that Maj. Clapsattle told Capt. Copeman that he did not inspect them sufficiently, Caopeman said if he did not like it, he might inspect them himself, Clapsattle said he would make him do it—Copemen jumped out of the boat where he then was & told Clapsattle to come on & make him do it, & drew his sword--and afterwards stuck his sword in the ground & said he would try him with his hands—the men were stationed around the barrelles & kept guard—they found no powder but some excellent liquor—and they remained there three or four days, and then they marched home. That deponent thinks they were absent about ten or twelve days—think this was in the month of June—and in about a week or two there was an order come from Genl. Schuyler that each company in the Regiment should furnish the men as a guard to the Genl. Who was going up to the German Flatts to make a treaty with the Five Nations of Indians, deponent was one of the ten, the company was called out & they drew lots—and they came up to Fort Herkimer, Capt. Brown who came from Durlock with some men here took command and marched them over to the present Village of Herkimer, where there was some houses but no fort.

The object of Genl. Schuyler was to make a treaty with the Indians, then win a great many Indians to him at that time—Staid at Herkimer nearly a fortnight before the Indians all got together, & in this time the men were employed in cutting pickets to make a fort, made a beginning at the work & was then discharged—then went home again, was absent this time about three weeks—He remained at home some time but can not say exactly how long, it was reported that the Indians were collecting again, that deponent was again called out & he and Capt. Copeman and the whole company & deponent thinks Capt. Dievendorff's company was also along, they came up through the woods to the Indian Castle about eight or ten miles, that they lay out in the woods the first night near the castle, staid there a day or two, kept guard part of them & some went into the woods further to see if they could find any Indians—that he was out this time about four days—This deponent was also out on scouting parties several times, but he can not say how of [?] during this fall—that this deponent thinks he performed duty during the year as much as three months, although he can not recollect the exact time he was out on each occasion.—

And this deponent further says that in the year 1777—according to his best recollection the Militia was called out again, but cannot recollect the months, thinks it must have been the last of April or first of May—that part of the company out was called out under the command of Lieut. George Raisnor—deponent can not recollect who was the Capt. was - that there was a draft from each company in the Regiment of men & officers, but he can not recollect that there was any field officer along—thinks there was somewhat more than a hundred men out at this time—they marched back of Johnstown to a place called Sakindaga—to see fi there were any Indians & Tories collected there, but did not find any, can not say exactly how long they were there, remained at Johnstown a while were they were out & when they came back—the orders were to take three days provisions with them, but after they were at Johnstown they drew provisions—were out about two weeks & then marched back to Fort Plain & were then dismissed. That he was sent out as a scout after this up the Gresburgh?, or Goat Hill as it is translated—when the company had a rendezvous & then Capt. Copeman used to send them from here, sometimes only two or three men were sent, sometimes ten or a dozen & frequently more—and their turns would come often to go, they were out sometimes two days & sometimes only one—after this time & he thinks in May there was a report that the Indians were coming back upon the German Flatts the whole regiment was then called out & they mustered at Little Fall Hill where one Dygert, Capt. Peter Dygert kept a Tavern—there the Regiment marched up to

Fort Herkimer there was a fort & a block house there—when they learned it was a false alarm, it was reported that the Indians had said they would burn off the flats—remained at the fort two or three days, and then went back as far as Dygert's Tavern & were dismissed—and after they returned home they were employed as scouts and sometime on guard, it was considered a dangerous time, and on every report whether true or false the men were assembled—and went out sometimes a day & sometimes only a night—

And this deponent further says, that in the latter part of June or in the early part of July in that year 1777—he was called out again together with a part of the company that Capt. Crouse of the same Regiment had command of this deponent and part of his company was out don't recollect any of his company officers were along—that the Regiment assembled at Cherry Valley where there a settlement—Genl Herkimer then had the command, they were at Cherry Valley a day or more can not say how long, then marched down to Otsego Lake to the mouth or out let of the lake, a few houses only there, now called Cooperstown, then only about ten acres of land cleared—then Marched down towards the Unadilla River there was a foot path through the woods, something of a road along the river—when they got there they came to a halt, & some one was sent for the Indians to meet them (as he understood) at the Oquago—Brant was then with from two to three hundred Indians Genl. Herkimer & col. Cox after they had fixed upon a time met Brant & they had a talk –neither part was allowed to bring guns to the place where they were talking, there was a place covered for them to talk under & a place for a table—there was men stationed out to keep guard & the Indians had seats made of made of boards under the trees that they sat on, but without arms—Gen. Herkimer & Col. Brandt talked a while then Col. Cox spoke & said damn him & let him go—Brandt mentioned this in Indian to his men who were close by—they all at once sprang up & shouted, patting their hands on their mouths as they hollered and then ran off—and directly they heard them firing their pieces—Genl Herkimer took Brant by the arm & told him not to mind what Cox said, that they were old neighbors & ought not to be spilling each other's blood &c. Herkimer talked very nice to him – Brant was moderate too. The day before this public meeting Genl. Herkimer & Brandt had talked a good deal together about the business—understood there was a treaty made & that Brandt would come back & live on the River again—they returned the same way as far as Otego, then Col. Bellinger's Regiment went home by a place called the Butternuts as he understood—and deponent's Regt commanded by Col. Cox went home by the way of Otsego lake & Cherry Valley & that they were gone in all the time about seventeen or eighteen days – When they again done duty on guard as before & on scouts wherever required, which was pretty often— That the next call was that they should go to Herkimer, this was in August according to his best recollection & in the year 1777, the same year that they went to Unadilla—the whole regiment was called out, & they marched up to Herkimer, and stopped at Fort Dayton, it was said that Genl. Arnold was coming up the River with some troops & Genl Herkimer kept them here some days to get his men together & writing for Arnold to come up—But they marched out before Genl. Arnold came, as the committee would not wait any longer—first day they went—little above the German settlement right on two miles from Fort Dayton where they remained all night—next day went as far as Oriskany were [where] they slept one night & Genl Herkimer then wanted to stay until Arnold came up—they however started in the morning to go to Fort Stanwix and had not gone far, as early as eight or nine in the morning the battle began with the Indians—Deponent's company was he thinks was about in the center of the detachment—they stood their ground a little while about half an hour when he lost sight of most of his officers saw one of them going back & then he did, one Christopher Eckler he recollects was close by him & they retreated together until they got out of the swamp, then they ran pretty fast, until they got over the river on the north side—and they then came to Fort Dayton where they remained about one day & then they went home. Deponent was engaged inquiring for his brother & could hear nothing of him & went home to see if he was there—but learned afterwards that he had been killed in the battle that Col. Cox was also killed in the battle & Lieut. Resnoir of his company. Deponent was home but a day or two when he was called out again & it was said Genl. Arnold had arrived at Fort Dayton & they marched back up the river again as far as Dygert's Tavern at Little Fall Hill where the Regiment was to meet again—and here they learned that the enemy had all gone back and left Fort Stanwix –and they were dismissed again—that they were out in all this time as much as two weeks. That the remainder of this summer deponent was on duty from time to time as above mentioned in keeping guard and in various scouts about the country—and he thinks he done duty that year in all about four months, as it was as late as Christmas before they were discharged.

And this deponent further says that during the fall of this same year 1777, and he thinks in September or October he marched under one Capt. Seebers who was adjutant of the Regiment; that part of the company only was called out; that the militia was to assemble at Schenectady—that the object was to reinforce the American Army at Saratoga or Stillwater—that deponent became sick with the dissentary before he got to Schenectady & was left behind & in a day or two returned home that he heard that the militia did not get to Stillwater until after the battle was over—that he was absent about a week at this time.

And this deponent further says, that in the early part of the year 1778, he was employed most of the time in doing duty in the forts & going on scouting parties as he was required by his officers, being still under the command of Capt. Copeman—that in May as near as he can now recollect, he was called upon to go to Cherry Valley with his company, that Copeland was with the company, there was Capt. Lipe's Company being the same company formerly commanded by Capt. Crouse who was killed at Oriskany--& another company commanded by Capt. Jacob Dievendorff that Henry Dievendorff the former Capt. was also killed at Oriskany & Jacob the Lieut. was made Capt. then these companies he recollects of were together at that time Col. Clyde had command of the detachment—arrived at Cherry Valley the first day, staid there one night & then next day, sent out a party scouting while they were there—then went to Springfield & there staid one night & then marched home again, thinks on this expedition they must have been absent five or six days before they got home. That after this he was called out to stand ground at Fort Walradt. That there was no officer then higher than an Ensign & the one in this fort was named Henry Walradt, then they first employed in building the fort and spent all most the whole of the summer in that fort doing duty as a guard and once in a while on a scouting party—that he was obliged to do duty either at Fort Walradt or at **Fort Plank**—that Col. Clyde had command of all these forts in the beat of this regiment, Capt. Copeman was at **Fort Plank** most of the time, his family lived about two miles from them—when he was not at the fort, & Lieut. House had the command—that he done duty until the snow fell in the fall—That sometime in this year but he can not say exactly when, he was out at Cherry Valley again with a part of the company, Capt. Seeber was along, one Peter Wormouth was killed by the Indians, & Peter Sitts was taken prisoner, these were on express from Fort Plain to the Village of Cherry Valley—thinks it was in the summer, it was before the burning of Cherry Valley—In the same year also deponent was at Herkimer under Capt. Brown who was from Durlock—that they were either on scouts or on

guard on the fort, at Fort Dayton—think he was then about two weeks or perhaps three—when he returned he went to **Fort Plank**—that while he was on Scouts this year he recollects of going out to the Salt Spring three times, went over the Squago [Otsquago] Creek two or three times, in the course of that summer & fall--& thinks he was out more than four months on duty—

And this deponent further says, that in the year 1779, he was also employed in doing duty in these forts as in the preceding year, that he was still in the same company commanded as aforesaid—that the first time they were out that year that he can now recollect the Col. Call out the whole regiment to go to Fort Herkimer, a distance of about twenty eight miles—and remained at that place about two or three weeks, that the principal duty was keeping guard and going out on scouts once in a while—then wait back to Fort Walradt. That the same year they were called out to Palatine, this was in the latter part of the summer & only part of the company went out—& was gone about a week before they got back—that in haying time of that year four Indians made a prisoner of one Orren Davy; who was carried off by them, twenty or thirty men & of whom this deponent was one, went in pursuit, & over took the Indians & found that Davy was killed, they did not kill any Indians or make any prisoners—it was said that Brandt was among them, & that he was wounded in the foot. That in the month of September & October they were marched up again to Herkimer, Fort Dayton, under command of Capt. Brown they staid in the fort & that time about two weeks—this was the second time he was at Fort Dayton under this Capt. Brown that part of the company only was out—that at the end of two weeks they expected to be relieved, but were not--& had to go to Fort Stanwix to guard some boats under command of Capt. Brown, went to Fort Stanwix & remained there until the boats were unloaded & the boats brought back some time, that before he returned he was gone about four weeks, that it was cold icy weather when they returned home late in the fall—that he thinks this year he done duty about five months & that he was actually employed & under arms that length of time.

And this deponent further says that in the year 1780 he was again under the same officers doing about the same kind of duty, Etc., on guard as a soldier in the fort or on some Indian trail as a spy or scout as in the former years, that he was in **Fort Plank** part of the time & part of the time in Fort Clyde & some times in Fort Bary—that in the month of July or early in August was marched from **Fort Plank** to Fort Herkimer and [?] to Fort Stanwix, that the Col. was out with the whole Regiment, Col. Waggoner's Regiment was also out & he believes Col. Bellinger's Regiment—that Genl. Van Rensselaer was in command of these troops—Deponent did not see him until they come at Herkimer—They all marched up to Fort Stanwix where they remained until the boats were unloaded, that there was a great many goods come up the river on boats when Van Rensselaer came up—that when he arrived at the Fort they were saluted from the forts by a great many guns, & the whole line cheered—Col. Clyde commanded the Regt & Peter Dygert was a Major at that time—that he was gone on this occasion about twelve or fourteen days when they got back to Herkimer they heard that the Indians were burning off the county below in the neighborhood of **Fort Plain & Fort Plank**, destroying the whole settlement, killed a great many and took many women & children prisoners. That each man hurried back as fast as he could without reference to any orders, each one anxious to see what had become of his family and friends—Fort Walradt was burned & deponent's clothes were burned & his horses killed by the enemy, that he brother in law kept three horses by the fort and worked a farm about a quarter of a mile off—that deponent was then put in **Fort Plank** where he done duty the rest of the season except when he was out on scouting parties. That in the fall of the same year, Sir John Johnson came up the North side of the Mohawk River with a large body of Indians and Tories and destroyed the greater part of the country, that the whole militia of the county were called out under Genl. Van Rensselaer except those who were left to guard the forts and old men unable to do duty—that deponent was left at home to do duty in the Fort where he then was, and continued to do duty until late in the falloff that year—except when he was out on scouts—that he thinks in this year he done duty more than four months.—

That he recollects that one Nellis was killed by the Indians in this year, & his father wounded in the arm close by Fort Windecker, that deponent & others were called out in pursuit & after they returned deponent was stationed at Fort Windecker a week—that is in the course of the week or so, there were two men killed by the Indians, Woolver & Casler and Deponent was again called out as a scout in pursuit of the Indians—That it was dangerous for a person to be out of the forts as the Indians were always on the look out and skulking about—

And this deponent further says that a man by the name of John Ecker Enlisted in Capt. Putman's Company in Col. Willett's Regiment of "Nine Months Men" so called that the man got tired and was very anxious to get a substitute—and deponent enlisted in his place as a substitute that was in the month of June. He served in this company until the months of December when he was dismissed about Christmas, at **Fort Plank** in the County of Tryon aforesaid—that he did not receive any discharge—

That the first service since he done after his enlistment was service in the Fort, standing guard, & doing substantially the same duty that he done in the militia service in the preceding years—that he was sometimes in one of these forts & sometimes in another—that in this year he was out at a place called Turlock under the Col. of the Regiment Marinus Willett, it was said that the Tories & Indians had been plundering cattle, horse, sheep [?] and they were collected in that place—that the first time they went out there was some 25 men, they could not find the cattle & after remaining one night they returned again to **Fort Plank**—they got back in; the afternoon & before night they had orders to assemble at Fort Plain where the whole Regiment got together, and a number of militia who volunteered, they started that night in the dark, and proceeded to Fort Clyde, then to Bowman's Creek, that when they got to Turlock it was day light, that the men were put in order in two lines, that some men were set forward & Lieut. Sammons with them to draw out the enemy, which they succeeded in doing, (then retreated and led them in between these two lines of men who fired upon them with great effect—the Indians retreated and Col. Willett & his men kept the ground—that they tried to find the Indians but could not & then retreated or marched back again—One Capt. McKean was wounded, the soldiers brought him out & he afterwards died of his wounds—one Bellinger was also killed, Casper Near was also killed then some wounded.—

That they were out about two days and one night and remained in the Forts on duty as before and going on Scouts, until in the fall of the year, & he thinks in the month of October when Major Ross & Walter Butler were said to be at Johnstown, then the Col. ordered his regiment out again & the militia all turned out again to meet the enemy, when they got there the enemy was prepared for battle & an engagement took place which commenced in the woods, our men then retreated in the open fields, the new levies retreated until the militia came up where they rallied—the Americans lost a field piece then retook it—and at length the enemy gave way again, when the field piece was taken Col. Willett laid his hand on it and said, "Hurrahs for Lady Washington"—& was a boast? & the enemy retreated into the country towards the

heads of the Canada Creeks on the hills above the river—the troops under Col. Willet came up the river, Maj. Copeman was also along with his militia, he behaved well at Johnstown—the Americans came up as far as Herkimer then went up the Canada Creek, and staid in the woods one night, and then followed on again until they came up with them at the place where two roads came together, here there was some firing, one Artillery man on the American side was killed, & some prisoners were taken from the enemy—Deponent was not present when Butler was killed—when he came up a man on the other side of the river was holding up his commission & waving – said he had Butler's commission.

That after this they all returned home, going back by the way of Remeysnyder's Bush & Snell's Bush—they had some prisoners with them—they were two days without any provisions, the inhabitants then met them & sent them some provisions—they took the prisoners to Fort Plain & then delivered them to Col. Willet who sent them below—that he done duty until the month of December & about Christmas—that he done one month's duty before he returned into Willett's Regiment & did duty in that Regiment about six months or more—

And this deponent further says that in the next year which was 1782 he continued to do duty as before in the Militia company under Capt. House doing duty in the Forts & going out on scouts from time to time—during all that summer, & in the winter they were not obliged to mount guard, that this year they were not much troubled with the Indians or Tories—and that he did not do over three months duty in that year.

And this deponent further says that in the next year 1783 he did not do any service at all, the was having been considered as ended.

That this deponent was engaged in the battle of Oriskany, Johnstown & Durlock—that he never had any written discharge.

And to the several questions put by the court this deponent says—

That he was born in the Town of Canajoharie, in the year 1757.

That he has a record of his age kept by his father in a large Dutch Bible with brass clasps now in his possession—

That he resided at the commencement of his services at Canajoharie in the then County of Tryon, and has resided since the war a few years in the same town, then moved five or six miles which by the division of towns & Counties has made him now in the town of Danube in the County of Herkimer where he at present resided.—

That he was in the militia & ordered out, sometimes volunteered & once a substitute for one John Ecker—that he done duty & was acquainted with Marinus Willett—has seen Col. Gansvoort--& Col. Renier who was one winter at Fort Plank.

That he never received a discharge from the service.

That he is acquainted with no clergyman who can testify to his character & that John Roth & Richard Shimel of Starks can prove the service and can testify to his character & that he thinks he can prove his service by Jacob A. Young or part of them.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed with his mark) John Dusler

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. Julius C. Nelson, Clerk