

Pension Application for John Cornell

R.13353

State of New York

Saratoga County

On this fifth day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas of the County of Saratoga, now sitting John Cornell a resident of the town of Clifton Park in the County of Saratoga and State of New York aged 68 years who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed Jan 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1780 on the first of June he this deponent was drafted in the company of Militia of the State of New York which company was commanded by Captain Wheeler and Mr. Hale was a Lieutenant that the Regiment then called out was under the command of Major William Clark and was directed to march to West Point fort on the Hudson River when General Knox had the command that we were stationed on the opposite side of the River to defend that post against the Invasion of the British then lying in the River below the Fort that our term of service was from twelve to fifteen days that from the age of fourteen to sixteen years I volunteered to go on Patrolling Parties through different parts of the town & county where I then resided and that after the month of June 1780 to the close of the war I was not in any important engagements but my service was that of scouting patrolling &c. That the county in which I resided was near the enemy's line and I together with many more were called on by alarm and otherwise by my uncle Colonel Humphrey to go and defend the life and property of the inhabitants of the town and county that during said revolutionary war that is from the age of 14 years when I volunteered to the age of 16 years and from that to the close of the revolutionary was I was called on by alarm and otherwise as often as from one to four times in a week for many weeks in the year that our tour was from one day right to three days that at the time I belonged to a company commanded by Captain roger Morey in which company Mr. Hale was a Lieutenant.

I assisted in taken [sic] a Tory by the name of Duncan who was executed at Poughkeepsie.

That I have no means in my power to whereby I can determine the length of time I served in said Revolution nor is there any other person living to my knowledge except those whose depositions are hereunto attached that can testify to my service yet I verily believe that during said revolutionary war I was in the service at least six months in actual service of the United States as a soldier.

I was born in the town of Beekman in the County of Dutchess and State of New York on the 18th day of March 1764 I lived in the said town of Beekman in the county aforesaid at the time I entered the service and lived in said town of Beekman during the revolution and after the close of the same, that I moved to the town of Clifton Park in the County of Saratoga and State of New York where I now reside and have resided ever since.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

To the interrogatories propounded by the court, I answer as follows.

1. I was born in Beekman Dutchess County NY in the year 1764.
2. I have no record of my age, but there was a record kept in my father's Dutchess County & have not the means of producing it.

3. I lived in the town of Beekman aforesaid when called into service & since the revolutionary war I lived in the same town and for the last forty four years I have lived in the town of Clifton Park Saratoga County NY and still live there.
4. I was drafted in the first period of my service and in the remaining periods of my service I was a Volunteer.
5. I knew General Knox who had the command of the American forces at West Point. The names of other Continental officers I cannot recollect, my William Clark Commanded a detachment of five militia companies stationed opposite West Point—to one of which I belonged. Capt. Wheeler was my Captain, Gideon Hall was Lieutenant one Downing was a Sergeant—Captain VanWick commanded a company from Fishkill at this time which was stationed near to my company the general circumstances of my service are stated in my declaration as correctly as I am able to.
6. I never received a written discharge from the service, but when the British retreated down the Hudson River, the company to which I belonged was dismissed & we had permission to return to our homes.
7. I would name Benjamin Chadsey, Seth. W. Higgins and Elder Abijah Peck, as persons to whom I am known in my present neighborhood, and who can testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution—there is no clergyman living in my immediate vicinity.

I have no documentary evidence and I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service except James Smith whose attendance I cannot obtain in court & have accordingly procured his affidavit to be taken before a Justice of the Peace.

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. (Signed) John Cornell

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Thomas Palmer, Clerk