

Pension Application for Jacob Covenhoven

R.2379

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Montgomery, State aforesaid, Jacob Covenhoven of the town of Canajoharie--County & State aforesaid, whose declaration for a pension is hereto annexed & who being first duly sworn by me depose & saith, that, for the purpose of giving a small specific account of his revolutionary services—he was in the year 1780, a private soldier in a Militia Company commanded by Capt. Jacob Gardinier (1) in Col. Frederick Fishers Regt when the whole company was called out upon this call this deponent with the rest of the company volunteered at Charleston in said County as early, he thinks as the first of November & were marched to Fort Plain on the Mohawk River a distance of 20 miles to guard the fort—and was then under said Capt. doing duty - They were marched after two or three weeks down the Mohawk about 17 miles to Fort Hunter another fort on the Mohawk & there performed the like duties under the same capt. until the first of December of that year as deponent thinks when they were dismissed at the latter place & returned home (both said Forts were said to be under the general command of Col. M. Willett) after having served at least one month—

On the first of April 1781 as near as deponent can recollect, there was a call on Col. Fisher's Regt. for a certain no. of soldiers for the purpose of increasing the forces of Col. Willett on the Mohawk and this deponent either enlisted or volunteered & believes he volunteered for one year from that date at a place called Tripes Hill at that time -- on the north side of the Mohawk near Johnstown in Montgomery County—Deponent was first placed under Capt. John Wemple (2) who deponent thinks was a militia capt., but was placed under the orders of Col. Willett (3) & formed a part of his forces—they were, shortly after being mustered, ordered to Sacondaga Fort under Capt. Wemple about 16 miles north of Johnstown as he thinks—They staid at said fort doing duty & standing sentry & guarding said fort—There was no company at that fort at the time except Capt. Wemple after staying there 2 or 3 weeks—they were next marched by order of Col. Willett to guard Lieut. Beekman (4) to a little fort (5) at Stone Arabia—now Palatine in Montgomery County New York—Where he had certain orders to execute they were there a few days & returned back with him to Johnstown Fort—Lieut. Beekman was at Sacondaga with us—after staying at Johnstown—deponent perfectly recollects during this year of spending a portion of his time after this at Fort Plain & Fort Hunter on the Mohawk—was one portion of the time attached to the main body of Col. Willett's Regt. & at other—were ordered to guard the little Forts on the Mohawk—when only his Capt. or Lieut. would be with perhaps half a company—

Deponent was at the Johnstown Fort in Oct of 1781—at the time of the Battle—deponent was at the fort before & after the battle about four weeks—It was a season of constant alarms—with Indians & Tories & the whole season was marked with conflagration & incendiaries—deponent's father's buildings were burnt to ashes this & all his stacks of grain & hay—deponent rode under Col. Willett, from Caughnawaga to Johnstown at the time of the Battle there (5)—Deponent says it is stated in his declaration that he volunteered for this last season at Charleston by [?] perhaps because he had lived there but it was at Tripes hill about five miles from Charleston where he actually entered the service--& was mustered with Capt. Wemple's company - deponent says that he continued in actual service this year under said Capt. until the first of December of that year--& there was excused because there seemed to be no actual service for the soldiers to perform for the remainder of the year at Fort Hunter & returned home to remain as minute men subject to calls as occasion & [?] region during the winter—Deponent still thinks that he was discharged at Fort Hunter in April 1782—as stated in his declaration but cannot on account of his loss of memory reconcile it to his mind how nor by what means he was called there in the spring as he is confident he did either on furlough or on being excused as aforesaid, then a part of the winter of 1781-2 at home and that he now on having the subject fully explained to him - cannot say that he served in the period last aforesaid a continued period of more than eight months—and that for that period at least he thinks he did served & has no doubt of it—Deponent says in planting time & he thinks about the middle of May he was called on & volunteered in Capt. Quackenboss' (7) Company in Col. Vedder's (8) Regt of Militia but were placed under the general command of Col. Willett & Levies it was it was inserted in his declaration that it was in Col. Willett's Regt. in 1782 & were ordered & marched to a little Picket Fort Called by the soldiers Fort Vedder(9)—on the Mohawk opposite Johnstown were also marched to Fort Hunter on this occasion he was in service at least 3 weeks from the time he left home until they were discharged & returned home—Their Lieut. on this occasion was Abraham Conyne (10)—deponent says it was proverbial that Col. Willett commanded on the Mohawk--& when he answered when he was asked what field officers commanded him—he answered it was Col. Willett because all orders at that time &

the officer at the fort seemed to come from him as he then & that supposed –along–on the Mohawk Deponent volunteered at Tripes Hill & was discharged at Fort Hunter in this last service of three weeks.

Deponent says also that he volunteered on a call for militia under Capt. Peter Conyne (11) at Tripes Hill aforesaid about the middle of May 1780 at all events it was in planting time & he was marched by the said Capt.—to Sacondaga Fort with about 15 soldiers to guard said fort. The fort was fired at by the Indians at this time. (12) The soldiers killed two of the Indians as they were setting round the fire in the woods—Deponent was on duty at said fort at this time at least two weeks & was discharged at said fort about the first of June 1780—as he thinks—was about 16 days from home—The deponent was called out on another occasion (among many) when it was rumored a spy was harbored by the name of Wallis at the house of one Peter Bowen—Deponent with about 15 others under a Lieut. Fonda (13) took the spy & delivered him up at the fort at Johnstown. Deponent was out on this occasion 3 days—deponent's other services were as stated in his said declaration which on account of his loss of memory he cannot specify by way of giving dates—

Deponent saith also that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less in the periods above specified than then months & ten days as a private & for the time he claims a pension—that he served all the above times in an organized corps—commanded by competent authority. That he was all the time in the field in garrison or marching under orders & that for the time during which the above specified services were performed he was employed in no civil pursuit.

Deponent says that the place which he called Tripes Hill is a local name given to what is now Johnstown in Montgomery County N. York. Deponent in answer to interrogations put him—says it appears by a record of his age found where he made the original declaration hereto annexed—he was born in Princeton, N. Jersey—in the year 1753—That he has no record of his age now in his possession was living in Charleston aforesaid when called into service & has since lived since the Revolution in the county & now lives in Canajoharie Mont. Co. N.Y and was uniformly a private & entered the service by volunteering in obedience to calls for militia men—except the 8 months served he was under field officers in the state service but understood his captain to be militia officer—Does not recollect any officers except the names of those given in his declaration. Does not recollect that he had any written discharge.

Sworn & subscribed the 3d July 1834 before me [Steven Wilmer]? Jr.

End Notes—R2379—Jacob Covenhoven

1. Jacob Gardinier was the Captain of the First Company in Colonel Frederick Visscher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
2. John Wemple was the Captain of the Fourth Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment.
3. On April 27, 1781 Marinus Willett was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies and to command the Tryon County Militia. Although Wemple and other officers of the militia received orders from Willett they were not part of the levies.
4. There appears not to have been a Lieutenant Beekman in Willett's Regiment but there was a Lieutenant Jacob Bocker in Captain Anthony Whelp's Company of Willett's Regiment in 1781.
5. The fort was either Fort Keyser or Fort Paris.
6. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
7. Abraham Quackenboss was the First Lieutenant in Captain Gardinier's Company.
8. Volkert Veeder was the Lieutenant-Colonel in Colonel Visscher's Regiment.
9. Fort Veeder was a blockhouse built to protect John Veeder's Mill which had been burned in 1780.
10. Abraham Conyne was a sergeant in Captain Wemple's Company.
11. Peter Conyne was the Adjutant (with the rank of a lieutenant) of Colonel Visscher's Regiment.
12. This incident happened on March 27, 1780. Solomon Woodworth with his family moved into the Sacondaga Blockhouse for better protection as the militia garrison had left without being relieved by another detachment of militia from Visscher's Regiment. The Indians attempted to set the blockhouse on fire but Woodworth on being alerted by the barking of his dog, fired at the Indians and wounded some of them. The Indians retreated and Woodworth was able then to put out the fire. Woodworth with a small party of men a few days afterwards, caught up with the Indians and killed those that were at the campfire.
13. Perhaps it was Jellis A. Fonda, who was a lieutenant in Colonel Willett's Regiment in 1781 and 1782.

