

Pension Application for William Covenhoven

W.20913

State of New York

Rockland County SS.

On this twenty seventh day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally applicant in open court before the judges of the court of Common Pleas now sitting at the Court House in Clarkstown, in and for the County of Rockland and State aforesaid William Covenhoven a resident of the Town of Orange in said County aged seventy four years, the 17th day of last September as appears by a record thereof in the church books kept by the Middle Dutch Church in the City of New York where the same is recorded, who being 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 and served as herein stated.—

That in the beginning of the year 1775, the month he cannot now remember he entered the service of the United States as a sergeant in a company that was ready to march from Hackensack in the State of New Jersey (where at that time he was then living), to New York, the British fleet, then was laying nine miles below New York, at the place called in those day. "The watering place" on Staten Island, that he served in said company one month the names of the officers of the company in which he served he now disremembers as he was at that time an entire stranger to them, and immediately after the month was expired left the place, that he was discharged by the officers of said company, and immediately set out for Tarrytown in Westchester County where his father then resided.

That when he arrived at his father's at Tarrytown there lay opposite in the Hudson River, two British Frigates, which had passed New York, that eh at that time was again induced to join a company of Militia as their Sergeant, but had no written appointment, but received his appointment from the officers of the Company, that he remembers that the name of the Captain of the Company was William Dutcher and that the Lieutenant of said company was named Daniel Martling.

That he served in said Company over a month, but how much more cannot say, that while in this company he was engaged in guarding the Shore of the Hudson River, from above Tarrytown down the river as far as Kings Bridge, was on duty the greater part of the time. Recollects that during this time, that two fire ships were sent from New York to fire the two British Frigates that lay opposite Tarrytown. That he was on shore and saw one of the fire ships grapple with one of the Frigates, and fire her. That there were two men on board each of the fire ships and in attempting to get from on board to the shore, three of them got drowned and one of them reached the shore.

That in the following year 1776 as far as his memory now serves him he enlisted as a sergeant again in the same company of volunteers commanded by Capt. Wm. Dutcher and Lieutenant Daniel Martling, for five months that the company at this tiem belonged to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Thomas. That they were marched to KingsBridge, and was engaged in building fortifications & Barracks, that he recollects, that while in this service, Fort Washington was taken and they were ordered to retreat to the White Plains in Westchester County, that after setting fire to their Barracks in the evening, they retreated. That after this arrival at White Plains and after laying in site of the enemy for some days, a severe engagement took place, in which he was engaged.

That a few days after the engagement, they marched to Peekskill in Westchester County for Winter Quarters—that he remained with the army at Peekskill until new years or Christmas day and then was discharged by his officers and with the rest of his company was sent home to Tarrytown.

That in the spring of the year of 1777, as near as his memory will now serve him, he removed with his father's family to a place called Rhinebeck in the County of Dutchess, State of New York.

That within a few days after his arrival at Rhinebeck, he again entered into the service as a Sergeant into a volunteer company, commanded by Capt James Kip, Lieutenant Ostrander, (the Christian name of Lieutenant Ostrader he disremembers). That he served in his company two months, and was stationed at West Point and was engaged in making fortifications, recollects that at this time they were under the direction of a French engineer whose name he disremembers, and that there was also an American engineer who directed also in the building of fortifications at West Point, and that his name was James Gilliland [not sure if the next page is the correct one for the continuation of affidavit.] Stores at Peekskill after this term of service was discharged and went home to Rhinebeck.

That some time after he again enlisted as a sergeant into a company commanded by Capt. James Wilson for three months, in Col. Grahams Regiment, what year or what month, he cannot now remember, but thinks that it was sometime in the year 1779, at any rate he recollects that it was the same year the French fleet lay at Rhode Island.

That in the year 1780 as he now believes or the same year that Major Andre was taken at TarryTown, he again enlisted as a Sergeant in a company of Volunteers for three months, whereof John Hermance was Captain and Andrew Hermance was Lieutenant, which company then was under the command of Colonel Henry Livingston, Col. Commandant Malcom, and was marched down to Rockland County near what is called the State Landing, from thence we were marched to Haverstraw, and there encamped, from thence to Stony Point, and there we were put on board vessels and sent to Albany, arrived at Albany and there encamped, from thence we were marched to Fort Edward, that there they first heard of the Capture of Major Andre, and there kept a rejoicing. That he remained at Fort Edward until his time expired and was then with his company sent home.

That in the fall of the same year after his arrival home, the whole of the Militia was called out and that he again started with Capt Kips men as Sergeant, and were marched from Rhinebeck down upon the east side of the Hudson River to Kings Bridge in Westchester Co., that it was then said by some, that the object was to take Fort Independence, then in the possession of the British, others said the object was to take New York, at any rate nothing of importance was then accomplished, other than to keep the enemy in the Fort, so that our army removed the [?] from the County of Westchester which was a great part of it in the possession of the British. Cannot say the number of the army, bit it was considerably large, and there were there at that time three Generals with the army, General Heath, Genl. Scott, and Genl Tenbrook. That he was engaged in this service over one month and was discharged by the officers and returned home again.

After that was a sergeant in a company commanded by Lieutenant Daniel Martling, Capt. William Dutcher having died. The year he cannot say, as it was sometime after his other services and towards the close of the war, but thinks it was in the year 1781 or 1782, and remembers that the company was divided into two parts

to serve one month each, one part under the command of second Lieutenant Martling, the other under the command of second Lieutenant Gershom Sherwood.

That he was stationed at and about Tarrytown and was engaged in stopping CowBoys, Horse Thieves and plunderers. Recollects that while in th is service, on night in particular as he lay with some of his company concealed behind a stone fence they heard a company of men approaching them, and when opposite them, perceived that there were five in number that they spring upon them, took their arms from them and made them prisoners, took them to a house near the spot, marched them and Found in the pockets one of them recruiting orders from the enemy, the man's name who had the recruiting orders he still remembers was Maby. That they conducted them to Peekskill the head quarters of Genl. Mackdougale and there Maby was tried, and executed—That he was engaged in this company until the close of the war off & one, as necessity required.

That when he was not actually engaged by the month, he was notwithstanding to hold himself in readiness when ever an alarm was made and often was engaged in services which does not distinctly come to his recollection and the time in which he was engaged it is impossible to compute since the lapse of half a century. But this eh can confidently and unhesitatingly declare that the whole of the time put together would at the lowest calculation exceed two years in all—

That he never received any written discharge during the war but that all the discharges were by parole from the officers in command that he knew of no other during the Revolutionary War. And he further declares that he was born in the City of New York on the seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty eight as appears by the records above referred to that he removed from the City of New York when young, to Hackensack in New Jersey and removed from there to TarryTown as above stated and from there to Rhinebeck in Dutchess County and from Rhineback to Tarrytown again, and after the British evacuated the City of New York, moved to New York, there lived about seven years, and moved from there to Pompton in New Jersey lived there about a year and then removed to the Town of Clarkstown Rockland County and from thence to Orange in Rockland County where he now resides.

That while in the service he was acquainted with the following named officers, Genl Scott, Genl Heath, Genl Stark, the Hero of Bennington Col. Willet the Hero of Fort Stanwix, Col Livingston, Col. Thomas, Col. Varick, Col. Snyder, and other that eh could enumerate.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services, and all the positive testimony remaining to corroborate this his declaration is hereunto annexed, saving and excepting the testimony of John VanZant of the City of New York, that was taken in the year 1831, for the purpose of applying for relief from Congress inasmuch as he did not come within the then existing pension laws, and who has since died at the City of New York with the prevailing evidence whose testimony now on file in the House of Congress will show the service of the said [part missing] that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Wm. Covehoven

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. David Pye,
Clerk