

Pension Application for Philip Deforest

S.2770

Montgomery County SS.

On this nineteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Montgomery now sitting Philip Deforest (late a resident of Florida) in the County of Montgomery now of Glen in said County in the State of New York aged seventy five years 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 7th 1832.

That he was born at Greenbush in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York on the 5th day of December in the year 1757 that the only record of his age which he knows is one kept in the family of his brother at Greenbush which descended from his father in a Bible.

That sometime in the year 1776 as he thinks because it was the first year of the War of the Revolution he entered the he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier in a company of militia at Greenbush commanded by Captain Jacob Deforest, Martinus Sharp & Andrew Miller were Lieutenants and that he served in this company from the time he so entered the same during the whole war & until its close in the year 1783, as a private soldier & as a volunteer in said company. That this company was attached to a Regiment Commanded by Col. Stephen Schuyler, the Majors name was Fonda & that the name of the Brigadier General was TenBroeck. That this company were ordered on various expeditions and quartered at different times during the war was at Fort Edward, which was the most general place of rendezvous, Fort Miller, German Flatts, Schoharrie [Schoharie], Schenectady, Saratoga & many other places to guard the Country from the continued attacks of Tories, Indian scouting parties & British, and that he is unable now to recollect the order of their movements or marches, which were directed from time to time by the nature of alarms, sometimes by Regiments or Battalions at other times by Companies or parks of companies to guard particular passes & dangerous places of communication.

That he does not recollect any battle during the war in which he was engaged & that his memory has failed him to such a degree that he cannot recollect the names of the other officers of companies in the same or other Regiments with whom he sometimes served, that he recollects that he & the company to which he belonged were with the main body of the American army at Saratoga at the Surrender of General Burgoyne, though they were not engaged in any of the battles, that the American Army were under the command of General Gates, and this was in the fall of the year 1777.

The second year of his service, that he does not know of any person living, who served with him but Jacob Van Alstyne who now resides in the City of Albany and who served as Quartermaster & as Adjutant in the same regiment with him.

That after the war he resided in the County of Albany in the town of Bethlehem until about the year 1811 when he removed to Florida in the County of Montgomery & that he has resided in this county ever since.

That he never received a written discharge from the service nor has he any documentary evidence of his service.

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.

Subscribed & sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

The said Philip Deforest further declares to be more specific that the first year of the war he recollects that the militia under the command of Colonel Schuyler was marched to fort Edward where they remained three or four weeks then they returned home. Then to Fort Miller where they remained about four weeks then they returned home. The second year he was at Stillwater at the taking of Burgoyne twice to Schenectady staid about two weeks each time. That his company served about two years as he believes and that during that time he served as much as six months, as rangers, patrolling by night and day around at distance of four, six, eight, ten miles from Greenbush at Newtown Albany and other places, that besides the six months he served as a ranger.

He was at Stillwater twice two or three weeks each time, twice to Schenectady as much as three or four weeks, once to Schoharrie two or three weeks. At German Flatts he cannot tell how long, at many places which have no name within a few miles of the place of rendezvous, one day, two days, three days, a week & ten days at a time but he cannot now state in which particular year he served at the places above mentioned nor can he come near the estimate of time put together, which he was actually on duty but believes more than one third of the time during his term of service that he was so engaged. (Signed with his mark) Philip Deforest

Subscribed & sworn the day & year aforesaid. I George D. Ferguson Clerk of the Courts of Common Pleas in and for the County of Montgomery do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court on the matter of the application of Philip Deforests for a pension. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand an affixed the seal of the said court this 21st day of September 1832.
Geo: D. Ferguson