

Pension Application for John Harcourt

R.4589

State of Ohio

Ashtabula County SS.

On this 24 day of June 1835 personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas now sitting, John Harcourt a resident of Pierpont in the County of Ashtabula and state of Ohio aged 74 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That in the fall of the year 1777 while he was residing in the Town of New Maltburg in the State of New York he was called out on alarm as a private in the militia and joined his company at Newburg on the Hudson River, that from Newburg the company to which he was attached marched till they almost reached Ft. Mt.Gomery, [Fort Montgomery] on the Hudson about 20 miles from Newburg. That here they met a party of our men who had made their escape from the British that had first taken Fort Mt.Gomery.

That his company then halted, and tarried along the river Hudson until the British shipping came up. When he was with others was ordered to drive back the cattle into the country to prevent the British from seizing & carrying them away. After the shipping went down the river the company to which he was attached, received orders to drive the cattle back again, when he received a parole discharge & went home having served sixteen days. That he cannot recollect the day & month when he was called out but believes it to have been in the latter part of autumn.

That his captain's name was Jacob Wood—1st Lieut. Anning Smith 2d Lieut Nathaniel Kelsey of Col. Hartenborough's Regt.

That in the Spring of 1778 the month and day not recollected while he was residing in the Town of New Paltz, N.Y. he was drafted to several as a private in the militia, in Capt. Jacob Conkling's Company of Infantry to serve on fatigue duty. That one Lyons was one of the Lieutenants of his company and Hartenborough son of Col. Hartenborough the other. That he joined his company at Newburg & then marched to West Point when the company to which he was attached received orders to build a redoubt. That he & his company were employed in carrying dirt, & covering timber & cutting [fachina's] for building the same bomb proof. That in this employment he continued till the fall of the same year when he was discharged by parole after serving nine months. That he recollects none of the officers names except those above mentioned.

That in the Fall of 1779 he was drafted to serve in the militia as a private and was employed three months at Fishkill N.Y. in cutting & carrying away wood for the army at West Point, having staid there three months in the business he was discharged by parole. He cannot recollect day or month of either his entering or dismissal; but he well recollects that when he was discharged the weather was cold &

the ground was covered with snow. Stephen Case was Captain and Hartenborough son of Col. Hartenborough was Lieut of his company and Hartenborough was the Colonel of the Regt to which his company was attached.

That in December 1779 soon; after his return to new [?] aforesaid he was pressed into the service of the United States to serve as a private in the militia, and was employed in driving a team ten days when he received a parole discharge. He cannot recollect on what day he was pressed in nor discharged but is positive both occurred in December.

That he was born in New Maltburg, State of New York A.D. 1761. My father has a record of his age by which it appears that he was 16 years of age when he first;entered the army in 1777 and who living at his native place when he entered in the army each time and lived at New Mattbury Jefferson in Schoharie County in Saratoga, in Eden in Erie County, State of New York until 1832 when he removed to Pierpont in the County of Ashtabula and State of Ohio where he now lives. That he has no documentary evidence of having served as herein stated as he was always discharged by Parole.

That Mr. Ford and Mr. Allen who live in his neighbourhood can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services [as] a soldier of the revolution but knows of no clergyman who can do the same as there is none.

That three years ago he took measures for applying for a pension but that his papers were so informally made out that they did not answer the purpose for which they were intended.

That after that he was taken sick and has had no opportunity of applying for a pension till the present. And that he knows of no surviving witness who can [give] testimony as to his services in the revolutionary army, as they moved away soon after the war and he cannot tell where they now live or whether they are living.

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 or (if any) only on that part of the agency of the state of Ohio. (Signed with his mark) John Harcourt.

State of Ohio, Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Saml Hendry Clerk.