

**Pension Application for William Vail**

R.10816 (Widow: Ruth) Married October 10, 1785. He died July 27, 1838.

William Vail

State of New York

County of Orange SS.

On this Twelfth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas (a court of record) in and for the said County of Orange aforesaid now sitting William Vail a resident of Hamptonburgh in the County of orange aged 71 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered into the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as follows.

That he first went out on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1777 in a company of militia from Goshen in the County of Orange aforesaid. The whole regiment was commanded by Colonel Benjamin Tusten - Captain John Jackson commanded Deponent's company—John McDowell Lieutenant—we went through Oxford and Monroe to the Mountains about nine miles from Fort Montgomery when we heard the Fort had been taken—we were ordered to Cornwall on the North River—Deponent was then out but three days when he was sent home with some horses—After that we were put into classes as minute men to be ready when warned.

In May 1778 we were called out en Mass to Minisink under Captain John John [sic] Jackson—Colonel Tustin commanded the regiment—does not now recollect the names of the other officers except Lieutenant McDowell. This was on the Frontiers about twenty miles from Goshen—we staid at Major Deckers—the object was to protect the place from the ravages of the Indians - We went through the town of Walkill—we were out two weeks and were discharged-Deponent was a private on all the occasions mentioned — In June 1778 went out under Captain Jackson—Lieutenant—Elijah Tryon on on [sic] class duty to Dewit's Fort at Minisink aforesaid and relieved by another class.

Deponent further saith that he was out on two different occasions that same summer at the same place for one month at each time on class duty—after remaining one month was dismissed and returned home—this fort was on the west side of the Shawangunk Mountain about twenty four miles from Goshen and near the Delaware River—Early in the spring of 1779 the precise time not now recollected—a class company was ordered out commanded by Lieutenant McDowell as deponent thinks—Went with them to Dewits Fort In Minisink aforesaid—where we remained to guard the frontiers from Indians, one month—were then discharged and returned home—very shortly after our return home and In the latter part of May the regiment to which deponent belonged was ordered to West Point to watch the movements of the enemy—Deponent was with them—his company was commanded by Lieutenant McDowell—Captain Jackson had entered the regular service—Deponent does not remember the other officers—That they went through Blooming Grove and Cornwall across the

Mountain to West Point we were gone ten days and then returned the the [sic] enemys shipping having gone down the river—In July afterwards we were ordered out en Mass to drive the Indians from the Frontiers at Minisink on Peenpack Deponents Company was then commanded by Lieutenant McDowell—Colonel Tustin was out in command of a regiment—Colonel was Hathorn was out and Major Maken of New Jersey, Captain Jones and Captain Little and others, a battle was fought with the Indians on the banks of the Delaware on the 22d – Deponent and others who were on foot did not arrive in time for the engagement –deponent went to Deckers where he met the troops on there return from the battle, after remaining a few days at the fort and understanding that the enemy had left the frontiers we were discharged and returned home having been absent ten days.

That in the fall of 1779 the precise time Deponent cannot state—he was ordered out on class duty to Dewitts fort aforesaid—Deponent thinks Lieutenant McDowell commanded his company—Don't recollect any other officers, we were absent one month and were discharged—Early in the spring of 1780 the precise time not now recollected—Deponent was again ordered out to the same frontier and remained a the house of Simon WestFall now Carpenters Point on the Delaware River—where the company also staid—other companies were stationed at various places along the same frontier to Kingston in Ulster County as a defence against the Savages—Deponent is not positive who then commanded his company—but thinks it was Lieutenant McDowell—he remembers that Ananias Valentine, Stephen Smith, Abner Crossman, privates were out at that time. L They are all now dead—we remained there a month and were discharged.

And this deponent further saith that he cannot state all the various times he was out in the public service—that he has no written documents to refer to—Deponent knows that he was to the end of the war in each year very frequently in the service either in performing class duty or on occasions of alarms deponent thinks there was no occasion from the time of his first service on which he did not turn out when required so to do.

Deponent recollects of being in a State of readiness and believes he was out on every occasion—Deponent further saith that he believes that after the year 1777 to the end of the war—He did duty upon alarms as a classman more than four months in each year—And Deponent further saith that David C. Drake of Goshen in said county was a near neighbor of Deponents and was out with him on various occasions and he is the only person now serving who belonged to deponents Company when he recollects to have been out with him. Deponent recollects that one Lawrence Kortright and Usher T. Moore were in another company and were upon some occasions, out with Deponent.

1<sup>st</sup> That he was born at Goshen in the County of Orange int he year 1761.

2<sup>d</sup> That he has a record of his age at House.

3<sup>d</sup> That he lived in Goshen when called into service and with the exception of a few years, has resided in Goshen ever since.

4<sup>th</sup> That he was called or ordered into service as a milita man.

5<sup>th</sup> Has no written discharge, never received any.

6<sup>th</sup> That he is known to William Townsend, Gen James W. Wilkin and Stephen Jackson; residents of Goshen who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services.

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. (Signed) William Vail

Subscribed & sworn in open court the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 1833. Asa Dunning, Clerk

Letter in folder dated April 27, 1936 written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your request for information in regard to Revolutionary War soldiers, William Vail, his son, William Vail, Jr., Gilbert Vail and his son, Joseph Vail, Samuel King and Usher Hampton Moore.

Because of the large number of requests for records of Revolutionary War soldiers and the lack of clerical force available for furnishing such information, it has been impossible to make a series of investigations and reports pertaining to soldiers of that war, for one person. The records of William Vail and Usher Moore are furnished herein, as found in pension claim based upon their service in the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, R.10816, based upon the military service of William Vail.

He was born June 27, 1761, in Goshen, Orange County, New York. The names of his parents were not given.

While living in Goshen, New York, he enlisted October 7, 1777, and served at various times amounting to more than four months each year until the end of the Revolution, as private with the New York troops under Lieutenant McDowell, Captain John Jackson and Colonel Benjamin Tuston.

William Vail was allowed pension on his application executed February 12, 1833, at which time he was living in Hamptonburgh, Orange County, New York. In that year he stated that he had served in Goshen ever since the Revolution with the exception of a few years.

William Vail died July 27, 1838, in Hamptonburgh, New York.

He married October 10, 1785, in Warwick, New York, Ruth Mapes who was born April 12, 1767. In 1839 she was living in Hamptonburgh, New York.

In 1839, their son, William B. Vail, was thirty-five years of age.

The soldier, William Vail, stated that one Usher H. Moore served in the Revolution at the same time that he did but in another company.

The papers in this claim contain no further data relative to the family of William Vail.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, S.11097, based upon the military service of Usher Moore. The name does not appear as Usher Hampton Moore.

Usher Moore was born in 1757 in Goshen, Orange County, New York. The names of his parents were not given. While a resident of Goshen, Orange County, New York, he enlisted and served as private with the New York troops as follows: from July, 1776, five months in Captain John Wood's company in Colonel Nicoll's regiment; from August, 1777, three months in Captain John Wood's company in Colonel McLaughlin's regiment; from March 1776, one year in Captain Moses Hatfield's company.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 1, 1832, at which time he was living in Minisink, Orange County, New York, having moved there from Goshen.

Usher Moore died August 22, 1834.

The papers in this claim contain no data relative to his family.