

Pension Application for John Van Orden

R.21682 (Former Widow: Rachel Polhamus)

State of New York

Rockland County SS

On this twenty first day of November in the year 1837, personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for the said county, Rachel Polharmus, a resident of the town of Clarkstown, in the said County, aged seventy eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed July the 4th 1836 and the Act explanitary [explanatory] of said act passed, March the 3d 1837.

That she was married to John Van Orden, who was a Private l(as far as her memory now serves her) during the Revolutionary War and served therein as follows.

That in the month of March in the year 1776 the said John enlisted for three months at Clarkstown in a company whereof Gilbert Cooper was Capt and as she believes in Coln A. Hawks Hays Regiment, and went from Clarkstown aforesaid to New York and was stationed at a place called Bunkers Hill near said City and served there making fortifications for sometime then returned to Nyack and there served for sometime and from thence to Clarkstown where they remained until the term of enlistment as expired.

That early in the month of July in said year, the British having sailed up the Hudson river, and anchored in the Tappan and Haverstraw Boys, the Militia composing the Regiment of Coln A. Hawkes Hay was all ordered out to guard along the said river and at other important places when Capt Hendrick Tenure being a Capt in said Regiment was ordered out with the men composing his company of which said John Van Orden was one, and was stationed to guard along the river at Nyack and continued so to guard (;except those who enlisted in the five months service) until late in the month of November except by permission some at a time was permitted to go home for a day or two at a time and the said John did serve not less than three months and a half.

That in the latter part of the following winter or early in the spring the year 1777, the company of Capt Tenure was put into classes of four men in each so that each man had to serve the one fourth part of his time in actual duty or get a substitute in his place that the [?] guarding might be performed and the domestic concerns not altogether neglected. That guards, in small companies was kept at different places, along the Hudson river, from Snedens Landing to stony Point at Haverstraw at the long and short cloves at Clarkstown at Sickletown at [Nanico?] at Tappan town and in the State of New Jersey as Closter, Selralenburgh and at the Liberty Pole, and that the said John did serve, not less than one week in each and every four weeks, from early in the spring until in the winter, guarding at one or other of the above named places, or moving from one station to the other and served not less than two months in weekly tours as aforesaid.

That early in the spring in the year 1778 the said John Van Orden by the orders of his aforesaid Capt did serve performing his tours of duty as aforesaid, serving until in the winter and served not less than two months in tours as aforesaid.

That in the year 1779 the said John served with the said company at stations and in duty as aforesaid, from early in the spring until winter and served not less than two months in weekly tours.

That in the year 1780 the said John served under the said Capt Ternure or some one of his under officers from early in the spring until winters, service duty and stations as aforesaid and served not less than two months in weekly tours.

That in the year 1781 the said John served under his said officers, duty and stations as aforesaid from early in the spring until winter and served not less than two months in weekly tours as aforesaid.

That in the year 1782 the said John did serve from sometime in the spring of the year until the month of September in duty and stations as aforesaid, and served not less than one month in weekly tours.

That as to the services of the said John Van Orden, by her above set forth that part performed previous to their marriage is stated from information received from the said John, but the part performed after their marriage if she could now set forth the time he was absent from home, and as she believes out on actual; duty she is confident it would far exceed the time by her set forth as the service done by him during the years, 1780, 1781, & 1782.

That she has no documentary evidence is supported of her claim and the annexed testimony is all she at this late period can offer to support the same.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Van Orden by the Revd Samuel Verbryck on the last of September or the first of October in the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine, not having any record thereof. Her memory is not sufficient to enable her to state the day or exact month, that her husband, the aforesaid John Van Orden, died on the thirty first day of August, in the year seventeen hundred and ninety seven; that she was afterwards married to Abraham Polhamus, who died on the twenty fifth day of December, in the year eighteen hundred and thirty one and that she is a widow on the 4th of July 1836 and still remains a widow, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed. (Signed with her mark)
Rachel Polhamus

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written in open court.
Abraham Hogenkamp, Clerk of said court.