

Pension Application for Jacob Countryman

S.43339

State of New York

Schoharie County SS.

On the 17th day of September 1819, before me the subscriber, one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County of Schoharie, personally appeared Jacob Countryman aged fifty-four years & upwards, resident in the Town of Middleburgh in the County of Schoharie aforesaid who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late Act of Congress entitled "An Act to Provide for Certain Persons Engaged in The Land and Naval Service of The United States in The Revolutionary War".

That he the said Jacob Countryman enlisted for the time of during the war on the same day that the town of Esopus in this state was burnt by the enemy. The day and year he does not now recollect, that he enlisted in the town of Marbletown in the County of Ulster in this state, in the company commanded by Captain John Graves (1) of the Regiment commanded by Col. Philip Courtlandt (2) in the Line of the State of New York on the Continental Establishment.

That he continued to serve in the said corps in the said regiment but on the resignation of Capt. Graves he was transferred to Capt. Pells (3) company in the service of the United States until the end of the war when he was honorably discharged from the service in Newburgh in the State of New York, that the whole period of his service from the time he first enlisted until he was discharged was five years (4) and four months.

That he had a written discharge signed by General George Washington, that he left it with his mother when he came out of the army but what has since become of it he does not know, that he was in three battles, the first was with the Indians and Tories at Oriskany, (5) the second was at the taking of Cornwallis at Yorktown (6) and the last was on the lines in Virginia and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support, that he has no other evidence of his said services but believes that his name is on the list at Washington and therefore will be sufficient to prove the same.

Herm. Bouck.

I, Hermanus Bouck Judge as aforesaid do certify that it appears to my satisfaction that the said Jacob Countryman did serve in the Revolutionary War as stated in the preceding declaration against the common enemy for the time of nine months at one time on the Continental Establishment and I now transmit the recordings and testimony taken and had before me to the Secretary of the Department of War, pursuant to the directions of the aforementioned Act of Congress. I am also satisfied that he needs the assistance of his country for support.

Herm. Bouck.

State of New York

County of Schoharie SS.

On this eighth day of June 1820, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the said County of Schoharie, Jacob Countryman, aged, Fifty-four years, resident in the Town of Middleburgh in said county who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows.

He enlisted in the Town of Marbletown, in the County of Ulster, in a company Commanded by Capt. Pell, in Colonel Courtlandt's Regiment of the New York Line the time of enlistment he does not distinctly recollect and that he received a pension certificate under the Act of Congress of the 18th March 1818. Said certificate was dated the twelfth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen N15.361.

And I solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818. And that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of any property or any part thereof, with intent thereby to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of congress entitled, "An Act to Provide for Certain Persons Engaged in The Revolutionary War", passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts in trust for me, nor has any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed and by me subscribed.

The said Jacob Countryman declares that he has no estate, real or personal, except his clothing, he has no money nor debts due to him, that he has no trade or occupation only as a common laborer. That he has for several years labored for his board and clothing and at present he is not able to labor sufficient to clothe himself comfortably. He has no family at present he has been married but his wife has deserted him several years ago.

(his mark) Jacob Countryman

Sworn in open court

June 8th 1820 before John Swant, Clerk.

Letter in the pension application dated November 11, 1924.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.43339, it appears that Jacob Countryman enlisted in Marbletown, Ulster County, New York, in 1777 and served as a private in Captains John Graves and Pell's Company, Colonel Philip VanCortland's New York Regiment, he was in the battles of Oriskany and taking of Cornwallis (7) and served five years and four months.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 17, 1819, while a resident of Middleburgh, Schoharie County, New York Aged fifty-four years.

In 1820, soldier referred to his wife, but did not state her name or age. There is no further family data on file.

Owing to a lack of clerical force available for such a purpose, only two reports are furnished each inquirer.

You or anyone designated by you, may examine and collect data from such claims, by calling at the Bureau. This is the usual practice.

End Notes—S.43339—Jacob Countryman

1. There was not a Captain John Graves serving in any of the New York Continental Regiments.
2. Jacobus or James enlisted on or about February 9, 1779, in Captain Charles Graham's Third Company in Colonel Philip VanCortlandt's Second New York Continental Regiment. In July of 1780 he is transferred to Captain Samuel T. Pells' Fourth Company in Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment. In January of 1781 he is transferred to Captain Jonathan Hallet's Third Company in Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment. He remained with this company until he was discharged in June of 1783. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series

M-246, Roll 67, Folder 26, (Graham's Company) Roll 68, folder 27 (Hallet's Company) and Roll 68, folder 29, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

3. Captain Pell was appointed Captain of the Fourth Company on November 21, 1776 which is when all the officers were appointed for the Second New York of the "third establishment".
4. Jacobus claims to be 54 years of age in 1819 which means he was born in 1765. As Kingston was burnt in October 1777 that would make him only 12 years in 1777 which means he would have been a fifer or drummer but there is no record of him before February of 1779 in the muster rolls or payrolls of this regiment.
5. The Battle of Oriskany was fought on August 6, 1777. He does not explain anywhere in his pension application how he could have been at Oriskany since he stated he lived in Marbletown, Ulster County. To have been at Oriskany he would have had to have been in the Mohawk Valley at the time. The Second New York was at Saratoga under Major General Philip Schuyler and did not come to the Mohawk Valley until after Oriskany as part of Major General Benedict Arnold's relief column which was sent to relieve or lift the siege of Fort Schuyler once called Fort Stanwix.
6. The Yorktown, Virginia, campaign was from September 28 to October 19, 1781. There were several skirmishes during this time period.
7. If Jacob had enlisted as early as 1777 he failed to mention being at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania during the winter of 1777-1778, the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, which was fought on June 28, 1778, and the Second New York which was part of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign of 1779 against the Iroquois Villages in Western New York. There was one major battle during this campaign, the Battle of Newtown (now Elmira, N.Y.) and it was fought on August 29, 1779.