

Pension Application for Jacob Cous

S.12587

State of New York

County of Dutchess SS.

On this 21st day of March personally appeared before me Stephen Thorn Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Dutchess Jacob Cous a resident of the town of Milan in the County of Dutchess and State of New York aforesaid aged eighty two years and upwards 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.

This deponent or declarant Jacob Cous says that he was born in the town of Livingston in the County of Columbia and State of New York was christened as he believes in Staatia in said town of Livingston commonly called the Church of Linlithgo is son of Johntice Couse of Mayout his wife this deponents father moved into the County of Dutchess where this deponent resided during the revolution. This deponent says that he was drafted to march to White Plains in Westchester County he believes this deponent hired one John Gage gave him a gun and twenty shillings in money for one months service said Gage went and performed the service this deponent things this was in 1776 at the next draft this deponent was again drafted for one month hired one Strowbridge gave him a blanket and some money but can't say how much. At the next draft this deponent was again drafted and this deponent hired another man for one month this deponent thinks he was drafted three times in the same season.

After this deponent was drafted for the third time one Lieutenant VanBenschoten from Fishkill came round recruiting. Deponent was drafted for nine months to serve under George Head as Captain. Deponent thinks John Rouse was Lieutenant John Gage was orderly Sergeant this deponent then hired a substitute during the war hired one John Hubbard who served six years until discharged. This deponent paid said John Hubbard one hundred and one dollars in cash this deponent things this was the forepart of 1777—at the taking of Stoney Point at or near the Highlands this deponent was one who was called out and went down to the Highlands lay near Fort Montgomery where the road from Fort Montgomery intersected the old post Road near the Hudsons River.

This deponent was under the command of Captain George Head and also under Colonel Graham who commanded the Dutchess County Regiment to which this deponent belonged all who could bear arms were called out at this time and as this deponent believes this was in June 1777 this deponent remained with the militia until they were discharged this deponent lay in the Highlands about ten days this deponent lay a part of the time at Fishkill saw General George Clinton in the Highlands and also at Fishkill this deponent thinks that General McDougal commanded the Continental troops in the Highlands that lay there with the Militia and General Clinton commanded the Continental troops who lay at Fishkill and this deponent recollects that all the militia troops were called up as this deponent believes on a Sabbath day and were informed by their commanding officers that a service would be preached by the Chaplain of the Continental troops and that all in the Militia might go and hear the preaching this deponent went and others and as this deponent thinks and believes the name of the Chaplain was Chancey Graham.

This deponent was again called out a second time on an alarm and marched to Fishkill this was in the Summer of 1777 as this deponent believes remained on duty with the militia in the service of the United States during the year 1776 at least one month and during the year 1777 at least six months in 1777 this deponent was again

called out on an alarm to march to join the Northern Army at Stillwater in Saratoga just previous to the capture of Burgoine this deponent went under the command of the said George Head above mentioned—as captain—was discharged before arriving to the place of destination after coming home an alarm came that the british were ascending the River in their shipping and Captain Head sent alarm out to this deponent to warn the men of his company to turn out by day light the next morning. This deponent rode all night warning all in the district of the company where this deponent resided and the next day morning this deponent marched under Captain Head down to the river apposite Kingston or Esopus and on coming near the river the British shipping were there seen and on the same day Esopus was burnt.

George head commanded the company in which this this deponent served Samuel Crandle was Lieutenant and Phiny Ferguson was ensign, colonel Graham (Morris Graham) this deponent thinks was also there and Jonathan Landon the Major who commanded the troops who were called out at this time were stationed along the river until the British shipping again descended the River and as this deponent believes the said troops were absent from home on active duty in the United States Service for one month.

This deponent also marched under the command of the said Captain Head in the year 1776 when the tories rose in what was then called the great Nine Partners in the County of Dutchess and at another time when the tories it was said had collected large quantities of powder and ammunition in the East part of said County of Dutchess this deponent was one who volunteered to go in search of it this was in the year 1776 in the spring of the year another time that the tories rose was in the month of August the tories had disarmed all the Whigs in that section of County called the great Nine Partners and this deponent says that he was absent from home on active duty as one of the militia men who was called out a week on each of those expeditions.

This deponent further says that Andrew Bostwick was commissary of the troops who resided at Pine Plains in the County of Dutchess and this deponent performed service in drawing hay and grain to the house of the said commissary and this deponent also carried Hay and flour to the Hudson River to one William Rodley's Landing to put on board of the sloop to convey the same to Fishkill this deponent thinks and verily believes that the service of carrying hay, flour and grain for the troops of the United States in all; amounted to two weeks this was performed in 1777. This deponent thinks some time in the fall or last of August 1777. This deponent would also state a circumstance that took place while this deponent lay in the Highlands he recollects that a scouting party of the American troops returned into Camp with one [Clapp?] and one Carpetner two tories who had been surprised and taken and they were whipped and as this deponent thinks one hundred lashes were inflicted upon each of them.

This deponent says that the active service performed by this deponent by four different substitutes during the American Revolution was six years and three months from 1776 till 1783 or to the time the troops were discharged the amount of money paid out by this deponent in cash and equipment furnished said substitutes was over one hundred and fifty dollars all the said substitutes excepting Stobridge this deponent so informed and believes are dead.

This deponent further says that he has not heard from Stobridge in forty years & therefor cannot say whether he is dead or alive. This deponent further says that the active service this deponent did himself personally as a soldier in the service in the service of the United States as a volunteer in the Militia of the County of Dutchess in the State of New York is as follows one month in the year 1776 as this deponent

thinks in October & November and six months in the year 1777 from the first of April until the middle of November during a part of which time as this deponent thinks in August and what service in not included in the said six months service this deponent took hay grain and flour for the army the six months service this deponent did in the army as a soldier but the [?] this deponent would mention as service also rendered for the United States by this deponent for which this deponent never received any compensation being pressed into the United States Service by the commissary of the American Army.

This deponent would also state that he stood guard during the winter and spring of 1778 to protect the public stores in the County of Dutchess consisting of flour whiskey pork beef and some ammuniton which was deposited in different places through the County of Dutchess generally about 12 or 15 miles from the Hudson River for fear that the British Shipping might come up the river and destroy them as this deponent rendezvoused this deponent patrolled the road four months from the month of April until the month of August the active duty that this deponent did in the year 1778 as a guard and as a patrole was six months this deponent served under Captain George Head who divided his company into different patroles or districts and placed his men by couples upon different sections of roads to stand guard. One Samuel Miller stood guard with this deponent this deponent served under Captain John Rowe and then under George Head as Captain the Lieutenants were Stephen Adsit, then John Rouse and then Samuel Cradele. The insign were Anny Ferguson Captain Head Lieutenant Crandle and Insign Ferguson served the greater part of the war.

The County through which this deponent marched during said war is that part of the state of New York now called the Counties of Dutchess of Putnam of Westchester of Columbia and at the places above mentioned ruing Columbia and at the placed above mentioned during the revolution resided in the town of North East now Pine Plains in the County of Dutchess always went as a volunteer besides sending a substitute as above stated. This deponent served with General McDougals Division or Continental troops in the Highlands also General George Clinton lay at Fishkill and in the Highlands and had command of some of the Continental troops.

This deponent further says that he has no documentary evidence in his possession of services [?] by this deponent as aforesaid this deponent knows of no person who can testify to the services rendered by this deponent who now resides in the neighborhood where this deponent resides or elsewhere unless one Samuel I. Haight may recollect some facts appertaining to the services so rendered by this deponent as above stated and set forth in this deponents declaration and also one Alexander McIntosh of Gallatin Columbia County.

The following interrogatories were propounded to the said declarant Jacob Couse and following answers are hereto annexed. Viz.

1st Question. Where and in what year were you born? Answer. In Livingston Columbia County in the 16th September 1750.

2nd Question. Have you any record of your age, if so where is it? Answer I have none, only my recollection.

3rd Question. Where were you living when called into service. Where have you lived since the revolution, and where do you live now? Answer. I resided at the time of the revolution in North East now Pine Plains in Dutchess County when I was called into service. Since the revolution I have lived six years in the Manor of Livingston in the County of Columbia and the rest of the time I have resided in the town of Milan in Dutchess County upwards of forty years and now resides in Milan.

4th Question. How were you called into service. Were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute? Ans. Whenever I was drafted I hired and sent a substitute as stated in my declaration but as to the person service which I performed I always went as a volunteer.

5th Question. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops were [where] you served; such Continental and Malitia regiments as can you recollect of the general circumstances of your service? Answer. I cannot state them more fully than I have stated the same in this my declaration to which I beg leave to refer.

6th Question. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service? Answer. I never did receive any discharge in writing from any of my officers, but always served until I was duly and properly discharged by my commander.

7th Question. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character to veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. Answer—I would refer to Jacob I. Stall of the town of Milan a merchant & farmer of said town of Milan who knows me intimately and has known me for upwards of thirty years. Also would I refer to Jacob Shook Esquire of said town of Milan who is Postmaster of Shook Ville Post office in said town of Milan in the County of Dutchess and to one Samuel I. Haight also of said town of Milan who have known this deponent for a great many years and who have known the character of this deponent and can state what this deponents character is if called on and their belief as to the services rendered by this deponent as a soldier of the American Revolution. This deponent would also refer to one Alexander McIntosh of the town of Gallatin in the County of Columbia who has known this deponent for at least sixty years and who can state something of the services rendered by this deponent.

This deponent further says that there is no minister of the pulpit residing in the immediate neighborhood of this deponent now in the said town of Milan to whom this deponent can refer.

This deponent 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) Jacob Cous

Sworn & subscribed this 21st day of March 1833 before me. Stephen Thorn
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Dutchess & State of New York aforesaid.