

## **Pension Application for Reuben DeForest or DeFrees**

S.17380

State of Connecticut

County of Fairfield SS. County Court April Term 1826

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April AD 1826, personally appeared in open court, the same being a court of Record Reuben DeForest alias DeFrees, (so customarily called) OF NEW Canaan in said County aged seventy three years 14<sup>th</sup> Dec last, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on such his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 & the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820, that he the said Reuben enlisted for and during the term of nine months, sometime in the spring (the forepart of April as he thinks) in the year 1777 at PoundRidge in the County of West Chester and State of New York in the company commanded by Capt. Platts (Christian name forgotten) in the Regiment commanded by Col. Holmes (James Holmes as he thinks who afterwards deserted to the enemy in the line of the State of New York on the Continental Establishment, that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the expiration of term of enlistment of the date of which expiration he cannot precisely recollect but is was in very cold weather when he was discharged honorably but his said discharge is lost or mislaid and he doth not now know where it is; he was discharged not far distant from Fishkill on the Hudson river—that his service during said term was at and about Saratoga and in the vicinity of Lake George; & that he has no other evidence in his possession or power of his said service that the depositions of John Fancher and Joseph Munroe hereto annexed that soon after his said discharge (the time not now precisely recollected) he again enlisted for the term of four months in a company of which Nathaniel Webb was Capt. tho in consequence of sickness he did not take the actual command Sylvanus Knapp was Lieut & had the active command during which second enlistment he served at or near the City of New York—

That about the month of May of the year before the peace he again enlisted for the term of five months in a company commanded by Capt. Hunt (Christian name not recollected) in the regiment commanded by Col. Wiesenfeldt (Christian name not recollected) in the line of the State of New York (as he believed) on the continental service (as he believes). That he served during the said term of five months at Saratoga, Fort Edward & Lake George & in their vicinity, that after s'd term was expired (the particular time not recollected) he was honorably discharged near TarryTown on the said Hudson river, but his said discharge is now mislaid or lost & he knows not where it is. That he has no to her evidences of his said services last mentioned than the said Depositions above mentioned—

That he is in indigent circumstances and has need of aid form his country for support; and the Declarant doth on his oath declare that he has been by occupation a labourer by days work—that he is now and for the greater part of sixteen years last part has been from lameness in his foot (occasioned by the falling of a cannon ball thereon which in said service at New York) and from general debility unable to labour—that he has a wife named Hannah aged seventy three—has had sixteen

children of whom ten are now living (viz) Huldah Mills, Sally Crofoot, namcy Scofield, Susan Blanchard, Polly Hoyt, Patty Hoyt, Abigail DeForest, Hezekiah DeForest, Selleck DeForest & Elizabeth DeForest the last of whom lives with the Declarant & is from 38 to 40 years of age—there are two older than she & the rest are younger but their several ages this declarant is unable to state with certainty—Abigail the youngest is aged about twenty five – that neither has s'd children nor his other relations are of ability to support him or aid in his support & in pursuance of the act of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of march 1818 & that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it, or to bring myself within the provisions of an 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 passed the 18<sup>th</sup> of march 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed & by me subscribed & that I am now indebted to about the amount of twenty dollars. (Signed with his mark) Reuben DeForest.

New Canaan, April 17, 1826

The following is an Inventory of all the Estate of Reuben DeForest of the Town of New Canaan County of Fairfield and State Connecticut except necessary bedding & clothing to wit.

2 acres of land \$50.00  
1 Dwelling house 25.00  
2 Tables 1.25  
1 chest 0.50  
1 cupboard 2.00  
4 chairs 0.50  
1 large Wheel 0.62  
1 small wheel 0.50  
1 reel 0.25  
1 wash tub 0.25  
2 Dinner Pots 1.00  
1 frying pan 0.50  
2 Trammels 0.75  
1 pair tongs 0.40  
1 pair andirons 0.70  
9 plates 0.37  
3 bowls 0.15  
7 cups & saucers 0.12  
2 tin cups 0.13  
3 tin basins 0.30  
1 ½ gallon jug 0.25

1 stone pot 0.25  
1 earthen pot 0.06  
3 earthen platters 0.18  
1 tin pail 9.12  
1 wooden pail 0.12  
1 tea kettle 0.37  
1 axe 0.25

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\$86.73

Subscribed & sworn to in open court. (Signed with his mark) Reuben DeForest

Letter in folder dated April 12, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

You are furnished herein the record of Reuben DeForest alias DeFrees, as found in the appears on file in pension claim S.17380, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

Reuben DeForest was born December 14, 1752, in Stamford, Connecticut; the names of his parents are not given.

Reuben DeForest resided during the entire period of the Revolutionary War in Stamford, Connecticut. He volunteered at Poundridge, Westchester County, New York, about the month of April, in the year in which St. Johns, Canada was taken, served in Captain Jonathan Platt's company, Colonel James Holmes' New York regiment and was discharged at the expiration of service of nine months; he volunteered the next year and served four months in Captain Nathaniel Webb's company, Colonel David Waterbury's Connecticut regiment, and was in New York City at the time of the retreat from that city; he volunteered again at Poundridge, New York, served two months in captain Stevens' company and was in an engagement at Frog's Point with a party of cowboys under Bob [?], during the years 1778 and 1779, he belonged to a company commanded by Captain Charles Smith of Stamford, Connecticut, and served at various times protecting the country in and around Stamford, Greenwich and Rye against the invasions of the cowboys, and on one occasion for the protection of New York City against the enemy, amounting in all to about one year or less, he volunteered and served two months in Captain Rueben Seefield's company of Connecticut troops he volunteered about May 1781, and served five months in Captain Thomas Hanks' company, Colonel Weisenfels' New York Regiment. His entire service was renders as a volunteer.

The soldier continued to reside in Stamford, Connecticut, for [?] after the war then moved to New Canaan, Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Reuben DeForest alias DeFrees was allowed pension on his application executed July 25, 1832, while a resident of New Canaan, Connecticut, where he had been living thirty-four or thirty-five years, and was still living in 8155. He died June 3, 1856.

In 1826, the soldier referred to his wife, Hannah, then aged seventy-three years. The date and place of her birth, maiden name and names of her parents were not

given. He stated that he had had sixteen children, ten of whom were then living: namely, Huldah Mills; Sally Crofat; Nancy Seefield (the relationship of her husband to Captain Reuben Seefield under whom soldier served not stated); Susan Blanchard; Polly Hoyt; Patty Hoyt; Hezekiah DeForest; Selleck DeForest; Elizabeth DeForest who was then aged between thirty-eight and forty years and living with the soldier in New Canaan, Connecticut; and Abigail Forest, the youngest, aged about twenty-five years. The soldier stated that two of the above named children were older than Elizabeth and the rest younger than she, but he did not give their ages, nor state the given names of the husbands of his daughters.