

Pension Application for James Depuy

R.2895

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.
State of New York
Onondaga County SS.

On this 27th day of May 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting at the Court house in the Town of Salina in said County, James Depuy a resident of the town of Salina in the County of Onondaga & State of New York aged sixty nine 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

That during the whole revolutionary war he resided on the frontier settlements in a place called Pien Pack precinct of Mamakating County of Ulster, State of New York, on the Neversink River, that all the inhabitants on that frontier able to bear arms, without regard to age or color were organized into a company of Militia which was commanded by Captain Abraham Cuddeback & Lieutenants King & Harding & Ensign Samuel Depuy the said Captain & Ensign then lived on that frontier & said Lieutenant's under about five miles northeast over the Shawangunk Mountains, that in the year 1777 & 1778 the said company were called upon while their families yet lived in the woods & mountains to build forts for their said safety & built a fort on some river around the house of an Ezekiel Gumaer & was called Fort Gumeer, this was in 1777 & another fort was also built around the house of Benjamin Depuy a mile higher up the river, and was called after his name, which was burnt by the Tories & Indians in October 1778 & was again [a line is blurred] about the same time [blurred] Fort [Dewitt?] was built about two miles above Fort Gunaer including the house and buildings of Cap.t Jacob R. DeWitt.

That the declarant was enrolled in Captain Cuddeback's company which was constant & regular in doing guard duty in said Forts from the time they were erected as aforesaid, till the war closed in 1783. That said period declarant answered to daily roll call in said company & stood his turn on guard patrolling & watching the enemy—that declarant also assisted in making said Forts early & late—that said company depended on themselves for their own safety & protection, during that entire period, excepting in summer time when they were sometimes assisted by Nine months men from the east—

That in 1777 they were there & were commanded by Captain Dewitt as the declarant believes--& his subalterns were John English & one Bull—that in 1778 Capt. John Newkirk came there with a detachment of the Nine months men, stationed at Fort Dewitt where the declarant then was also stationed & remained nearly all summer—that the year following 1779 the Nine months men were commanded by Captain Wood & there was two Serjeants by the names of Cassidy & Ingalls—that the

nine months captains took command when they were there & Captain Wood furnished the declarant with a gun & cartridge box—

That Captain Cudeback's company was paraded regularly with the nine months men, answered to roll call & too their turn on guard night & day, with them & were furnished with rations in the same way with them all the time any of them were there.

That declarant was stationed at Fort Depuy from the time it was built till it was burnt in Oct 17678, & on the same day he was ordered with the other men that were herewith out to Fort Dewitt where he remained till Fort Depuy was rebuilt in the spring of the year 1780, when he returned & remained at Fort Depuy till the end of the war—

The declarant further states that he was so confined to military duty as aforesaid, that he but very seldom did, or attempted to do any other business for the five last years of the War of the revolution & when he did go into the field he worked with his arms in his hand or at his side.

That he has no documentary evidence.

That the declarant was in no battle excepting when the enemy attacked, carried & burnt Fort Depuy as aforesaid from which the garrison escaped to Fort Dewitt, which was attacked by the same Tories & Indians, with great [?] but they assisted & went in pursuit of the hogs & cattle destroying & carrying away the same & before they went away they found & killed four or five of the neighbors whose names declarant now recollects.[sic Probably means he does not recollect the names.]

The declarant further states that he was born in PienPack aforesaid, that he has no bounty & does not recollect that any body has told him the year that he was born in but according to his best information he calls himself seventy years old & has so little knowledge of such that he cannot [?] & tell the year he was born—he has no record of his age.

That he lived in PienPack when he entered the service and removed then into the Town of Pompey in the County of Onondaga & has lived in Pompey, Manilus & Salina [blurred] ever since. That he is [two lines blurred] to the officers already named the declarant names Lieutenant Steward and Col. Newkirk who was some time on that frontier & was in Fort Dewitt when the enemy attacked it.

He never received a written discharge from the service. That declarant further states that there is no clergyman acquainted with him, that can certify as to his character as a revolutionary soldier, that he can procure without great trouble & expense if at all but he give the names of Hiram Gilbert, Burnet Depuy & Cornelius Wallace as person in his recent neighborhood to whom he has been known for more than twenty years and who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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 with his mark) James Depuy

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. R. L. Hess, Clerk of Onondaga County.