

Pension Application for James Depuy

R.2894 Let. D.T. Moseley 27 Apl 1833. The declaration gives the information that the applicant was a slave in the Revolutionary War, and as slaves were not bound to do militia duty, this applicant is not entitled to the benefit of the Act of June 7, 1832.

At a Court of Chancery held for the State of New York at the village of Onondaga, in the County of Onondaga on the eleventh day of September one thousand eight hundred & thirty two: –

Present: Daniel Moseley, Vice Chancellor of the Seventh Circuit: –

Personally appeared James Depuy, a colored man of the Town of Salina in the County of Onondaga, aged sixty seven 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.—

He was born in the town of Mamakating in the County of Sullivan, New York, December 25, 1764—He has no record of his age in his possession & does not know that there is any—

He was brought up in Mamakating and lived there through the war. he was then the property of Elias Gumear, & after the war he was sold to Benjamin Depuy, the father of John & Benjamin Depuy who are now living. About three years afterwards he was sold to Jacobus Depuy & obtained his liberty about twenty years ago.

During the Revolutionary War he was one of those who kept guard on the frontiers on the Neversink River. He assisted to build Fort Depuy about a mile below Dewitt's Fort. He was frequently stationed as a sentry on some of the hills around the Fort & as frequently employed in scouting parties in the woods.

He recollects that Brandt with a party of Tories & Indians made an attack on fort Depuy & Fort Dewitt. On his approach all who were in Fort Depuy left it to go to Fort Dewitt. He went before across the fields & pulled down the fences so that our party might pass through with their waggons as they were afraid of being attacked if they went by the road. They shut themselves up in the Fort having left the waggons on the outside. Brandt's party—approached the Fort & commenced firing. Brandt himself advanced in front of his party & set fire to a bar about a hundred yards from the fort. They stayed about two hours. To persons were killed in the Fort, but there were some killed outside. They burned Fort Depuy, killed a number of cattle & hogs & destroyed considerable property.

Capt. Wood afterwards came to Fort Dewitt & made him a present of a musket & cartridge box. He recollects that a party of the Tories afterwards attacked the settlements farther down the River, where they did a great deal of injury to houses, cattle & other property. He was not engaged in other actions after this, but for some years & until the end of the war, he was constantly engaged with the others at the Fort in keeping guard & in scouring the woods & keeping off the Indians & Tories. Occasionally he was employed on the farm, but was generally engaged in the service at the fort or in the woods—He cannot now recollect the exact time of his service but it was between four or five years.

Since he has obtained his liberty he has lived in the Towns of Manlius & Pompey in Onondaga Co. & now lives in the Town of Salina. He has no property & supports himself by day labor.

He has no documentary evidence in his possession of his services & John & Benjamin Depuy & Cornelius Wallace are the only persons living who can testify to his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Signed) James Depuy

Subscribed & sworn this 11th day of September 1832 before me. Daniel Moseley, Circuit Judge.