

## **Pension Application for Benjamin Force**

F.3649

State of New York

County of Dutchess SS.

On this twenty ninth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas of Dutchess County, Benjamin Force a resident of the Town of Dover in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York aged eighty two 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the militia of the State of New York in the Town of Beekman in Dutchess County in the fall of the 1766 as he believes is sure it was the year before the capture of the army of General Burgoine, that he went in the company of Militia commanded by Capt. Gideon Hall, Taber Bentley, Lieut. In the segment commanded by Col. William Humphrey to the Town of Fishkill where he was employed in guarding the military stores there deposited where he remained two weeks and was there dismissed.

That in the next year 1777 he went in the same militia company to the Village of Peekskill on the Hudson river in the County of West Chester was there at four different periods during that year, once under the command of Capt Gideon Hall once under the command of Capt Francis West and twice under the command of Capt. Daniel Uhle, that the company to which he belonged was attached to a regiment commanded by one Col. Brinkerhoff—that General Putnam had the chief command that he was engaged two weeks at each of the times above mentioned.

That he was released or dismissed the day after the capture of Fort Montgomery—he then returned home but was immediately recalled to Fishkill where he remained in the same company until after the enemies shipping passed up the Hudson and returned in which service he was employed two weeks he was then dismissed and returned home—

In the month of June 1778 he marched in the company commanded by Capt. Daniel Uhle in the regiment of Col. Henry VanDerBergh in the New York State militia by order of General George Clinton to the Village of Poughkeepsie where he was employed in guarding the jail one month and two days and was then dismissed—That early in the fall of the same year he was employed one month in the same company of militia in the regiment of the said Col. Henry VanDeBurgh in guarding the Continental stores deposited at the sore of said Col. VanDeBurgh in the Town of Beekman in Dutchess County was then dismissed.

That in the spring and summer of the year 1777 he enlisted in a company of engineers commanded by Capt. Joohn Matchin and was employed in that company one month in getting timber for and building a cheval de frise across Hudson river below West Point he was there discharged and returned home.

That in the fall of the year 1778 he marched in a company of the said Capt. Daniel Uhle Taber Bentley Lieut. Commandant to the Village of Fishkill in which

service he was engaged two weeks, in guarding the publick [public] or continental stores deposited at Fishkill barracks was then dismissed and returned home—

That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection and belief he is certain he served not less than the following periods and all the time he served in the war of the revolution he served as a private in the militia except when he served in the engineer company commanded by Capt. John Matchin viz in the company of Capt. Gideon Hall at one time two weeks in the company of Capt. Gideon Hall at another time two weeks—in the company of Capt. Francis West two weeks twice in the company of Capt Daniel Uhle at Peekskill four weeks.—

In the company of the said Capt. Uhle at Fishkill immediately afterwards two weeks,—In the company of the said Daniel Uhle at Poughkeepsie one month—In the same company of Capt. Uhle at Col. VanDerBergth's in Beekman one month. In the company of engineers Capt. Matchin at the cheval de fries one month – at Fishkill barracks guarding the publick stores under the said Capt DanielUhle two weeks.

That he was born in the Town of Beekman Dutchess County and State of New York on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Jan 1753 that he lived in that town till the year 1789 when he went to reside in the County of Saratoga in the same state was then a number of years when he removed in the County of Washington in the State of New York—from there he removed to the County of Ulster in the same state and from into the County of Dutchess in Beekman where he was born and has lived there ever since until the last four years since which time he has lived in the Town of Dover in Dutchess County within about two miles of the place where he was born.

That a record of his age is contained in a family bible left by his father and now in possession of the said Benjamin.

That he does not know any person who was acquainted with his revolutionary services except Benjamin Albro and Peter g. Emigh of the Town of Union Vale in Dutchess County who have made affidavits of what they know relative to the same.

That there is no clergyman in the vicinity where he resides with whom he is acquainted and that he is unable to procure the attendance in Court of any witness who was acquainted with his services during the war of the regulation—that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state and he hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension except the present. (Signed) Benjamin Force

[?] subscribed in open court Sept. 30, 1834. Henry Travers, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Dutchess, State of New York.