

Pension Application for Benjamin Gunsolley
(Donated by Mark Hendrickson)

New York (R.4,389)

State of New York

County of Ontario ss. John Van Auken of Phelps Ontario County & State aforesaid being duly sworn deposes and says that he is Eighty four years of age, that in the time of the Revolution he was a Resident of Northampton County State of Pennsylvania & on the Banks of the Delaware River. That he was in the service of the United States during said Revolution as will appear by his papers on file in the War Department. That he is a Pensioner of the United States for said service.

That he is well acquainted with Benjamin Gunsolley an old man, now a Resident of the County of Shiwassee State of Michigan & has been acquainted with said Gunsolley ever since & During the Revolutionary War. That in the time of the said Revolutionary War, the said Benjamin Gunsolley lived on the New York side of the Delaware River in the County of Orange, it being then upon the then Indian Frontier, which was the most of the time of the Revolution infested by Indians. That at one time during said War, he saw the said Gunsolley in the Fort Called Kuykendalls Fort on the said Delaware River doing duty as a Soldier. Saw him Several times doing duty as a soldier during the said War. That he understood that the prominent Officers who commanded the militia to which said Gunsolley belonged was Capt William Westfall & also one Capt Moses Cortright, there being at that time Several picket Forts or Block Houses erected for the protection of the Inhabitants on said Frontier & that all the able bodied militia were more or less in actual service during said War. That the said Gunsolley was a good & faithful soldier & served as a private soldier but in what Regiment he could not state nor can he state what the name of the Col was, he could not state the precise years or the months, or the number of months or years the said Gunsolley served as aforesaid. But as near as he can now Remember the said Gunsolley was like the deponent & most of the inhabitants in actual service in said Revolutionary War, the whole time of the Continuance thereof.

Subscribed and sworn this the 13th day of

May AD 1851 Before me

John Van Auken

William Hildreth Justice of the peace of Ontario County

State of Michigan

Shiawassee County ss. On this 4th day of Jun AD 1851 before the County Court for Shiawassee County being a Court of Record personally appeared in open court Benjamin Gunsolley of Caledonia in said county aged Ninety two years who being duly sworn and examined in and by said Court makes the following declaration in order to obtain the Benefits of the act of Congress passed in 1832 for granting Pensions to certain officers and soldiers who served in the war of the Revolution

That at the commencement of the Revolutionary war he resided near a place called "Mamacating" in the County of Orange in the State of New York

That previous to the declaration of Independence he was enrolled in the company of militia or state troops commanded by Captain William Westfall in the Regiment commanded by Col Levi Paulding

That during the whole of the war of the Revolution he continued a member of said company and was in actual service at the times and in the manner herein after stated

That during the summer season, viz. from the first of april in each and every year from & including the year 1776 until and during the year 1780 he was in actual service until late in the fall a term of eight months or about that as a member of said company

That his said services was as one of a scouting party organised in each year for the purpose of guarding the lines against the hostile Indians

That the "lines" so guarded extended from a place called "Napanee" to "Lurenkill" a distance of twelve miles in the County of Orange

That said scouting parties were not under the imediate command of said Captain Westfall but usually under the direction of inferior officers or other persons called "guides" who were well acquainted with the Country and the habits and manner of warfare of the Indians

That during the two first seasons said party was under the direction of James Chambers & John Stage as "guides" That after this other men of the party acted as guides that Anthony Van Auken Harman Rosecrants Garret Van Auken David Cuibec Elias Cuykendall William Cox William Ellsworth John Ellsworth Roswell Goff & John Goff were amongst the men that were engaged with him in said service

That during the said eight months or about that in each year he was he was in actual service all the time

That he engaged in no other business and did no other business during the time above stated

That from about the month of December to the month of April following in each year he remained at home there being then no danger from the Indians as was supposed He further says that during the said war he was in the Battle of "Mannesink at Beaver Brook" with the Indians under Brant

That he saw Col Tustan in said Battle who was killed in said Battle that he saw said Col Tustan lying dead on the ground that he also knew Captain Tyler who was also killed

That about the first of April 1781 he went again into service and was stationed in the fort at Paramus or Haverstraw and continued to Serve there in said Fort until the fourteenth day of November 1781 a term of seven and a half months. that he was discharged this year soon after the news of the taking of Corwallis was received That he received a written discharge from this term of service signed by Col Levi Paulding (which said discharge was written by Sergeant Thomas Murphy)

That during this term of Service he was under the command of Capt Moody of the regular army who had the command of said Fort, that he was drafted at this time to serve at said Fort

That his house was burned about eighteen years ago and his said discharge and all his other property therein was destroyed. That he did not Scout any during this term of service, that he served all the time as a private soldier. That he has now no discharges or other evidence of his service except the affadavits of those who saw him and the affadavits of those who have long known him and understood him to have been in service

That a great many years ago he applied to a lawyer to get a pension for him but was told that he could not get one unless he would make oath that he was worth no property, that he was not willing to make said oath and gave up all idea of making application, that it is not many years since he was first informed that a law had been passed to give him a pension, that he was then old and had no one to take an interest in the matter untill lately when he came to live with his son James Gunsolley who has undertaken to get it for him

He relinquishes all claim to a pension except the present and hereby declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any State or Territory

Sworn to in open Court the day
& year first above written
Ebenezer F. Wade Clerk

witness
E Gould

his
Benjamin X Gunsolley
mark