

Pension Application for David How

S.23706

State of New York

Saratoga County SS.

On this sixth day of September in the year 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Saratoga in the State of New York now sitting David How a resident of the town of Ballston in the said County aged seventy 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officer & served as herein stated.

He was born in the town of Poundridge in the County of Westchester in the State of New York September 27th 1761. He has no record of his age. He is known to the Captain Nathaniel Booth. The Reverend Reuben Sears, James Thompson first Judge, Guert VanSchoonhoven & Town of Ballston where he resides who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. The has resided in Ballston aforesaid ever since the year 1773 where he now resides.

His first military service was in the autumn of the year 1778 when he was ordered out on an expedition to Palmertown Mountain in the said County of two weeks to man the garrison which was kept there to defend the frontier. He marched under the command of Capt. Stephen White who was a Captain of Militia in the Regiment commanded by Cool. James Gordon (afterwards a Representative in Congress) Jacobus VanSchoonhoven, Lieut Colonel; & served in the garrison two weeks when he was dismissed without a written discharge by said Captain White who then had command of the garrison. He & his associates were discharged upon being relieved by other drafts or volunteers of the militia.

His second tour of service was in the same autumn of the year 1778 or the occasion of an alarm on the frontier when he volunteered under the command of said Lieut. Col. Jacobus VanSchoonhoven and marched to Stone Arabia on the Mohawk River opposite Fort Plain, where he remained under said command until the alarm was over. He was absent from home on this expedition about fourteen or fifteen days. His Lieutenant was Epenitus White (afterwards Judge White of Ballston deceased). He was dismissed at Stone Arabia without a written discharge & ordered to return home, by the Lieut. Col. commanding.

His third tour of service was in the autumn of the year 1780 when Ballston was burnt by the expedition of the British & Indians from Canada.

Col. Gordon was taken prisoner & carried to Canada. Isaac Stow was killed near Col. Gordon's house. All the Whigs able to bear arms in Ballston were called out to pursue the enemy. He the said David How & others volunteered & marched in pursuit to the Sacondaga Mountains near Lake Desolation where he & his associates met several prisoners returning home who had been dismissed by the British on account of their inability, through age & infirmity to march or retreat. These

dismissed prisoners, three of whom were Pearson, Kennedy, & Sprague (the latter a man of eighty years old) brought from Col. Gordon directions to the party in pursuit of which the said How was one, not to continue the pursuit, but to return to Ballston as the British officers had put the prisoners captured at Ballston into the custody of the Indians with orders to kill them if they should be attacked.

The said How & his associates were ordered back & returned to Ballston. The said How was under the command of Major Swits of Schenectady who was stationed with a body of militia from that place, at the meeting house near Ballston Lake, when Ballston was burnt. On this expedition he was out about one week.

The fourth term of service was in the year 1781. In the spring of that year he enlisted for nine months into the company of Capt. Stephen White in Col. Marinus Willet's regiment of New York State Troops. John Thornton & William Moore was Lieutenants of the Company.

He the said David How continued to serve in that company & regiment until the full expiration of the said nine months & was discharged at the [Hellebarrack?] in the County of Albany on the 31st day of December 1781 by Lieut. Thornton under whom he had been several days on duty at that place raising wheat by impressment for the army at Fort Plain, Fort Stanwick &c. The wheat was transported to Albany & ground at the Patroon's Mill.

He received no written discharge. During these nine months his service was chiefly on the frontiers at the garrison at Ballston at Fort Herkimer, Fort Plain, & Johnstown.

He was in the battle of Johnstown, where his Capt. Stephen White was taken prisoner & carried to Canada, Major Rowley & Capt. Clark were wounded & several privates were killed.

Fiftly. In the Spring of the year 1782 he was employed as an Indian Spy to guide a corps of three years men under the command of sergeant William Weed of the Continental Army through the woods on the Northern frontier along the Sacondaga Mountains in search of Indians.

He was recommended to this duty by his militia Major, Andrew Mitchell & volunteered accordingly. He performed this duty to the satisfaction of Sergeant Weed & returned with him to Ballston. He is unable to state precisely the time he was out in this service. It however was not many days.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

(Signed) David How

Sworn to& subscribed in open court the day & hear aforesaid in open court.
Thomas Palmer, Clerk