

Pension Application for Matthias Spencer

S.9483 Dutchess County, Private, Captain Dubois, Col. VanBenschoten, NY Line.

State of New York

Dutchess County SS.

On this twenty sixth day of September one thousand eight hundred & thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Dutchess now sitting Matthias Spencer a resident of Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess and State of New York aged seventy 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that is to say that he enlisted for the term of six months & ten days at Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess & State of New York where this deponent then resided & still resides. That the regiment to which this deponent was attached was command[ed] by Colonel James Clinton, and the names of the officers of the company in which he enlisted were Captain Lewis DuBois, Elias VanBenschoten, First Lieutenant and Andrew Lawrence as Second Lieutenant.

And this deponent saith that the time of his enlistment as above mentioned was in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy six, but he does not recollect the day or month in said year, and this deponent saith that he marched from Poughkeepsie with said company to Albany and there joined said Regiment commanded by Colonel James Clinton, and from Albany said company & regiment marched to Ticonderoga a distance of about one hundred & thirty miles from Poughkeepsie—and this deponent saith that he was taken sick at Ticonderoga and remained there about one month as this deponent believes, and from thence was sent with others that were sick to Lake George until the expiration of his said enlistment and was then discharged and returned home, but this deponent does not recollect that he had any written discharge and if he had the same is lost. And further this deponent further saith that he again enlisted in the year following at Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess & State of New York for the term of six months, in the spring or the forepart of the said year, which said enlistment was under Captain Colby Chamberlain and was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel James Clinton, and from Poughkeepsie aforesaid marched to Fort Montgomery situate on the west side of the Hudson River a distance of about thirty miles—that he remained at the said Fort Montgomery for the term of said six months and did duty as a soldier during said time and was then discharged & returned home but does not recollect whether his discharge was written or not but he has not [?] any discharge in his possession—and this deponent further saith that he afterwards volunteered for the term of three months (but does not recollect the year) and that he went to Fishkill under Captain Israel Vail but the names of the other officers of the company he does not recollect, nor does he recollect the names of any of the field officers at the Barracks – and that he has no documentary evidence of his said service—and 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.

And this deponent further saith, that he was born at Elizabeth Town in the State of New Jersey in the year one thousand and seven hundred & fifty five as he believes—and that I have not any record of my age other than what has been told me and kept by me in memory, and this deponent further saith that since the revolutionary war he has resided in the County of Dutchess and State of New York—and this deponent further saith as to the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served he cannot recollect any further than he has above stated-- And this deponent states the names of Owen Ward and Peter G. Palen of the County of Dutchess as persons known in his neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and the belief of my services as a soldier in the revolution.

(Signed) Matthias Spencer

Sworn to and subscribed this 26th September 1832. Henry I. Traver, Clerk