

### **Pension Application for Herman VanBenscoten**

No guarantees here, this was terrible to read. AJ Berry

S.12180

State of New York

County of Dutchess SS

On this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before Stephen Thorn Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Dutchess Harmon VanBentschoten a resident of Hyde Park in the County of Dutchess and State of New York aforesaid aged seventy five years and upwards 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

This Deponent or Declarant Harmen VanBenschoten says he was born in Stratsburgh now Hyde Park in the County of Dutchess was baptised as he understood in the Rhinebeck Church and was seventy five years old on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August last past

This Deponent lived at Straatsburgh then Rhinebeck during the revolutionary war the first service that this deponent did was under the command of John Harmance as Captain and Andries Hermance as Lieutenant a Mr. Elmendorph was Ensign. Henry Pawling was Orderly Sergeant was called out for three months in 1777 thinks he went about the first of August and remained till the first of November of the same year this deponent was at the VanSchaack's Island. At the time that General Gates took command of the American Army from General Schuyler this deponent marched from this place to Stillwater.

This deponent was in the Battle at Stillwater which took place as this deponent believes sometime in the month of September 1777. The Battle began on the left wing of the American Army, General Arnold commanded the left wing. Colonel Morgan command the rifle corps who did much execution this deponent thinks that a Colonel Sprout and Colonel Sheppard commanded on the right wing. General Gates remained during the engagement at head quarters about one mile from the heights when the skirmish or battle was fought. Burgoin's Camp was distant about two miles from the American's Camp and the Battle was fought on Bemis's [Bemis'] Heights where Burgoin's was not by the American troops. This Deponent understood and believes that the loss of the British in killed and wounded was much more than that of the Americans.

This deponent recollects that there was [?] hot fighting in taking a brass piece thinks it was a thirty six pounder. It was just taken bey the AmericAn troops and retaken by the British and again taken by the Americans and a second time retaken by the British then the Americans took it for the third time and kept it. Deponent recollects that it took four horses to Draw it at Bemis's Heights deponent thinks the Battle commanded on the picket [?] first until the whole of the left wing got engaged the Americans retained their ground the English General Burgoine fell back to his camp. This deponent undertook at that time that one General Frazier who rode a white horse and who was the next active officer Burgoine had under him was killed by

one of Morgan's rifleman and as this deponent understood General Arnold told Colonel Mason to select twelve of his best marksmen to watch the movements of that English Officer stating at the same time that he stood in the way of victory and if he could be removed victory and if he could be removed victory would be certain to the Americans or words to that effect as this deponent understood at the time.

This deponent was at the second battle or engagement forged between the Americans and a part of the enemy at Stillwater. This second Engagement was shortly after the first engagement. General Burgoine retreated with the main army towards Saratoga and left a body of Militia in his camp previous top storming the camp of the Hessians This deponent recollects that Arnold asked some one to save his horse some whiskey or [?] this Deponent replied that he had not got it or he would have. That some one gave this deponent a half pint with a pint bottle filled with rum and it was served [the whole down the throat] of General Arnold's horse he rode was a light brown or a dark bay horse as this deponent thinks.

This deponent says that the Hessians left their Camp the same night after the engagement and the Americans pursued them. This deponent was second Segeant in the company he served. This deponent also recollects that when in pursuit of the retreating enemy towards Saratoga this deponent came up to our baggage wagons which had powder and ammunition on board and stores [?] had been applied but the train had not then taken and this deponent [?] away the coal office and land the baggage which had just been [?] by the King's enemy.

The tour of service performed by this deponent in 1777 was for August till November three months at least.

This deponent further says that he also served in the year 1778 [?] months in the summer & fall of that year went south west of Sopus to Warwick which was burnt by the enemy went to Appanock, Hanek, Cookhouse, Stoney Bridge as this deponent now called them in the County of Ulster what's now called Ulster County this deponent recollects of coming to a home where nine of one family had been butchers by the Indians and only one of such escaped the massacre it was near the Appanock or Napponck Creek, there were four brothers lived there by the name of Boviers.

This deponent served under James Wilson as Captain Henry Pauling as Lieutenant of Dutchess County and this deponent was Sergeant in said Company this deponent believes that Moses Cantine of Espous was Colonel who Commanded this expedition the active duty that this deponent did enter the service of the United States as a volunteer was nine months as this Deponent thinks from the latter part of March until the first of December 1778.

Tour of service in 1778 is 9 months. This Deponent further says that the nature of the service was to guard the Inhabitants in those places above mentioned by this deponent and to repel the attacks of the savages under Butler & Brant as this deponent thinks.

The next service that this deponent did was in 1779 when all were called out including old and young it was then called the calling out of the Silver Grays as many a pig headed soldier vore arms on that occasion which guard the home of silver Grays.

This deponent thinks that that [wic] Colonel Graham commanded that part of the Dutchess County Militia with whom this deponent served and John Hermance was this Deponents captain and Andries Hermance was Lieutenant this Deponent was Second Serjeant in said Company during this Expedition. The Deponent lay a part of this time in the Highlands near Fort Montgomery and the Headquarters was at Fishkill this Deponent recollects of seeing the first chain that was placed across the Hudson River near fort Montgomery.

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Recollects seeing how the chain was delivered to keep it in the [top?] of the water it was placed on logs in logs that the timber supported weight of the iron laid one the west shore & as windlass to raise or lower the chain as this deponent supposed. The time that this deponent served in the United States Service is the year 1799 was three months from the middle of June until the middle of September as this Deponent thinks & verily believes he also served from last Sept till first of December 1779.

The term of service in 1779 was 3 months he is certain from middle June till middle of September & he verily believes he served from the last September til the last of Dec 1779. This Deponent further says that in 1780 this Deponent again served in the United States service for nine months volunteered under Captain Edward Cornwall, Lieutenant Henry Pauling, Elias VanBenschoten was colonel & lay with the said troops a part of the time in Brig [?] in little Shendakins at a place called [Scotatootte?] also in part of Delaware County by the nine months as aforesaid to protect the inhabitants from the Indians and Tories and British who were burning and destroying all the unprotected villages of County and State regions west of the Hudson River.

In the service in 1780 was 9 months as a volunteer in the Militia in the service of the United States.

This Deponent further says that in 1781 when Cherry Valley was Burnt this deponent then volunteered to go to the northward to Fort Edward and to Fort Ann. This deponents service under Captain John Hermance and as he thinks he served under Captain McGee, Major lay at Fort Edward the greater part of the term. Colonel Livingston was from Livingston's Manor in Columbia County from there deponent marched south to Dobb's Ferry, [?] in the Highlands on the Hudsons River, then marched from the places to Albany and then to Fort Edward lay at Fort Edward six weeks, also lay east of Fishkill about fourteen miles to protect the American stores consisting of sale, flour & other stores, this deponent was Captain of the guard who lay at those stores with twenty four men under him continued there six weeks until the stores were [?] to the Landing or headquarters at [?] that Deponent received a letter from Colonel Livingston to meet the army at Stoney Point this Deponent marched from [?] to Stoney Point according to [?] this deponent recollects that one Fonda as this deponent thinks one Elias Fonda & Peter Fonda of Schenectady, went [?] at Fort Edward for the Regiment who lay there. This deponent further says the term of service of this deponent in the United States service was at [?] three months

and the time expired on the fifteenth of October 1784, therefore this deponent thinks he entered the service this year on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1781.

This deponent further says that he acted as teamster for three weeks at one time in carrying flour from the mills east of Fishkill to headquarters got no pay for this service nor was this deponent under any contracts with government or any other persons and deponent thinks this service was performed in the year 1778 thinks it was in the month of July.

This deponent [?] states that when the general alarms came there were many who turned out who did have arms to [???] were turned into the company called the company of [???] & called out part [???] VerPlanks Point and as nothing was provided for them they all [?????]

The other service that this deponent did was at home on alarms to guard post partly and sometimes to patrol the point sometimes would be on duty for a week and then sometime only one day or a night and discharged at such different intervals and alarms & seasons that he cannot state definitely certain that such service [????] during the years 1777, 1778, & 1779 amounted to three months at each.

This deponent was present at the capture of Burgoine, at Saratoga. Deponent marched through that part of the County now called the Counties of Westchester Putnam Dutchess, Delaware, Albany, Ulster, Delaware, Washington and Greene in the State of New York and to the following services that the said Declarant Harman VanBentschoten he answered as follows.

1<sup>st</sup> Question. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Hyde Park then called [?] in the year 1757 9<sup>th</sup> August 1757.

2<sup>nd</sup> Question. Have you any record of your age and where is it?

Ans. I was baptized in the church in Rhinebeck as stated above I have no other references except my recollection.

3<sup>rd</sup> Question Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolution & where now?

Answer. I lived during the Revolution in Staatsburgh in Dutchess County have always lived then and still do.

4<sup>th</sup> Question. How were you called into service?

Answer I was called as a Militia man I always served for myself and always volunteered.

5<sup>th</sup> Question. State the name of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such [?] as possible, Regiments as you can recollect and the several ;circumstances of your service.

Answer. To the question I answer that I cannot recollect more fully the circumstances attending my service than I have stated them in my declaration and I therefore refer to that for the circumstances and for the names so of the officers required to be answered and this 5<sup>th</sup> question.

6<sup>th</sup> Question did you ever receive a discharge from this service and if so by whom was it given?

Answer. I never received any discharge in writing but served [???] To the direction to State the name of persons to whom you are known in your neighbourhood and who can testify to your character for honesty and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

This deponent says that he believes Jacob Spaunburgh, of Livingston, in the County of Columbia will remember some of the service rendered by this deponent [???] and deponent believes that Jacob Spaunburgh is now living and further would refer to [?] John Polls of [?] who has known this deponent and to said Cornelius VanBenschoten of Gallatte? in Columbia County who has known this deponent for upwards of forty years and this deponent would refer to other persons who know that deponent and recollects what the character of this deponent and can state about the character of this deponent was and this deponent would also refer to the Ignus VanBentschoten that this deponent is a person who can state something about deponent service. This deponent further states that he has no documentary proof or evidence that he can produce. And this Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension of annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Harmon VanBenscoten

Sworn and subscribed the day & year first above written before me. Stephen Thorn Judge &c of the Com Plea Court of Dutchess Co., N.Y.

Letter in folder dated December 7, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.12180, it appears that Harmon VanBenscoten (Pensioned Herman Van Benscoten) was born August 9, 1757 in Staatsburgh, Dutchess County, New York.

While residing in that place he enlisted and served with the New York troops as follows:

From August 1, 1777 until November 1, 1777 as Second Sergeant in Captain John Hermance's Company and was in both battles of Stillwater and at the capture of Burgoyne: from late in March 1778, nine months as Sergeant in Captain James Wilson's Company in Colonel Moses Cantine's Regiment: from the middle of June 1779 three months as Second Sergeant in Captain John Hermance's Company, Colonel Graham's Regiment: from late in September 1779 three months, officers' names not given; in 1780 nine months in Captain Edward Cornwall's company in Colonel Elias VanBentscoten's Regiment; from July 15, 1781 until October 15, 1781 as captain of the Guard under Captains John Hermance and McGee or Magee and Colonel Henry Livingston, and was engaged in protecting American stores. He also served various short tours during 1777, 1778, and 1779, amounting in all to at least three months.

He was allowed pension on his application executed March 23, 1833, at which time he was a resident of Staatsburgh, New York, and he stated that he had always lived there.

There are no data relative to wife and children.

The Revolutionary war records of this bureau fail to afford any information in regard to Hermanus VanBenschoten, and the above noted is the history of the only soldier of similar name that is found on said records.