

**Pension Application for James Van Fleet**  
Donated by Mark Hendrickson

State of New York

County of Cayuga ss. Personally appeared before James Van Fleet of the town of Haight in the County of Alleghany in the State aforesaid after being duly sworn makes oath and says that he is aged Seventy nine years on the fifth day of August last. That he resided in the town of Goshen in the County of Orange in said State of New York during the Revolutionary War. That in the fore part of the Summer of the year 1775 he entered the Service of the United States in a Company of Militia commanded by Capt. Jones, & Lieut. Martiness Decker, and continued in such service for the term of about one month in the building of fortifications at Fort Montgomery on the bank of the Hudson River in the County of Orange. That he again entered the said service early in the winter of the year 1776 or 1777 (which of the two years he can not now recollect) under Capt. Moses Cortright Lieut. Martiness Decker, and Ensign Ephraim Middaugh in the Regt. commanded by Col. Ellison, they marched to Tappan in the State of New Jersey, they were at Tappan when Gen. Washington surprised and captured the Hessians at Trenton. That he continued in said service for the term of about five weeks. That he again entered said service in the Summer of the year 1777 and marched to Ramapo in New Jersey under Capt. Sweesey & Lieut. Tryon, in Col. Gilbert Cooper's Regt. and continued in said service three weeks. That he again entered the service in October 1777 under the command of Capt. Moses Cortright & Lieut. John Van Tuyl, they marched for the purpose of Reinforcing the garrison at Fort Montgomery and arrived too late, the British having captured said Fort before they could arrive there, they then marched to New Windsor on the Hudson River & from thence to Bank's bridge and continued in said service for the term of about three weeks. That in a few days thereafter he again entered the said service and marched to a place called Murderers creek on the Hudson River, and remained in such service about two weeks in building fortifications at Murderers creek, under Lieut. Stuart, the other officers he does not now recollect.

That he again entered the service under the command of Major John Decker early in the Spring of the year 1778 and marched to Sussex in the State of New Jersey to relieve the inhabitants (there) against the Refugees, and continued in said service about one week. And this deponent further saith That from the opening of the spring of the year 1778 to the end of the War the militia in the west part of Orange County were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moments warning and to guard the frontiers against the Indians and that this deponent as also the whole of the Militia aforesaid did so hold themselves in readiness. That he frequently marched with scouting parties (or Indian spies) to the distance of from one to thirty miles. That during the whole of said time from the spring of the year 1778 to the end of the War in each year from the opening of the spring to the beginning of winter this deponent as well as all the other militia in that vicinity carried his gun daily and almost every day under the commands of Lieut. John Van Tuyl, Capt. Wilhelmus Westfall and other officers. That this deponents service was of such a nature that he cannot now tell the precise length of time, but is confident that he did serve at the times and at the several places aforementioned at least three years and for the greater part of that time he was a Sergeant

Subscribed and sworn to this twenty fifth day of Sept. 1832 before me James Vanfleet  
Cornelius Cuykendall Justice of the peace

State of New York

County of Cayuga ss. Henry Van Etten of the town of Sempronius in said County and Daniel Van Fleet and Martin Cuykendall of Owasco in said County each being duly sworn before me the undernamed Justice of the peace of said County severally depose and say, That they were well acquainted with James Van Fleet now residing in the town of Haight in the County of Alleghany, during the Revolutionary war, that they are now well acquainted with him That they resided during the Revolutionary war in the same town and vicinity that said James Van Fleet resided in, that during the revolutionary war they have frequently seen the said James Van Fleet in the service of the United States, that they know that he served as a Sergeant in said service, and these deponents each further state that they have examined an affidavit hereunto annexed and this day made and sworn to before Cornelius Cuykendall a Justice of the peace of Cayuga County and that from the personal knowledge each of these deponents have of most of the facts therein stated the deponents severally believe the facts therein set forth and sworn to by the said James Van Fleet are substantially true

Subscribed and sworn to this twenty  
fifth day of Sept. 1832 before me  
Cornelius Cuykendall Justice of the peace

Henry Van Etten  
Daniel Vanfleet  
Martin Cuykendall

State of New York

Alleghany County ss. On this thirty first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty two, personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County in open Court, James Van Fleet aged seventy nine years, two months and twenty six days, who now resides in the town of Haight in said County of Alleghany & State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, maketh oath in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress, passed June seventh 1832.

That he resided in the town of Goshen in the County of Orange & state aforesaid at the commencement of the Revolutionary war. That in the forepart of the summer of the year 1775, thinks about the commencement of

July, this declarant entered the service of the United States in a Company of Militia commanded by Capt. Jones, who was afterwards killed at Beaver Creek on the Delaware River about the 20<sup>th</sup> of July in the year 1779. Martiness Decker was Lieutenant of the Company, declarant was a volunteer, he was in the service at this time one month, & was employed under Governor George Clinton in the building of fortifications at Fort Montgomery on the bank of the Hudson River in Orange County. That he again entered the service early in the winter of the year 1776 or 1777 (which of the two years he cannot now recollect, but thinks late in the 1776) under Captain Moses Cartwright & Lieutenant Martiness Decker & Ensign Ephraim Middaugh. Decker was Second Lieutenant, & John Van Tuyl was first Lieutenant of the Company. Colonel Ellison commanded the Regiment. Brigade Major John Hearn formerly commanded declarant's Regiment. Major Hearn lived in Tappan, at this time declarant was marched to Tappan in New Jersey & was at this place when General Washington surprised & captured the Hessians at Trenton. Declarant continued in service at this time about five weeks. Colonel Haghthorn was present with his Regiment. Colonel McClarkson was present with his & there was also present a Regiment composed principally of Dutch commanded by Major Cantine. During this term of service declarant with the troops present had a skirmish with the enemy consisting of Tories, & c, who after a few shots retreated, and during this term of service declarant and the troops with him surprised a party of the enemy consisting of Hessians and Regular troops, at a small village about three miles from Hackinsack, who fled and left behind them a quantity of stores consisting of spirits - Brandy, Jamaica Rum, Tea, Biscuits, &c, declarant was this time drafted.

That he again entered said service in the summer of 1777, about the last of June and marched to Ramapo in New Jersey under Captain Sweesey and Lieutenant Tryon in Colonel Gilbert Cooper's Regiment and continued in said service three weeks, declarant was this time drafted, there was a body of regular troops at Ramapo under the command of Captain Black, as declarant thinks, & thinks part of Col. Haghthorn's Regiment was also present. Declarant at this time went with the baggage of some general officers, among whom was General Pearson to Kings ferry. General Sullivan was then at King's ferry with his division of the army. General Stone & some other general officers were present, & while declarant was there General Washington with his army marched in.

That he again entered the service in October 1777, was drafted under the command of Captain Moses Cartwright & Lieutenant John Van Tuyl, they marched for the purpose of reinforcing the garrison at Fort Montgommery but arrived too late, the enemy having already captured the fort, they then marched to New Windsor on the Hudson River & from thence to Banks bridge on Walkill Creek, declarant was in service at this time about three weeks. Other regiments of militia were present. Governor George Clinton commanded in person & drew declarant and the other soldiers up in the form of battle, but the enemy did not land, the American regiment of red coats were at this time present, & declarant & his Major, John Decker was present on the spot when the spy was taken & swallowed the box containing the letter written by General Henry Clinton to General Burgoyne, declarant remembers reading this letter which he thinks was to this effect "I have now the key of the North River - can now go where I please & can meet you any day you please to appoint"

That a few days afterwards he again entered the service, under Lieutenant Stuart, the other officers he does not now recollect, & marched to a place called Murderers Creek, where he was employed in building fortifications, remained in service this time about two weeks, there were several other regiments present, & an Engineer whose name he does not recollect, these works were afterwards abandoned & the troops went to work at West Point.

That he again entered the service under the command of Major John Decker, the other officers he cannot recollect, in the spring of 1778, & marched to Sussex in the State of New Jersey to relieve the Inhabitants against or from the Refugees & continued in said service about one week. There were some Regiments of the New Jersey militia present, during the said several terms of service & until the year 1780 or 1781 this declarant was sergeant.

And this declarant further states that in June or July of 1778 this declarant went on a scouting party up the Delaware River under the command of Captain Moses Cartwright & Lieutenant Martiness Decker & was in service one week.

And this declarant further states that from and after the commencement of the fall of 1778 he acted until the close of the war as a minute man in the western part of Orange County to guard that frontier against the Indians, that he very frequently went on scouting parties & acted as an Indian spy, that he was called out daily with his rifle & other implements of war & was during this time under the command of Captain Wilhelmus Westfall & Lieutenant John Van Tuyl, & several other Officers.

And this declarant further states that his service was of such a nature that he cannot specify the precise length of time he was in the field, but he is confident he did serve at the times & at the several places aforementioned at least three years and for the greater part of the time he was sergeant. And this declarant further states that he was born in Manasink (now Goshen in Orange County New York) then in New Jersey, in the year one thousand seven hundred & fifty three on the fifth day of August, that this declarant obtained this information from a record in the family bible & from the parish register kept by the Rev. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ in the aforesaid town, that he was living in the town of Goshen, since called Deer Park at the time he entered service, that he continued to live there until the fall of 1822 when he removed to Marcellus, now Skeneateles, in Onondaga County in this state, where he continued until the month of May of the present year, since which time he has lived in the town of Haight as aforesaid.

That he was well acquainted with Henry Van Etten, Daniel Van Fleet, & Martin Cuykendall at Goshen aforesaid, & at Marcellus aforesaid, who now live at Owasco in Cayuga Co. Van Etten & Cuykendall were captains, and all of them have testified as to their personal knowledge of this declarant's services during the revolutionary war, & whose affidavit accompanies these papers, that he is acquainted with George Westfall who now resides in

Haight, & who was his near neighbor in Goshen from the close of the Revolutionary War until declarant left there. Westfall's affidavit accompanies these papers.

Here hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, or an annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

James Vanfleet

State of New York

County of Allegany ss. Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County James Van Fleet, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: For one month commencing in July 1775 I served as sergeant. For one month and seven days commencing in the winter of 1776 or 77 I served as a sergeant. For twenty one days commencing in the summer of 1777 I served as a sergeant. For twenty one days commencing in October 1777 I served as a sergeant. For fourteen days commencing late in 1777 I served as a sergeant. For seven days commencing in the spring of 1778 I served as a sergeant. For seven days commencing in July 1778 I served as a sergeant, during all the preceding terms of service I was second sergeant. For three years commencing in 1778 I served as a minute man and was an orderly sergeant & for such service I claim a pension.

And I further declare that there is no clergyman residing in the Town of Haight with whom I am acquainted whose testimony could be procured as to my character and services. And furthermore this deponent saith not.

Sworn & subscribed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 1833 before me  
B. F. Smead J.P.

James Vanfleet