

Pension Application for Tunis Van Houten

W.19568 (Widow: Jane)

State of New York

Rockland County SS

On this twenty eighth day of November in the year AD 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] now sitting Tunis Vanhouten, a resident of the town of Ramapo in the County of Rockland and State of New York, aged seventy one years, the thirteenth day of April 1832, 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 officers and served as herein stated. That in the spring of the year 1777, he entered the service in a Company commanded by Capt Jacob Onderdonk, Resolvert Vanhouten was Lieutenant and swerved therein as a Corporal until about the first of August following, when he enlisted at Haverstraw, in the now county of Rockland for three months in a Company commanded by Capt Gardner in the aforesaid Regiment and served that time at Nyack and along the river as a guard, and after that time of service was expired, he again entered the service under the aforesaid Capt Jacob Onderdonk and served therein until the close of the Revolutionary War.

That during the time he served under the said Capt Onderdonk he was a Corporal and the Militia being divided into classes of four men in a class and one man of each class had to be out so as to keep a continual guard along the Hudson River and some to be out [on] a scouting through the county of Bergen where the enemy was allmost 'almost] continually on the march plundering the inhabitants of everything valuable, and takeing [taking] the Inhabitants prisoner and takeing them to New York, and the company to which he belonged was ordered to different places wheres they was most needed and the man out was relieved by an other of the class so that each man had to serve one forth part of his time at least, and often two men out of the same class was out at the same time especially in the years 77-78-& 79 when the trouble was great and almost continually the enemy [enemy] was out at one place or the other but in the years 80-81-&82 they had much more rest but there was all the time a guard kept and exclusive of closing any duty of the class, those that were at home had to hold themselves in redi [ready] to march at a minuts [minutes] warning when ever there was an alarm made when they joined the first officers they met (and was sometimes under one and then another officer) and had to march in pursuit of the enemy sometimes to Haverstraw, sometimes of the Liberty pole to Hackensac[k] to near Hoboker [Hoboken] a distance of near thirty miles and in some of the expeditions was out ten days so that those That were at home had but little more rest than those that were out and many enlisted as their services were not so labourious.

That the time he served putting all his services together he is now impossible for him now [after the lapse of so many years) precisely to state but he is confident of his services, and the only positive testimony he can offer is some of his fellow soldiers in the war.

That he has always resided in the now town of Clarkstown in the County of Rockland until a few years back when he removed to the now town of Ramapo aforesaid.

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. (Signed) Tunis Vanhouten

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. David Pye
Clerk