

### **Pension Application for Benjamin Depuy**

S.31645

At a Court of Chancery held for the State of New York, at the village of Onondaga in the eleventh day of September one thousand eight hundred & thirty two.

Present: Daniel Moseley, Vice Chancellor of the Seventh Circuit.

Personally appeared Benjamin Depuy of the town of Lysander in the County of Onondaga, aged sixty 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 7, 1832.

He was born in the Town of Mamakating, in the County of Sullivan, New York, December 29, 1764—He has no record of his age in his possession but has understood that the family records were burned in 1779—He lived in that town until 1793 with the exception of a few months during the war.

In the spring of the year 1778, a party of persons of whom he was one, volunteered to build a fort on the Neversink River. They were under the command of Capt. Cuddeback. An officer by the name of Newkirk commanded at Fort Dewitt, about a mile farther up the river. The fort was for the protection of the frontiers & to guard against Indians & Tories, who had previously attacked & carried off a number of families in the neighborhood, & for greater safety the families remaining removed into the fort when it was completed. They continued to keep guard at the fort during the ensuing summer & fall.

The persons who were at the fort (which was called Fort Depuy) as far as he recollects, were Benjamin Depuy, Moses Depuy, Elias Gunnear, Abraham Cuddeback & Jacobus Cuddeback, head of families—there were also John Depuy, James a colored man, three sisters of this deponent all of whom are now living. During the summer & fall, they kept scouting parties out in the woods to watch the Indians & Tories but they saw nothing of them until the month of October in that year, when a large body of them & as he now thinks between two & three hundred, under the command of Brandt made their appearance. At their approach, all who occupied Fort Depuy abandoned it in haste & escaped to Dewitt's fort where there was a small party of men. The Tories came up & commenced firing on the fort & also fired on the cattle in the fields. They burned a number of houses & barns in the neighborhood & destroyed considerable property. They killed about six persons who were not in the Fort & then retreated & did not make their appearance again that year.

In the following winter he left the Fort & went to live with his uncle in the Town of Rochester in Ulster Co. New York & remained there until the spring of 1779 when he returned to his father's in Mamakating & assisted to keep guard in the fort, until the month of August in the ensuing summer when his his [sic] father removed to what was called Wallkill—he went with him & stayed until the whole family moved back to Mamakating.

In the summer of 1779 there was a company at Dewitt's Fort commanded by Capt Wood who were called nine months men & who assisted to keep guard [of] the frontiers & to keep off the Tories. During that summer, the Tories and Indians made

an attack on a settlement four or five miles below Dewitt's Fort & burned nearly the whole settlement, including some mills & a meeting house. The carried off some cattle & a number of prisoners. Brandt, he thinks, commanded the enemy.

In the ensuing winter they remained at home near Dewitt's fort where a guard was kept—The winter was uncommonly severe & they suffered no inconvenience from the Indians or Tories—

In the spring of 1780 they rebuilt Fort Depuy. This fort they continued to guard until the end of the war, assisted, nine months in the year by parties of militia from the East, & for the remaining three years the duty devolved on the residents at that place. He cannot now recollect the precise time of his service but it was between four & five years, during which time he was taken altogether from agricultural employments & obliged to be constantly on guard & frequently to scour the woods. John Depuy his brother now living & James, a colored man, also living were engaged in the same service & continued in it until the end of the war. Cornelius Wallace also living was also in the same service during the same length of time but was stationed about a mile below at what is called Gumears Fort.

In 1793 he moved to Aurelius in Cayuga Co. New York—in 1802 he moved to Marcellus in Onondaga Co. & in 1804 he moved to Lysander in the same county where he now lives.

He has no documentary evidence in his possession to show his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present & believes that his name if not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Signed)  
Benj Depuy

Sworn & subscribed the [big blot] Daniel Moseley [blot] Judge & Vice Chancellor