

Pension Application for Benjamin Howell

S.28765

State of New York

County of Orange SS.

On this third day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Com. Pleas of said County now sitting Benjamin Howell a resident of the town of Minisink County and State aforesaid aged seventy three 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.

Deponent further saith that he entered the service by enlistment and served as a private soldier, at Goshen County and state aforesaid, in a company of Malitia [Militia] commanded by Capt. Seth Marvin, in the latter part of the month of June in the year 1776. The precise day he does not recollect. Said company belonged to a regiment commanded by Col. Samuel Drake Lieut Col. ___ Holbert & Major Moses Hatfield. Said regiment was ordered to march to New York to join the Brigade commander by Brig Gen Scott, and in the month of August of the said year, said Brigade was ordered to join the army, on Long Island, commanded by Genl George Washington.

Deponent was at the battle of Long Island, and when the Island was evacuated, by Washington, he retreated with the army to New York. Said battle was fought in the latter part of the month of August of said year, and the retreat was in the night of second or third day after the battle, but deponent cannot say precisely, deponent marched with the army to Kingsbridge in the month of Sept. in the year aforesaid and from thence to White Plains deponent was at the battle of White Plains which was fought in the latter part of the month of Oct. in said year. After the battle was fought we marched to a place called North Castle and remained there two or three weeks, we then marched up the river Hudson and halted near Peekskill and remained there until the latter part of Nov. the army then crossed the Hudson at the place called Kingsferry and encamped on the west side of the river. Deponent was there discharged, the term of his enlistment having expired on the first day of Dec. 1776.

The next service performed by deponent during the spring and summer of the year 1777. Deponent sill resided in Goshen County and state aforesaid the militia of said county were called into service at six or seven different times the exact number deponent does not recollect, for the defence of said fort, in consequence of apprehended attacks from the enemy and when such danger or alarm, subsided they were discharged and they returned to their homes, deponent was called into service in the manner above stated at five different times and served half a month at each time, said service was performed as a private soldier in a company of militia commanded by Capt. Joseph Conklin, said company belonged to the regiment commanded by Colo Jesse Woohull, Gen James Clinton, Gen. Putnam and Gov. George Clinton

commanded forts Montgomery and Clinton said forts were situated in the high land of Hudson river to prevent the enemy's shipping from passing up said river.

In Oct of said year deponent was called into service and served one month at different stations on the banks of Hudson river to prevent the landing of the enemy to the enemy to commit depredations on the inhabitants. Deponent further saith that he was called into service in the spring of the year 1778 and served one month at West Point under the command of the officers last mentioned for the purpose of building the fortifications at that place. Deponent further saith that he served one month at the Indian frontiers as a private soldier under the command of Capt. David Swezey of said County and State to protect the inhabitants of the frontiers after the massacre at Wyoming in the month of July 1778.

Deponent further saith that he was called upon and served as a private soldier under the command of Capt Joseph Conklin & Col. ___ Odle of the country and state aforesaid, said service was performed at the gap of the mountain near Ramapo bridge, it being the main route to New York it was guarded principally by militia from orange County during the revolutionary war to prevent the enemy from penetrating into the country, and the ill disposed inhabitants from communicating with the enemy, deponent was three or four different times & served and at least half a month at each time, said service was performed during the winter of 1778 & 9.

Deponent further saith that he entered the service of the United States by enlistment under the command of the officers last mentioned at Goshen County and State aforesaid and served one month at the said gap of the Mountain and for the same purpose, before mentioned, said service was performed in the year 1779.

Deponent further saith that he was called out under the command of Capt. Joseph Conklin County and State aforesaid three times during the summer of the year 1779, and served half a month at each time, at the fort at West Point, deponent further saith that he served three weeks during the winter of 1779 & 80 to guard the Court house in Orange County to prevent the escape of Claudius Smith the Captain of a band of Tories who had long infested said county, killing and plundering the Whigs. Said Smith was at that time under sentence of death, and the court house was guarded by [sic] to prevent his gang from rescuing him from prison.

Deponent was born in Suffolk County State of New York in the year 1759, deponent resided in Goshen Orange County State of New York during the war and resides at present in the town of Minisink County and State aforesaid.

He has no record of his age. Was called into service as above stated. Received no written discharge and is not on any pension roll or received any annuity. John Wallock Jr., James Hulse & Benjamin Dunning reside in his neighbourhood and can testify to his character for veracity and their belief as his services as a soldier of the revolution. (Signed) Benjamin Howell

Sworn the day & year first above written before me. Asa Dunning, Clerk