

Pension Application for Henry Relyea

W.20017 (Widow: Elizabeth)

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.
State of New York
Ulster County SS.

On this Eleventh day of December one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County, now sitting Henry Relyea a resident of the Town of New Paltz in the County of Ulster and State of New York aged seventy nine 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.

1st In the winter of 1776 as near as this deponent can recollect he volunteered to serve two months at Fishkill in the County of Dutchess in a company commanded by Captain Swart—they marched through the highlands by Peekskill and White Plains to Kingsbridge in the County of West Chester during this term of service they had a skirmish with the British who had passed along the Fort Independence north of, near to Kingsbridge.

The British sallied out on a hill a little south of the fort, and were driven back again by the American Troops. We had three men killed and several wounded. Doctor Osborn of Fishkill was the surgeon who attended to the wounded men—at the expiration of this term of service deponent returned home—having served the same as a private soldier.

2nd In the spring following as near as this deponent can recollect, he again volunteered to serve one month under Captain Swart, it was at the time the British came to, land burnt Peekskill, the company under Captain Swart marched from Fishkill through the highlands, directly to Peekskill, the British retreated back to the City of New York, the American troops followed them below Groton River in the County of Westchester, at which place we struck tents, and remained until the expiration of said term—which I served as a private soldier.

3rd This deponent further declares. That having removed from Fishkill aforesaid, to the Town of Plattekill (then belonging to the Town of Marlborough) in the County of Ulster, at which place on or about the tenth day of July 1777, he volunteered to serve for the term of three months under Captain Jacobus Swart of Shawangunk—that he served said term at Forts Montgomery and Clinton In the Highlands in the County of Orange and acted as a Sergeant in Captain Ross' company—about the time of the expiration of said term, Fort Montgomery was taken by the British deponent was in the battle on Sunday deponent was ordered to place Sentries about two miles and half below Fort Clinton, the next morning on Monday the British commenced the attack, some of them camp up the river in Roe Galleys and fired on the Forts, but the most of them came by land they were next in the morning by the American Troops at the place where deponent, placed the sentry the day before,

Colonel McClaughey commanded the American troops and took with him from the Fort as many men as could be spared, and kept firing at the British succeeded in taking the Fort—deponent during the night after the battle succeeded in making his escape to the mountains and returned home about three days thereafter Captain Roos was severely wounded in the battle and killed a day or two afterwards by some British soldiers, who found him lying a short distance from the Fort, as deponent understood at that time. Colonel McClaughry was also wounded in said battle.

4th This deponent further declares that about the first of April 1778 he enlisted for the term of nine months under Captain Cornelius Bogardus at Fishkill aforesaid, and when not on duty was engaged at burning lime which was used in erecting fortifications &c the two last months of the term of service, deponent was engaged in erecting forts and batteries at West Point. That he served said nine months as a private.

5th This deponent further declares that about the first of April in the year 1779, he again enlisted at Fishkill aforesaid to serve the term of eight months under Captain Robert Conoly, and was engaged during said term in burning coal for use of the American Army—during this term Peter Miller whose affidavit is hereunto annexed served with this deponent. This company was equipped and liable to be taken for any purpose required by the army—deponent served therein as a private.

6th This deponent further declares that after harvest, in the month of August 1780, as near as he can recollect he served one month under Lieutenant Josiah Hasbrouck in guarding the Indian frontier near Captain Broadhead's at LurenKill in Wawarsing in the County of Ulster deponent at this time lived at Plattekill aforesaid and entered the service at this place.

7th This deponent further declares that in the month of August 1781 he again served the term of one month under Lieutenant Jonathan Terwillager in guarding the Indian frontier at Mumbacus in Wawarsing in the County [of] Ulster aforesaid—he commenced said service immediately after the Indians burnt Wawarsing and killed many horses and cattle belonging to the inhabitants and also carried away some children—deponent at this time lived at Plattekill aforesaid, land was called into service at this place.

This deponent further says in answer to the interrogatories, put to him by said Court.

1st That he was born at Fishkill in the county of Dutchess aforesaid on the twentieth day of March 1753—

2^d He has a record of his age in his family bible.

3^d He resided at Fishkill aforesaid and at Plattekill in the said County of Ulster, as above set forth at the several times he entered into the aforesaid service and has resided ever since the Revolution in New Paltz aforesaid.

4th He always entered said service as a volunteer.

5th He recollects in addition to the officers above named, Colonel Hays and Major Keys at Fishkill aforesaid—and cannot name to a certainty any others—nor any other general circumstances that as above stated.

6th He never received a written discharge—but was discharged verbally, at the end of said term of service, --except after the battle at Fort Montgomery when he made the best of his way home as above stated.

7th He is known to Abner Miller and John J. Deyo of New Paltz aforesaid residing in the neighborhood of this deponent who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution—

This deponent further says that he has been unable to procure any other person that the said Peter Miller to testify to his services, nor has he any documentary evidence of the same—that he expected to have obtained the Reverend VanKeunsen, Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in Espous, being the nearest Clergyman to this deponent to have certified for him but that said Clergyman is in feeble health and unwilling to leave home at this inclement season of the year.

This deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except he present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Henry Relyea

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. A. D. Soper, First Judge
Abm A. Deyo, A.G. Hardenbergh, Jacob Trumphour