

Pension Application for Elias VanBenschoten

This is listed as Illegible and was stuck at the end of the New York Pensions. It looks as if the pension number is S.11593. He was a private in the company commanded by Captain Dubois of the Regiment, commanded by Col. Van Gansevoort in the N. York Line for 18 months.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress Passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

City & County of New York SS

On the fifteenth day of June AD 1833 Personally appeared in open Court before me the Honorable the Justices of the Marine Court now sitting Elias VanBenschoten a resident of the City County & State of New York aged eighty two years and upward, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain he benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he was born in the Township of Poughkeepsie County of Dutchess on the fourteenth day of July AD 1751 but has no record of his age now in his possession & that he entered into the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as hereinafter stated. To wit—

Some time in the spring of the year 1775 (the particular day or month he does not now recollect). While residing at the place last mentioned he enlisted as a private in a company commanded by Captain Louis Dubois of the same place for the Term of six months. (Elias VanBenschoten also of the same place & deponents cousin) was the first Lieutenant & Henry Dubois Brother to the Captain as deponent thinks was Second Lieutenant, soon after his enlistment we went with the company to Albany in the same state where they encamped for a few days to place of encamping has called the [?] there were other companies encamped there at the same time, the particular officers he does not now distinctly recollect but thinks they were commanded by Colonel VanSchaick of the same state.

Deponent & his company went from that place to fort George & after two or three days crossed over to Ticonderoga al in the same State where the company went into Barracks for about six weeks there were other Troops at Ticonderoga and General Gansevoort was also stationed there but deponent does not recollect who was the commanding officer at that post this was in the fall. Deponent & his company under the command of the same colonel & other officers left Ticonderoga and went to St. Johns on Lake Champlain in Batteaux stopping on the way a few hours at isle Aux Noix, at St. John & General Montgomery commanded the American Army. Deponents Company was attached to Colonel VanCortland's Regiment, Colonel VanSchaick also commanded a Regiment at the same place. Deponent does not recollect the names of any other officers, the adjutant of his Regiment was a Frenchman.

Deponent was present at the whole siege of St. John's until the British Garrison surrendered to Montgomery & was constantly engaged in duty.

A few days after the Capture of the British the American Troops principally left the place and went to Leas Prairie on the river St. Lawrence on the American shore.

Deponent & his company under Colonel VanCortland were billeted upon the inhabitants at this place for a few days while here deponent was one of a party sent from the American Army to take possession of a place called Long Gate opposite to Montreal to army the British while there the British & Indians made an attack upon them but were repulsed with considerable loss.

The American party lost but a few men & immediately returned to La Prairie & next day the American Army took possession of Montreal without any loss. Montgomery commanded also at Montreal. After a few days the the [sic] army left Montreal for Quebec. Deponents officers .under whom he had served since his enlistment consisting of Montgomery Colonels VanCortland and Captain Dubois & Lieutenants VanBenschoten & Dubois & other officers left Montreal leaving deponent at that place to take care of Major Henry Livingston who was confined by sickness at Montreal. While at Montreal Deponents Term of enlistment expired which was a few days before the attack upon Quebec. Deponent received no written discharge & returned soon after to his native place.

Deponent some time in the spring or summer of 1776 the day or month he does not distinctly recollect while residing at his native place Poughkeepsie again enlisted as a private in a company raised at Poughkeepsie commanded by Captain Davis for the Term of five months. Peter VanBenschoten was the first of Abraham Hyatt the second Lieutenant, Captain Davis marched his company to Berran's Hill in the County of Westchester & within about fifteen miles of the city of New York, which was the first place where deponent& his company encamped after leaving Poughkeepsie. Captain Barnardus Swartwout also from Dutchess County with his company encamped at the same place continued at that place until the enemy [part missing] Deponent's duties were various during these duties deponent became acquainted with Major Nicholas Fish of the city of New York from Peekskill Captain Davis marched his company back to Poughkeepsie where deponents time of enlistment expired. Deponent rec'd no written discharge.

While residing at this last mentioned place the day month or year he cannot distinctly recollect but thinks it was in 1777 he again entered with the army by enlisting as aforesaid for the term of three months into a company commanded by Captain Hill, James Slight was first and Abraham Lent Second Lieutenant this company soon after deponents enlistment marched to the Highlands (so called) in the same county). Deponent & his company repaired a temporary Fortification called Fort Constitution continued at this place until the expiration of the time for which they enlisted (Captain Hill commanded at this Post) Captain Hill gave deponent a written discharge which is now lost. Deponent again returned to Poughkeepsie.

Sometime in the winter of 1777 or early in the spring of 1778 the particular day month or year. He cannot distinctly recollect Deponent while residing at Fishkill in the County of Dutchess & State of New York again entered into the service of the United States by enlisting for nine months under Lieutenant Peter Van Benschoten who was also a Lieutenant under Capt. Hill Davis as before stated, Lieutenant Van Benschoten was authorized to raise recruits for our Army then lying at Valley Forge.

Lieutenant Peter VanBenschoten conducted deponent & other recruits to Valley Forge where General Washington commanded deponent was encamped at this place under the said VanBenschoten's command the Regiment to which deponent was attached was commanded at this by Colonel VanCortland or Colonel Weisenvelt & deponent does not now distinctly recollect which this Regiment made a part of General Poors Brigade while at Valley Forge & before the Battle of Monmouth deponent was selected to compose one of the advanced guard, after the organization of the advanced guard deponent left the encampment for Monmouth in the State of New Jersey. Deponent was constantly engaged in the action at Monmouth from morning until night being so much entrusted as to be unable to keep with his company who supposed his lost until he rejoined them the next morning. Lee commanded deponents detachment as he thinks is the early part of the action.

Deponent the next morning went with the army in pursuit of the enemy & continued the march until he arrived at New Brunswick from New Brunswick the army took a [?] North & crossed over into the State of New York at Verplanck's Point on the New York side of the river under Colonel VanCortlandt as deponent thinks.

Deponent & his company went next to a place called Frederick Town in Dutchess (now Putnam) County went next to Fishkill before spoken of & from there to Albany, then Schenectady, then to Johnson's Hal went to a place called Stone Robby & as deponent believes in the County of Herkimer from thence to Canajoharie where deponent & his company were billeted upon the inhabitants while at this last place deponent & his company were engaged in erecting a temporary Fort for the protection of the women & children from the Indians while at this last place deponents time of enlistment expired. Deponent obtained no written discharge and returned to his native place Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess & State of New York.

Deponent further saith that in addition to the Twenty Three months as before stated he or a variety of associates perhaps fifteen times was at different periods of the war when not employed as before stated engaged is what was then called Tory Hunting which was for a few persons to possible together & under the command of a Lieutenant so some other officer not then in regular duty to go in search of persons who were attached to the interest of the enemy & capture & make provisions of them these excursions lasted for months in all perhaps more.

Deponent says that the above periods of his service are correctly stated but that by reason of old age & loss of memory he cannot sear more positively to the dates & nature of his service than he has done but they are correctly stated according to the best of his present recollection which has been much impaired for a few years past.

Deponent says that the Troops with which he served in manner aforesaid (except the Tory Hunting Parties) were called State Troops or militia he does not distinctly recollect and that the officers in addition to those before mentioned with whom deponent knew were General Washington, Poor, Sullivan, Sterling, Montgomery, Lee, Arnold, Colonels Willett, Van Cortland, Weisenvelt, Major Fish, Colonel VanSchaick & others all or most of whom he believes belonged to the Regulars.

Deponent says that now the great lapse of time he is now unable to obtain any other evidence of his services than that hereto annexed, having no documentary evidence of any nature or kind whatever.

Deponent for the last fifteen years has resided constantly in the City & State of New York & he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Elias VanBenschoten

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 15th day of July AD 1832. John Barberie, Clerk