

Pension Application for Resolvert Van Houten

S.23037

State of New York

Rockland County SS

On the twenty Seventh day of November in the year one thousand Eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, now sitting at the town of Clarkstown in and for the County of Rockland, Resolvert Van Houten a resident of the Town of Clarkstown in said County and State aforesaid aged eighty eight years the fourteenth day of last December as appears by the record kept of his age in the old family Bible, now in the possession of his son John Van Houten who being first 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 according to his best recollection in the year 1775 or the commencement of the year 1776. He the said Resolvert Van Houten together with those who were true to their country entered into an association or confederacy by which they bound themselves to take all lawful means to obtain the Independence of the United States of America, that previous to the above mentioned year 1776 (but what year cannot for certainly declare), he received a commission as first Lieutenant in a company commanded by Capt. Jacob Onderdonk from the Provincial Congress, before a Governor was appointed for the State of New York, which commission according to his best knowledge and belief was signed by Nathaniel Woodhull as President of the Provincial Congress, but as said Commission cannot now be found, cannot state particularly.

That on the 28th day of May in the second year of our Independence and in the year 1778 he received a new commission as first Lieutenant in the same company which said commission was signed by his excellency George Clinton, and by Abm B. Bancker [?] Secretary which said Commission is hereunto annexed. That in the year 1776 he the said Resolvert Van Houten first entered the service of the United States as a volunteer and served in the said company, whereof Jacob Onderdonk was captain, as first Lieutenant during the Revolutionary War from 1776 until its close.

That the said company was stationed at different places on Guard along the Hudson river on the west side, at the various landing places in order to prevent the landing of the British that lay with their shipping in said River. That they were stationed more particularly near Haverstraw, Slaughters, Nyack & Tappan Landings, as the British frequently landed and committed every depredation in their power carrying away property and taking the inhabitants prisoners to New York.

That he with his company was compelled to be out on duty a good part of the time & as their force was not very strong. The officers in command divided the militia into classes in order as much as possible to equalize the duty so that each class, or certain men out of the class, served alternately in their turn in which manner I served until the close of the war as well as scouting through different parts of the now County of Rockland and the County of Bergen in the State of New Jersey and when not in

actual duty either on guard or out in a scouting party, yet he had to be in continued readiness, and to carry his arms, wherever he went and often dared not to stay at home, during the night so that for four or five of the first years of the war it was little else than one continued scene of service.

That to make any accurate statement of the actual time spent in actual service cannot now be done, but he can confidentially declare that all the time in which he was actually engaged in the service would exceed two years. That he never received any written discharge during the war. That the discharges at that time from the officer in command was by parol. That he was born in the then Precinct of Haverstraw and County of Orange, now the Town of Clarkstown in the County of Rockland on the fourteenth day of December in the year 1743. That he has resided ever since his birth in the said Town & County aforesaid. That he has no documentary evidence of his service except the commission hereunto annexed, and all the positive testimony in his power or known to him is the affidavits of the follow soldiers hereunto annexed who served with him in said war.

That 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. To the Seventh Interrogatory put by the court the said Resolvert Van Houten declares that he is known by the following persons residing in his neighbourhood and who can testify to his character fore veracity and the belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, and their names is as follows, Resolvert Stephens, Abraham Garrison, Abraham P. Blauvelt, and James Vanderhill and several others. And further states that he remembers at present the names of the following Regular officers who were with the troops were [where] he served to wit. Col A. Hawkes Hay, Genl James Clinton & George Clinton, Genl Machdougles, Genl Wain, Major Lee who commanded a legion of Horse & others that he cannot now call to mind. (Signed) Resolvert Van Houten

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. David Pye Clerk.