

Pension Application for Benjamin VanOrden

S.11616

State of New York
Greene County SS.

On this third day of September one thousand eight hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Greene now sitting being a court of record, Benjamin VanOrden a resident of the town of Coxsackie in the County of Greene and the State of New York, aged seventy six 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 was born at a place called the Great Imbereght [Groote Imbocht] in the town of Catskill in the county of Greene on the 27th day of August 1756—that he lived there until 1786 when he removed to the village of Catskill in the town of Catskill where he remained until 1801—That he then left Catskill, went to Coxsackie in 1801 & from that time has resided there & still resides there.—

That in the early part of the Revolutionary War and he thinks in the year 1775 he was enrolled as a private in a company of Militia commanded by Captain David Abeel (1) —of Catskill now deceased in a Regiment commanded by Col. Anthony VanBergen of Coxsackie now deceased—That immediately after his enrolment orders we received by the Militia to be in constant readiness to march—That pursuant to such orders he kept himself in readiness, was prepared with arms and ammunition & was exercised and drilled almost every week; and from that time he considered himself bound to military service for the United States until the termination of the Revolutionary War.—

That in the winter & he thinks in January 1776 he went as a private soldier to Johnstown in the County of Montgomery & State of New York between eighty and ninety miles from his place of residence to oppose Sir John Johnson (2) —That he was commanded by Capt. Samuel VanVeghten (3) of Catskill deceased—That Ignatius VanOrdern (4) also deceased was Major—That Gen'l Schuyler commanded the troops—That he remained there until Sir John Johnson surrendered & saw the forces under him lay down their arms—That he thinks he was on duty at that time about a fortnight.

That in the fall of 1776 he was ordered to & was stationed at a place then called Lorrensburg now Athens in the said County of Greene under Capt. David Abeel of Catskill now deceased. That Ignatius VanOrden of the same place deceased was Major—That a considerable number of the militia were there at the same time—The whole were commanded by Col. Anthony VanBergen—also deceased of Coxsackie—That they were stationed there to protect American boats and to guard the adjoining country from the Incursions of the Indians and Tories—That he did military duty there between five & six weeks—

That he verily believes that from the fall of 1776 until the following summer he was called out almost every week on scouting parties and on sudden alarms and did duty upon those occasions in different parts of the adjacent country—That in the summer of 1777 he went one month to oppose Burgoyne—That he was at Fort Edward about the time Ticonderoga was taken by the British—that he was present when Fort George was evacuated & was present when the American forces retreated. That he was in Col. Gosen VanSchaack's (5) regiment Gen'l Schuyler (6) was the commanding General—That fort Edward is between eighty & ninety miles from his then place of residence—that he did duty at that time between five and six weeks—That he returned home and after a very short time was again ordered to join the army under General Schuyler, that he immediately went on and met the army at a place called Tolls Ferry in the town of Stilwater—That the army was then on the retreat and the detachment to which he belonged retreated to an Island called VanSchaick's Island opposite Troy—That he was then commanded by the aforesaid David Abeel—That he was then in actual service five or six weeks—That he left VanSchaick's Island about the time the army was ordered to march against Burgoyne. That two of his brothers were then in the army & his services being required in the vicinity of his father's residence below Catskill he returned home—That on his return it was understood the British were coming up the North River and that he was there employed in removing the property of his father & in making preparation to resist the British—That while at home the British vessels anchored in the river in plain view of his house—That during the following winter he was almost constantly on duty of some kind & frequently on scouting parties—

That in the spring of 1778 he went to Schoharrie as a private soldier to protect & defend the forts there erected—That he was then under the command of Col. Vrooman (7) of Schoharrie & did duty at that time a month or more.

That he was appointed a quarter master of the Regiment of Militia in the County of Albany and State of New York whereof Anthony VanBergen was Colonel—That his commission bears date the 20th day of June 1778 (8) and passed the Secretary's office on the 5th day of August 1778 and is signed by George Clinton then Governor of the State of New York which commission is now in his possession—That from this appointment of QuarterMaster he did duty for the United States until the end of the Revolutionary War, and was almost constantly if not continually in active employment—That Philip Conine a (9) Capt Lieutenant in the New York line of the Continental Army (now deceased) commanded a detachment from the militia in the years 1779, 1780, 1781, west of Catskill in what was then called the Frontiers and a considerable portion of the time at a place called in the Indian tongue Patamiscossac—That he furnished the Troops under the said Philip Conine during those seasons; that the time he was on duty during those years as quartermaster was more than two years—That in the year 1779 (10) he went to Johnstown aforesaid in the discharge of his duty as quartermaster -- that he remained there with the troops at that time about a fortnight.

That in addition to the foregoing services which are herein particularly specified he did various other duties—that from the time of his enrolment until he received his commission as quartermaster he was frequently

called out and did duty on special occasions, on scouting parties and on alarms—That on these occasions he was on duty sometimes a week, sometimes one, two, three & were days and nights—

That it is not possible for him to state with entire accuracy every time he was from home on duty, nor can he now remember every place, but he has no doubt that he did duty as a private, besides what he did as quarter master, at least two years—That the several duties herein set forth he did on his own account and not as a substitute—That he has no discharge—

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. (Signed) Benjamin VanOrden

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court before me. William V.B. Heermance, Clerk

State of New York
Greene County SS.
Supplementary Declaration

On the fourth day of January one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me Dorrance Kirtland first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Greene (the said court being a court of record) Benjamin VanOrder a Resident of the town of Coxsackie in the said County aged seventy six years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in addition & supplementary to the annexed declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832—

That this declarant was appointed a quarter master of the Regiment of Militia in the County of Albany and State of New York whereof, Anthony VanBergen was Colonel—That his commission is annexed to his original declaration and bears the date the 20th day of June 1778—That he served in the capacity of Quarter Master from the time of his appointment until the end of the Revolutionary War—That he was nearly all the time in constant service for the United States in supplying the militia called out in actual duty, or the United States Troops—That he did duty as quartermaster in the year 1778 three months.—

That Philip Conine a Capt. Lieutenant in the New York line of the continental army (now deceased) commanded detachments from the militia in the years 1779, 1780, 1781 west of Catskill in the then county of Albany & State of New York on what was then called the frontiers and the greatest portion of the time at a place called in the Indian tongue Patamiscossac—That during the last mentioned years troops were constantly stationed there to protect an extensive region of country from the incursion of the Indians and Tories—That this Declarant furnished the troops during those years—That he believes that he was in actual service during the whole of those years—That he can confidently state and therefore does declare that he did nine months service for the United States as quarter master in each of the years, 1779, 1780, 1781—That during all that time Anthony VanBergen aforesaid was Colonel of the Regiment to which he belonged.—

And this declarant further says that it is not possible for him to procure proof of the length of time he served, that he does not know of any living witnesses by whom such proof can be made—That this declarant refers to the proof accompanying his main declaration to substantiate the fact that he served as quarter master during the revolutionary war.

And this declarant says that he claims a pension for two years service as a quarter master.

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. (Signed) Benjamin VanOrden

Sworn & Subscribed the 4th day of January before me Dorrance Kirtland First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Green County State of New York.

End Notes—Benjamin VanOrden—S.11616

1. Captain David Abeel (Fifth Company) in Colonel Anthony VanBergen's Eleventh Regiment of Albany County Militia.
2. Sir John Johnson, son of Sir William Johnson, lived at Johnson Hall, Johnstown. Sir John was a powerful and influential Loyalist. He was organizing his tenants in preparation to resist or attack the local Tryon County Militia who were supporting the American cause.
3. Captain VanVeghten (VanVechten, etc.) commanded the Third Company in the Eleventh Regiment.
4. First Major Ignatius VanOrden also served in the Eleventh Regiment.
5. Benjamin did not serve in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Continental Regiment. He may have been stationed in the same area as the First New York and would retreat as they did.
6. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army.
7. Peter Vrooman Colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
8. The previous Quartermaster Albertus VanLoon (VanLoan) was commissioned the adjutant on June 20, 1778, thus a new quartermaster was needed.
9. Benjamin is mistaken as to the years that Captain Conine was stationed at Catskill. Philip Conine was appointed Lieutenant on November 21, 1776 in the Third New York Continental Regiment. He was appointed on January 7, 1780 captain lieutenant in the Third New York—on January 1, 1781 when the 5 New York Regiment were consolidated, Philip was discharged. In 1781 and 1782, Philip served as a captain in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. Captain Conine was stationed during those two years nearly the whole time at Catskill.
10. In 1779, various detachments of the Albany County Militia served at different forts in the Mohawk Valley. The following book contains letters which pertain to what is now Greene County, NY. Letters From a

Revolution 1775-1783. A Selection From the Bronck Family Papers At The Greene County Historical Society, ed. Raymond Beecher, Albany, 1973.