

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Covenhoven W12108
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Charlotte Lake

NJ NY

State of New York } Ss:
Montgomery County }

On this 25th day of September 1832 personally appeared before me John Hand one of the Judges of Montgomery County Courts (the same being a Court of record) Abraham Covenhoven of Charleston in Montgomery County State of New York aged Seventy three years, who being first duly sworn, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated In the year 1775 thinks about the first of May was drafted for one month and went out under Capt. Gardiner [probably Jacob Gardinier], to Fort Plain and Fort Dayton [at present Herkimer] doing guard duty at both places part of the time, at the end of the month was discharged and returned home. In the month of July was out again under Lieut. Quackenbush to Fort Plain and German Flats for one month served the time and was discharged was again out one month at Fort Herkimer guarding the Fort does not recollect whether Capt Gardiner or Lieut Quackenbush Commanded the guard – this last service was performed in September.

In the year 1776 in the month of April he served for one month, doing duty at Fort Hunter and Caughnawaga under Ensign Marlatt. In June was again out one month doing duty at Forts Plain and Dayton on the Mohawk river Served out the time and was discharged; In August he went to the State of New Jersey and on the 12th day of September of this year he enlisted in Capt. Nixons volunteer Company of Cavalry, for Six months mustered at Cranbury, from there marched to Woodbridge to Morristown thence to Pluckemin, thence to Somerset then returned to Cranbury Marched from Cranbury to Easton in Pennsylvania From Easton, under the Command of Major Lee, marched to Philadelphia, thence to Westchester, to Frederickstown [Frederick] in Maryland and thence to Lexington in Virginia [see endnote] – he thinks there were two Companies of Cavalry together at this time. Capt Culberson [Culbertson] commanded one of the companies as he thinks. Remained at Lexington not more than ten or twelve days when, he returned to Philadelphia by way of Baltimore. Marched from Philadelphia crossed the Delaware River at Coryells Ferry [at Lambertville NJ] went down the river to Trenton and was at the Battle of the Twenty Sixth of December [Battle of Trenton, 26 Dec 1776] accompanied the army in its march to Princeton, having left fires lighted to deceive the British, and arrived at Princeton and was present at the battle at that place [3 Jan 1777]. the Cavalry pursued the retreating enemy as far as Patterstown [Patterson]. Saw Gen. [Hugh] Mercer carried in after being mortally wounded also saw Gen Washington. After the Battle he retired to Pluckemin and Morristown where he remained until the Expiration of his time when he was discharged by a written discharge but by whom signed does not recollect as the discharge has long been lost. He may be in error as to the name of the Captain under whom he served, but remember that the name of the First Lieut was John Backelo [John Barkelo?] and that of the Second Lieut. Levi Covenhoven.

In May 1777 he returned from Jersey to the Mohawk Country and in June following entered the Militia under Capt Luouk, and Contined in the service for two months part of the time at the Fort at Johnstown and part of the time at the First House at Sacandago, while at Sacandago was under the command of Ensign Marlatt, acted in the capacity of Orderly Sergeant. Served out his time and was discharged verbally. Was again out under Capt. Gardiner, for two months at Johnstown from thence to Stollars – to Tripes Hill thence to Guy Johnson Stone [Store?] House and thence to the Meeting house at Ballstown [Ballston] – where he continued until the end of the time when he was verbally discharged In the Year 1778 in the month of May or June was out one month under Capt. Mabee at German Flats at home one month, and was then again out in Johnstown and Sacandago assisted in building the Fort at

Sacandago was out on this tour two months. Recollects that Col. Willet [sic: Marinus Willett], Col. [Frederick] Fisher and Major Newkirk wer there at the time. Served out his time and was discharged. In Fall of this Year he was in company with his Brother returned to New Jersey in October this year joined Capt. Pyatts company of Light Infantry or Minute men. Mustered at Cranbury marched to Bennetts Island, for the purpose of disarming the tories, at this latter place took a Capt. Stockton prisoner, and delivered him at Head Quarters. Served under capt. Peyatt for Six Months during which time we were at various places doing guard duty at the expiration of the time was discharged at Cranbury by verbal order. In May 1779 again returned to the Mohawk Country was out one month at Fort Hunter, Fonda Mills – at Nose Hill (so called) and at other places which it is impossible to recollect – performed the tour and was then out again for another month at Stollars and other places. was again out one month at Johnstown Sacandago and other places, doing duty alternately month about.

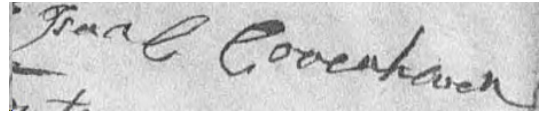
In the year 1780 he was out three or four months alternately month about at Johnstown and the different Forts on the Mohawk and also other short terms of duty at different times and various places whole amount of service actually performed was two years and six months He was born on the 19th day of February 1759 in the town of Windsor County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey. From thence in the year 1774 to the Mohawk District County of Tryon now to Town of Glen County of Montgomery and State of New York. In 1781 he removed to the town of Cranbury County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey From hence, after risigding there five or six years he removed to Montgomery County State of New York where he has since resided. Has a record of his age in the Family Bible of his Brother Isaac taken from the Family Bible of his Father.

Has no documentary evidence of his services. Thinks he had a written discharge from Captain Nixon, which has long been lost and that from bidily infirmity he is unable to attend Court. 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.

Abraham hisXmark Covenhoven [see endnote]

On this 25th day of Septembe in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared before me John Hand one of the Judges of Montgomey County Courts Isaac Covenhoven [pension application S12531] of Glen in the County of Montgomery and State of New York, who being duly sworn, doth depose and say that in the year 1775 he resided in the Mohawk district, Tryon County and State of New York now Town of Glen Montgomery County and State aforesaid that he is a twin brother of Abraham Covenhoven, the person whose decleration for a pension is hereto attached, and that during the war of the revolution, the common practice was for the militia to be out alternately month about for half the time. That in the year 1775 the said Abraham Covenhoven was out in the months of May, July and September at the different posts on the Mohawk doing garrison duty for one month each. That in 1776 the said Abraham Covenhoven was out in the months of April and June doing Guard duty as aforesaid and that some time in the month of August the said Abraham Covenhoven went to the State of New Jersey that he returned in the month of May 1777 that he understood at the time, that he had performed six months service in the Cavalry under Capt Nixon in New Jersey. That in the month of June the said Abraham was out and also two months in the Fall of said year the last two months this Deponent and Said Abraham were together under Capt. Gardiner at Johnstown. Stoller, Tripes hill to Ballstown. And also in the year 1778 the said Abraham was out two months in Company with this deponent at Johnstown and Sacandago at which latter they assisted in building a Fort. In the Fall of the year 1778 the said Abraham Covenhoven in Company with this deponent went to the State of New Jersey and in October the said Abraham and this deponent joined Captain Pyatts company of Light infantry or Minute Men in which company did service for Six months And this deponent further saith, that in the month of May 1779 the said Abraham and this deponent returned again to the Mohawk district and that they served during the Summer and Fall of this year was was for three months, this deponent relieving the said Abraham alternately every other month, that the duty was performed at the different Forts and Stations on the Mohawk River as Fort Hunter Fonda Mills, Caughnawaga and other places.

And this deponent further saith that in the year 1781 the said Abraham was again out for three or four months alternately as usual, at the different places and Fort in the Mohawk District and on the Mohawk River and further this deponent saith not.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Abraham Covenhoven". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged and slightly textured.

Montgomery County Ss. Abraham Covenhoven in further specification & proof of the declaration heretofore made by him for a pension, being duly sworn doth depose and say that, the 1 months service as stated in his declaration in the month of June in the year 1776, he served under Lieutenant Quackenboss – that in the year 1778 the two months tour as mentioned in his declaration for a pension he served under Captain Mabee, which services were performed in the months of July and August, that in the year 1779 the first months service which was performed in that year commenced the latter part of the month of May and was under the command of Captain Pittingal [Pettingill?] – that in the month of July in the same year he served one month at Stollers and other places under Captain Mabee. That in the month of September in the same year, he was out in service at Johnstown - Sacendaga &c under Ensign Marlatt. And that in the year 1780 he served one month to wit in the month of May under Captain Snook. in the month of September he served one month also under Captain Jacob Gardeniar. This deponent further says that all the services which were performed by him as mentioned in his declaration for a pension, and hereto annexed, as also the services mentioned in the foregoing affadavit, were all performed by him as a private soldier, except the last six months service in which he officiated as a Sergeant. And further this deponent saith not.

Subscribed and sworn to the 29th day of May A.D. 1833.
Before me/ Thomas Ostram Justice of the peace

Abraham hisXmark Covenhoven

NOTES:

It would have been unusual for New Jersey militiamen in 1776 to serve in Virginia, especially at a place of no known strategic significance. Lexington did not get its name until 1778.

The duty of an Orderly Sergeant was to copy each day's orders, so it is expected that Covenhoven would be able to sign his name if physically able.

On 6 Nov 1856 Charlotte Lake, 75, resident of Cape Vincent NY, applied for bounty land stating that as Charlotte Bennett she was married to Abraham Covenhoven by Thomas Ostram JP on 10 Dec 1832 in Glenn NY. Her application was witnessed by Peter C. Bennett and John Jennings. On 9 Feb 1858 while residing in Lyme in Jefferson County NY Charlotte Lake applied for a pension with the following statement: "That she is the widow of Nathan Lake deceased, to whom she was married by Rev'd Watkins on or about on the 28th day of August in the year of 1844 & that her said husband Nathan Lake died at Cape Vincent on or about the 31st day of August in the year 1856 (fifty six & that prior to her said marriage with Nathan Lake she was the widow of Abraham Covenhoven who was a Revolutionary Pensioner & that she was married to the said Abraham Covenhoven on or about the last day of November in the year 1832 (thirty two by one Thomas Ostram a Justice of the Peace in the town of Glenn NY that her said husband Abraham died at Charleston in the town of Charleston & county of Montgomery & state of New York on or about the [blank] day of January in the year 1838...." Clarissa Bennett, 49, stated that she lived with Charlotte Lake and had known her for 30 years, and Peter C. Bennett stated that he had known her for 50 years. Catherine J. Jennings stated that she had lived in the family of Abraham and Charlotte Covenhoven.

On 1 June 1869 Charlotte Lake, residing in Lebanon NY, made an application for an increase in her pension, witnessed by John Bennett.