

### **Pension Application for Michael Dunning**

W.16245 (Widow: Hannah) Married Nov. 18, 1784. Michael died Sept. 28, 1837. She died Dec 10, 1840.

B.L.Wt. 511\_200 Lieut. Col. Seth Warner's Regt. Issued Aug 8, 1789 to John Doty Assignee and

B.L.Wt.543\_300 Capt. Warner's Regt. Issued Nov. 28, 1791 to John Thompson, assignee and

B.L.Wt.2497\_300 Capt. Warner's Regt. Issued Nov. 29, 1791 to John Thompson, assignee. Martha as Follows: N.B. on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Aug 1789 a Wt. 511 was issued for 200 acres in the name of John Duty assignee of Mich<sup>l</sup> Dunning which was fraudulently obtained. No Papers.

[This folder contains 148 pages. The handwriting is terrible on the 1818 and 1820 depositions.] On his commission as Capt. Lieutenant this soldier's name is written Mitchell instead of Michael Dunning.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1838, entitled and act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:

State of New York

Tompkins County SS.

On this first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight personally appeared before Caleb Smith one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Tompkins in the State of New York, being a court of Record, Hannah Dunning a resident of the town of Enfield in said County of Tompkins aged seventy-four years the twenty-ninth day of January last past, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows"; that she is the widow of Michael Dunning, who was a captain in the army of the Revolution and as such draw a pension from the year 1818 up to his death which took place September 28<sup>th</sup> 1837—

That for several years he drew twenty dollars a month pension, but at his death and for seven years before, it had been increased to four hundred and eighty dollars a year as deponent believes; that she was partially, and but partially acquainted with her husband the said Michael before he enlisted or entered the Army, (though they both lived in the town of Stillwater in the County of Saratoga and State of New York) and know nothing of his military services except what she learned from her said husband and others and consequently her declaration cannot be from her own knowledge, but from information and belief –

That the said Michael entered the service in 1776, but how, at what place or in what capacity deponent cannot say, but he served one campaign in that year in Col. VanSchaick's Regiment as deponent has been informed and believes in the New York line, but where or of what his services consisted deponent cannot State, if she ever knew—

In the Spring of 1777 the day or month now known to deponent the said Michael entered the American Army for during the war, whether by enlistment or otherwise deponent does not know, a Regiment – called a [Congressional?] Regiment of infantry under the command of Col. Seth Warner of the State of Vermont; as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant—

At the time he entered the service said Michael lived at Stillwater in the County of Saratoga aforesaid; that the said Michael was subsequently appointed and commissioned a Captain in said Regiment but deponent state at what time.

That from the time the said Michael entered Col. Warner's Regiment, till he was taken prisoner by the Indians which deponent—thinks was at Fort George in 1779, he with his company and regiment was employed [?] the frontiers of New York and Vermont in guarding the lines and protecting the inhabitants—

That he said Michael was taken a prisoner by the Indians as before stated in 1779 and remained a prisoner in Canada nearly or quite three years, when he was exchanged, returned home to Stilwater [Stillwater] aforesaid, and although he held himself in readiness was never afterwards called upon to enter the service.

While in Canada the said Michael was at Montreal & Quebeck [Quebec] but deponent things most of the time at the Island of Orleans, where he was at the time he was exchanged – That her husband the said Michael drew the Military lots in the State of New York for military services, but for what served deponent cannot say.

He also drew lands as she had been informed under the United States, but how much & for what service deponent cannot state.

That deponent thinks she had heard her husband state that he was in the battle of Bennington and in a Battle at Hubbardton, both in Vermont—That she has no documentary evidence in her possession in support of her claim for a pension.

She further declares that she was married to the said Michael Dunning according to her recollection on the eighteenth day of November in the year seventeen hundred eighty four and her husband died September twenty eight eighteen hundred thirty seven; that she was not married to the said Michael prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred ninety-four, to wit; at the time above sated.

That she never was married to any other man. That they were married at the house of Ebenezer Patrick in Stillwater aforesaid by a Congregational Clergyman of the name of Campbell who was then old and who died at Stilwater [Stillwater] aforesaid many years ago, and deponent has no knowledge that any record was ever kept or made of their marriage except one made in an old family bible by her husband, and that is certainly destroyed. That he husband the said Michael died at Enfield in the County of Tompkins at the time above stated, most probably from old age than from any disease though he was affected with the palsy. (Signed) Hannah Dunning.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written, before me Caleb Smith—one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Tompkins in the State of New York.

Letter in folder dated April 12, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, W.16245, based upon the Revolutionary War service of Michael Dunning.

He was born August 20, 1750, place not stated. He was the son of Michael Dunning ; the name of his mother was not given, Michael Dunning, Jr. was a resident of Stillwater, New York, during the Revolutionary War.

He served as quartermaster sergeant in 1776 in Colonel VanSchaick's New York regiment, length of service not stated. He was commissioned in the spring of 1777, first lieutenant, served in Captain McCune's company in Colonel Seth Warner's regiment, was in the battles of Hubbardton and Bennington; he was commissioned, July 16, 1779, captain-lieutenant of Colonel Seth Warner's regiment and served until the close of the year 1779, when he was captured on an island in Lake George, carried by the Indians to Montreal and held until exchanged sometime in June 1782. He stated that he was appointed as "full" captain during his captivity.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 15, 1818, then a resident of Ulysses, Tompkins County, New York.

Michael Dunning died September 28, 1837, in Enfield, Tompkins County, New York.

He married November 18, 1784, in Stillwater, New York, Hannah Gregory of Said Stillwater. She was born January 29, 1764, place not shown, nor were the names of her parents given.

The widow, Hannah Dunning, was allowed pension on her application executed, October 1, 1838, at which time she was living in Enfield, New York, with her youngest child, Samuel Sheldon Dunning.

Hannah Dunning died December 10, 1840.

Children of Michael and Hannah Dunning:

Tirzah born October 23, 1785

Terah born March 31, 1787, died June 17, 1789

Harriot born August 19, 1789

Mahlah born March 10, 1791

Beulah born January 6, 1795

Moriah or Mariah born April 4, 1797

Michael, 3<sup>rd</sup> born Novmeber 28, 1798

Urbane born March 2, 1801

Alvah Gregory born July 5, 1805

Samuel Sheldon born May 10, 1808

The above named daughter, Tirzah, died March 29, 1820 leaving three children; the name of her husband was not shown nor were the names of children stated.

It was stated in 1839 that their daughter, Harriot, died "several years ago leaving a family", no names given. Harriot was soldier's daughter.

In 1838, Betsey Dunning of Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, New York, stated that she was present at the marriage of her brother, Captain Michael Dunning and

Hannah Gregory; John Dunning, their brother, was living in Saratoga County, New York in 1839.