

Pension Application for John Oliver

R.7790

State of New York
Albany County SS.

On this 2nd day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight personally appeared before the Justices Court of the City of Albany, (the same being a Court of Record) now sitting John Oliver, a resident of the Town of Bethlehem in the said County aged eighty one years, who being first duly sworn according 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 he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein after stated.

In the year 1778 I was a resident of the Town of Bethlehem in said County (where I was born) and was a private in Capt John VanWie's Company of Militia.

In September of that year, I with others of Capt VanWie's Company, was drafted to go to Saratoga on a tour of duty, to guard against the attacks of the British & Indians in that neighbourhood. I accordingly went with the other drafted men, under the command of Capt. Teunis Slingerland, from Albany to Saratoga. We received our arms & equipments at Albany.

We were stationed on the east side of the Hudson River—about eight or ten miles south of Fort Edward. The name of our Ensign was Wendell Hildebrandt or Hellenbrandt, we served on this tour of military duty, not less, according to my recollection, than three months—our Lieutenant's name was John Leonard.

We returned late in the fall or beginning of winter & on our return, we passed through Schenectady—We were frequently out on scouting parties, but did not see the enemy—we were billeted out among the inhabitants in Schenectady, a part of the time, & were discharged at that place, whence we returned home.

Adam [?] who is now living and resides in New Scotland & Isaac VanWie were with us in that expedition. I do not know of any other persons now living who were with me at that time—I remember one Gilbert Groesbeck, also Levinus Laraway, were with us, but they are both dead.

In the year that the Village of Schoharie was burnt by the Indians, I was again ordered into the service – and went with a party Capt John Wie's Company, and under his command to Schoharie. Tuenis Vandenburg was our Lieutenant.

We went from the Town of Bethlehem—there was about 30 privates. We went by the way of the Beaver Dam & the Fosen Kill to the Fort at the Stone Church in Schoharie.

In the month of July we went and remained there on duty, till I think, the latter part of October, when we were discharged & returned home. I believe I served on this tour of duty, upwards of three months, as a private in Capt. VanWie's Company.

I also performed other services for the public in the revolutionary war, in burning coal for the use of the army and as a waggoneer in transporting provisions from Albany to Schenectady for the use of the troops.

I am not a pensioner of the United States, but claim a pension for the services above stated.

I have never learned to write and therefore make a mark or cross for my signature. (Signed with his mark) John Oliver.

Sworn and subscribed in open court on the day & year first above written. J. G. Wasson Clerk

Letter in folder dated December 23, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War records of Paul DeWitt and his wife, Elizabeth Sly, of Burlington Township; Ephraim Fairchild and his wife, Mary Platt, of Pike Township; Abigail Bradshaw, widow of John Bradshaw of Pike Township, all of Bradford County, Pennsylvania; John Oliver, of Albany County, New York; Joseph Cleveland, of Union Broome County, New York, and Lucina Keeler, widow of Elisha Keeler, of Pike Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

Because of the large number of requests for records of Revolutionary War soldiers, and the limited trained clerical force available for furnishing such information, it has been impossible to make a series of investigations and reports pertaining to soldiers of that war for one person. Records have been found for Ephraim Fairchild and John Oliver as described by you and they are furnished you, as follow:

EPHRAIM FAIRCHILD
W.2929

The data herein were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim W.2929, based upon service in the Revolutionary War of Ephraim Fairchild.

While residing in Stratford, Connecticut, he enlisted early in October, 1775, for three years, served as private in Captain Joseph Tomlinson's Company of rangers, Colonel David Wooster's Connecticut regiment, engaged in guarding the seacoast at different stations along the sound from Stratford to Horseneck, and was discharged sometime in 1778. He enlisted in July, 1779, served as private in Captain Benajah Bennett's company, Colonel Stephen Gould's Connecticut regiment and was in the battle of Fairfield and present when that town was burned, and was discharged after having served a tour of nine months.

The soldier continued to reside in Fairfield County, Connecticut, four or five years after the war, then moved to Washington, Litchfield County, Connecticut, where he resided about four years, thence to East Chester in Westchester County, New York, remained there about two years, then moved to Wyalusing Creek in Pike Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, sometime between 1790 and 1793.

Ephraim Fairchild was allowed pension on his application executed February 12, 1834, at which time he was living in Pike Township, Pennsylvania, was still living there in March 1836, and died there May 26, 1838.

Ephraim Fairchild married September 30, 1779, in Weston, Fairchild County, Connecticut, Mary Platt; the date and place of her birth and names of parents are not given. They were married at the home of the father of Eunice Sanford, his name not stated and where Mary Platt had made her home when young, no relationship shown. At the time of their marriage, the soldier and his wife were both living in Weston, Connecticut, and continued to reside there for a number of years after marriage and had several children born in Weston.

Soldier's widow, Mary Fairchild, was allowed pension on her application executed January 29, 1844, at which time she was aged eighty-five years and a resident of Herrick, which was formerly Pike Township, in Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

In 1834, the soldier referred to a son then dead but did not state his name nor were the names of any other children given.

In 1828, Ephraim Fairchild's sister, Ruth Frink, made affidavit in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, in behalf of the soldier. She died sometime prior to 1832, the given name of her husband not stated.

JOHN OLIVER
R.7790

The record of John Oliver follows as found in pension claim, R.7790, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

John Oliver was born in Bethlehem, Albany County, New York; the date of birth and names of his parents are not shown.

John Oliver applied for pension February 2, 1838, at which time he was aged eighty-one years and a resident of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York. He stated that while residing in Bethlehem, New York, he enlisted in 1778 and served as private in Captains John Van Wie's and Teunis Slingerland's companies, in Colonel Gerrit Vandenberg's New York regiment on an expedition against the British and Indians at Saratoga and that he served on this tour three months; also, that in July of the year that the Village of Schoharie, New York, was burned by the Indians, he enlisted and served "upwards of three months" as private in Captain John VanWie's New York company; that he served also as wagoner in transporting provisions from Albany to Schenectady for the troops.

The soldier's claim for pension was not allowed as he did not furnish proof of six month's service in accordance with the requirements of the pension law.

It is not stated whether or not the soldier ever married.