

Pension Application for James Knight

S.23752

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress dated June 7th 1832.
State of New York
Saratoga County SS.

On this twenty second day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Lieut VanSchoonhoven one of the Judges of Saratoga County Court James Knight a resident of the Town of Clifton Park in the County or Saratoga and State of New York aged seventy three 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he enlisted in a company of militia commanded by Captain Thomas or David McKinstry in a regiment under the command of Colonel John McKinstry. Early in the spring of the year 1778 at the now Town of Clifton Park aforesaid, this being a part of the County of Albany for the period of Nine months—that he marched from Clifton Park aforesaid to Nobletown in the State of New York where the said company met with three companies, and then marched under the command of Colonel McKinstry to the City of Albany, and from thence to Cherry Valley by the way of Schenectady—that he was in the fort at Cherry Valley aforesaid when the same was attacked by the tories and Indians under Butler & Brandt, and when Colonels McKinstry & Statia & Major [Balledt?] were surprised and taken prisoner of war by the enemy and he well recollects that the said McKinstry was rescued from death through the interference of Brandt and was supposed that the time, by some Masonic sign which the said McKinstry communicated to the said Brandt—that this said deponent [?] at Cherry Valley aforesaid until the Expiration of the nine months, for which he enlisted, and was then and there discharged from the service—that deponent had such discharge in his possession for several years thereafter but that the same is not now in existence, but was lost by this deponent many years since—and that the same was signed at this deponent thinks by the aforesaid Colonels McKinstry.

And this deponent further saith that he has no documentary evidence of his service as aforesaid and that he knows of no person now living other than John C. VanSice, whose affidavit is hereinto annexed, whose testimony he can procure to testify to such service—that the said John C. VanSice at the time this deponent enlisted as aforesaid resided in the neighbourhood of this deponent and that they were well acquainted with each other and that the said VanSice knew the fact of his Deponent's Enlistment as aforesaid and of his return home after he was discharged from the service as aforesaid.

In answer to the interrogatories propounded by the Judge under instructions to the deponent and this deponent further saith that he was born in Bradford in the County of Wiltshire in England in the year 1759 & that he Came to this country when he was seventeen years old—that he has no record of his age, the same having been

destroyed by his wife in a fit of insanity—that he lived at the now town of Clifton Park in the County of Saratoga when he entered into the service, and has resided there since the revolutionary war down to the present time—That he entered into the service as a volunteer militiaman as aforesaid—that owing to the infirmities of age and the decay of memory he is unable to give the names of the officers who were with the troops at Cherry Valley aforesaid otherwise as above stated.

That he did receive an honorable discharge from the service as above stated and that the same is lost—and that William shepperd Esquire, Eldert Vischer, Teunis Crugur & William Peters to whom this deponent is known and who reside in Deponent's neighbourhood can as this deponent has no doubt testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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) James Knight

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me. G. V.Schoonhoven, Judge of Saratoga County Courts &c.

Letter in folder dated March 18, 1927, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.23752 it appears that James Knight was born in 1759 in Bradford, County of Wiltshire, England and emigrated to American at the age of seventeen years.

While a resident of Clifton Park, Albany County & (the part which was later Saratoga County), New York he enlisted in the spring of 1778, served nine months as private in Captain Thomas, or David, McKinstry's Company, Colonel John McKinstry's New York Regiment and was in the battle of Cherry Valley.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 22, 1832, while a resident of Clifton Park, Saratoga, County, New York.

He died August 31, 1841 leaving three children, their names and the name of his wife not given.