

## **Pension Application for John Sconodoh O'Brien**

R.16808

State of New York

County of Cayuga SS.

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April AD 1855, personally appeared in open court before the Court of Cayuga County, now sitting John Sconodoh O'Brien a resident of WeedsPort in the County Cayuga and state aforesaid, aged 103 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 acts of Congress passed May 15<sup>th</sup> 1828, and June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, or other acts under which he may be entitled, to a pension, for his services in the Revolutionary war.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served ad herein stated.

That he entered the service at West Point in the year 1776, but does not recollect in what moth or the day of the month. That he entered the service as an assistant Surgeon under Surgeon Comstock and General Surgeon Burget.

That he continued to serve as assistant Surgeon and as an interpreter, throughout the Revolutionary war.

That he is a half-breed Indian. That his father William O'Brien was a white man and his mother Mary Sconodah was a full blood Indian Squaw.

That he was sent to France to be educated, and returned in the same ship with General LaFayette, arriving at Newport R.I. from whence he proceeded to Stockbridge Mass., the resident of his father. That his father was then in command of a company of Rangers composed of both Indians and White Men, and was then out with his men on the West Side of the North River. That he proceeded from Stockbridge to his father's quarters where he decided to enter the United States service and proceeded at once to West Point, and entered the service there as aforesaid.

That he was in the battle of Trention and in the battle of Brandywine, and in the battle of GermanTown, and in the battle at Yorktown, and at the surrender of Cornwallis, and was in the City of New York when; General Washington bed farewell to the Army.

That he was in the expedition to Wyoming under General Sullivan ,and on his return was engaged in several skirmishes with Indians and Tories, at Herkimer (where and at which time Col. Butler of the British Army was killed). At Onondaga Hollar and Seneca Falls, and at a place named Bloody Brook near Corning, NY and at Canandaigua and quartered the following winter at HorseHeads, Chemung Co., N.Y., and in the spring rejoined the main army at West Point a short time before the surrender and evacuation of the City of New York.

That he does not recollect the number of the several Regiments in which he served. That he recollects Col. Parker and Col. Bishop and Major Frazier, Col. Braynard, afterwards promoted to the office of Genl. That he does not know of any of his comrades or officers that they are all dead.

That he has never before applied for a pension for the reason that he did not actually need it until recently, and would not apply were it not that he is very poor, and infirm and needs it for his comfort and support in his declining years but few of which at best remain to be enjoyed.

That he fought willingly and bravely for his country in and through the Revolutionary War, receiving \$40 per month as an assistant surgeon for a portion of the time and \$50 per month as an interpreter a portion of the time.

That all his papers including those received from Genl Washington, Genl LaFayette, and Genl Sullivan were destroyed by and at the time of the burning of his house at Schenectady about thirty years since.

That he afterwards was engaged in and served all through the War of 1812 as a Captain of a company or Band of Oneida Indians called the Sharp Shooters, and was under the command of Col. Ripley, General Porter, General Scott.

That he was a Warrior Chief of the Oneida Tribe of Indians. That his mother was a daughter of the old chief [Cemodah?] and a sister of the celebrated Peter Sconodah both chiefs of the Oneidas.

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 with his mark) John Sconodah O'Brien

The foregoing Declaration was sworn to and subscribed before me, the day and year first above written. Genl. Humphreys, L. W. Meeker. County Judges of Cayuga County.