

Pension Application for David Skinner

S.11403

Sergeant , Captain Lyman, Col. Porter

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of the Town of Northampton in & for the County of Montgomery David Skinner who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades for one year I served as Sergeant for one year and three months I served as Private and for such service I claim a pension. (Signed) David Skinner

Subscribed & Sworn to before me this 17 day of May 1833. Samuel Duncan Justice.

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this 19th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before Aaron Haring, Abraham Morrell, Samuel A. Gilbert, Henry J. Diefendorf, & John Hand Esquires Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting David Skinner a resident of the town of Wells in the County of Montgomery & State of New York aged seventy five 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 & served as herein stated, in; the month of March 1776 I enlisted at the town of Williamstown in the State of Massachusetts for one year under Capt. Josiah Lyman, Lieut Gideon Stebbins & Ensign Morgan as soon as the company was raised which was but a short time we march'd for Bennington in the State of Vermont passing through the towns of Permwell & Shaftsbury upon our arrival at Bennington we joined a regiment commanded by Col. Porter & remained at Bennington about one week, when the Regiment march'd for Ticonderoga, we remained at Ticonderoga a short time in consequence of the ice but immediately upon the ice disappearing we took boats & sailed down Lake Champlain for Quebec stopping on our way at Chamblee a few days in order to recruit up we made no other stop until we arrived at Abrahams Plains near Quebec where we joined the army under the command of Genl Arnold we lay there about three weeks many of our army had the small pox I among the rest, a great many died and our effective force was reduced to a few hundred men. Genl Burgoyne arrived at Quebec with a large Army & made an attack upon us, we made our retreat as fast as possible & did not stop longer than was necessary until we arrived at Sorel, we staid at Sorel a short time when we were ordered to march for St. Johns, Genl Burgoyne's Army was in pursuit—from St. Johns we marc'd for Crown Point at Crown Point I was attacked with Pheresey & not having recovered from Small Pox was obliged with many others to remain there the effective part of the army marc'd for Ticonderoga—I continued at Crown Point until nearly the expiration of my term of service when from continued sickness & inability to do service was discharged & conveyed to Albany—

In May 1777 my father removed to the town of Hosick in the County of Rensselaer & State of New York—in the latter part of September following I volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. Bently & Lieut Shaw we march'd for Stillwater in Saratoga County & from there to Saratoga where we joined the American Army under the command of Genl Gates. I continued in the army until Genl Burgoyne surrendered on the 17th day of October 1777, when I returned to Hosick in May 1779 I became a substitute for Sergeant Miles for one month & lay at Granville Washington Co. during the time at the expiration I joined Capt. Childs Company as a Sergeant & b remained at Granville until July 1780 during the time I was under the command of Capt. Childs at Granville. I was principally employed in scouts to different places in order to ascertain the movements of the enemy.

In the month of August 1780 I volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. Sherwood & Lieut Roberts at Granville Washington County we immediately march'd for Fort Ann where we were attached to a regiment commanded by Col. Graham & b remained there until the last of October or first of November when the fort was taken, at Fort Ann my whole time was spent in scouting—after the fort was taken I returned to Granville where I remained until the terms of peace were settled under Capt. Childs in scouting.

I know of but two persons now living who can testify to a portion of my services – Samuel Blowers & Samuel Brown—The only documentary evidence I ever had was my discharge & that was destroyed by fire in the year 1820.—

Answers to the Interrogatories propounded by the court to David Skinner.

1st I was born in Colechester, State of Connecticut in the year 1757,

2^d the only record that I have of my age is in my bible now in my possession.

3^d When called into service I was living at Williamstown State of Massachusetts, I lived at Granville Washington Co., State of New York for seven years after the revolutionary [war] from thence I removed to the Town of Mayfield Montgomery County, State of New York where I continued to live until the last sixteen years for which time I have lived at the town of Wells, County of Montgomery & State of New York where I now live.

4th The first year of my service I enlisted in the other tour I volunteered.

5th At Granville I knew Col. Warner of the regular Army at Ticonderoga I knew Major McCrackin, Col. Gansevoort Regt I believe was at the surrender of Burgoyne. I cannot state the circumstances of my service more satisfactorily than I have stated in my declaration.

6th I did receive a discharge but in consequence of the death of my Genl. (Earl Thomas) by small pox a new officer took command who signed my discharge but his name I have forgotten -- in the month of September 1820 my house at the town of Wells Co. of Montgomery was destroyed by fire in which my discharge there was & was consumed together with all the contents—save one feather bed.

7th I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) David Skinner

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid Geo D. Ferguson, Clerk