

## Pension Application for Jesse Skinner

S.17095

Private, Captain Hume, Col. Warner.

State of New York

Chautauqua County SS.

On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October AD 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County aforesaid now sitting Jesse Skinner, a resident of Busti in the county and state aforesaid, aged eighty two 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 7, 1832.

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

That in the summer of 1775 he enlisted as a minute man under Captain Fitch, at the town of New Lebanon, in the then county of Albany and state aforesaid, that in the winter of 1775-6, and he believes it was in the month of January 1776 he was sent after Sir John Johnson a celebrated tory, that he marched from said New Lebanon under the command of said Capt. Fitch, and he believes the Lieuts name was King, to Johnstown a distance of about eighty miles, that at Johnstown they made Sir John a prisoner and took twelve hostages for the good behavior of the said John, that said hostages were taken to Albany, that this deponent spent on e month in said expedition.

That in the month of April 1776 he enlisted at New Lebanon aforesaid, under Capt. Hunn, Lieuts name is not recollected, that he enlisted for six months and served for six months, that during this enlistment he marched from New Lebanon to Albany, a distance of 29 miles, and that he was stationed at Albany a part of the time and at Half Moon a town about 15 miles north of Albany a part of the time, that he was employed in guarding the public stores in those places, that he recollects but one general officer during this service and that was Gen. Schuyler, that Gen. Schuyler was frequently at the place where this deponent was and appeared to be superintending and giving directions in regard to such military stores, that this deponent recollects that he went from Albany to West Point on at boat where there were a number of links of the great chain which extended across the north river at West Point.

That in 1777 he was drafted and served a little more than one month under the command of Capt. Warner, a militia Captain, that the militia were then called out in consequence of the death of Capt. VanNess who was killed by the tories, that during this expedition this deponent marched about 25 miles, that they made a number of tories prisoners some of whom were tried.

That during the last part to Sept. or first of October 177[9?] he was drafted again, and marched from New Lebanon aforesaid to Saratoga, a distance of about sixty miles. That his captains name was Herricks and his brother—Herrick Lieut, that a Major or Col. Warner had the command when they marched, that he staid til after January [?] did and that he served three weeks in their expedition.

That in the month of April 1781, he volunteered under Capt. Geomans at Warrensbush on the Mohawk River that at the commencement of his service under Capt. Geomans he was engaged in building a block house at Warrensbush that after said block house was finished he remained in the service under said Capt. Geomans at the block house for the term of twelve months, the names of the other officers in the company to which he belonged are not recollected, that sometime in January or December of that years services he assisted in arresting a spy from the enemy's camp between Johnstown and Albany, and took to Albany where he was tried & executed—that during said year he was frequently at Fort Hunter on alarms, past a distance of about three miles from the block house, that he drew his ammunition from Capt. or Col. Litle at Johnstown —That he never received a written discharge from the service, neither has he any written evidence of his services.

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) Jesse Skinner

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid James B. Lowry, Clerk

The following answers were made by Jesse Skinner to the questions propounded by the court.

1<sup>st</sup> he says he was born at the town of Shanon, Litchfield County & State of Connecticut, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1750.

2—He says he has a record of his age at his own house, which is in a frame, containing his own age & his family's ages, and that record he has had for 30 or 40 years.

3—He said he was living at New Lebanon (then) Albany County NY, when he was called into service in 1780, he left New Lebanon and moved to the Mohawk River, that after the war was closed he moved to the town of Unadilla, Otsego County, where he resided almost forty years, and that fifteen years ago he came to the town of Busti, Chautauqua County, N.Y. where he has resided for 15 years & still lives there.

4—He says he enlisted as a volunteer under Capt. Fitch, when he performed a short tour of duty he was drafted, when he was at Warrensbush he was an enlisted volunteer.

5—He says when he was at Albany & Half Moon he recollects of seeing Gen. Schuyler who gave orders to the com. this deponent belonged to, that when he was at Saratoga his colonels name was Waterman, and that he recollects of seeing Gen. Gates there, that when he was at Warrensbush there were no regular officers belonging to the Continental Line as this deponent recollects, Col. Little was the highest officer he recollects there, who was at Johnstown, and gave orders to the company stationed at Warrensbush.

6—He says he never had any discharge—

7—He says he is acquainted with Zados Root of Busti, [?] Nathaniel Benton of Ellicott & Samuel A Brown atty at law of the same town & has known them for a number of years.

He further says that he knows the Rev. Grange Spencer of North East, Pennsylvania, and has known him ever since the Revolutionary War, and further he says that he applied for a pension soon after the law of last June was past & he was informed that his papers were informed, but the War department sent on the printed instructions and he now endeavors to conform to said instruction, he further says the said Grange Spencer testified as to his service or a part of his services, which affidavit is at Washington in the War office, to which this deponent respectfully refers for evidence of a part of his service, and he further says said G. Spencer agreed to attend this term of the court (if his health would admit) and certify as a clergyman & also swear again as to his services, but the said Grange Spencer is not able to attend court. (Signed) Jesse Skinner

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. James B. Lowry, Clk