

### **Pension Application for Josiah Skinner**

W.16728 (Widow: Elizabeth Green. Married March 4, 1777. Josiah died November 27, 1835. They had 13 children, 7 are living, when she made her deposition she was 78 years, December 6, 1835.)

Private & Lieut, Captain Cannon, Col. Waterman.

State of New York

On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 1832 personally appeared before J. B. Moore a Judge of the County Courts of the County of Albany and State aforesaid Josiah Skinner a resident of the town of Rensselaerville in the County of Albany and State of New York aged 77 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 month of June 1775 at New Lebanon in the County of Columbia and State of New York where he then resided he enlisted in Capt. Baldwin's (1) Company in the Second Battalion of New York State Troops, and immediately marched with the said company to Fort George where they continued most of the summer, and from there he and the said company after having joined the forces under Genl Montgomery (2) went into Canada and continued there until in the winter, when he returned home to New Lebanon aforesaid—

In the Spring of the next year he joined Capt. Nehemiah Fitch's (3) Company of New York Militia for three months, and went to Johnstown in New York and kept the garrison, after the expiration of this term and in the year 1777, he again enlisted in Capt. Fitch's Company in Colo. (4) regiment as he now thinks at New Lebanon, and marched directly from there to Fort George and then returned to Fort Edward and then retreated with the Army down to Stillwater and was actually and actively engaged in the battles (5) immediately proceeding the surrender of Genl Burgoyne (6) and his army—after the surrender of Burgoyne. He with others marched down to the city of Albany for the purpose of joining the southern army (as was said) where he was taken sick and was carried home to New Lebanon the place of his residence aforesaid. In the spring of the next year he again entered the service and went to Fishkill in the County of Dutchess N. York and performed the duties of Quartermaster under Colo. Waterman and Staats (7) and after serving out the time he enlisted for which he believes was for three months, he returned home—

The next season he went in Capt. Fitch's (8) Company up the Mohawk River and through the woods to Niagara and underwent the most severe hardships and privations in pursuing the Indians. After this campaign he returned home to New Lebanon—In the month of April 1784 (9), he received a warrant from Governor George Clinton to enlist a certain quota of men for three years levies, and having enlisted his number of men required was ordered to take them with other levies and march to Schoharie where he Joined Colonel Marinus Willett's regiment, he then served as a Lieutenant in Capt Hale's Company in Colonel Willett's regiment until sometime in December and was engaged in a battle with the Indians during this time at the head of the Delaware where his waiter John Sacket (10) was killed. He then received orders from Colo. Willet to attend a meeting at Johnstown (New York) to make arrangements for the three years officers and prepare for winter quarters.

At this meeting he was arranged as first Lieutenant in Capt. James Cannons (11) Company and Colonel Marinus Willett's regiment that in the spring he received his commission in the said company as first Lieutenant and served as such in the said company commanded by the said Capt. Cannon and in Colonel Willett's regiment until the close of the Revolutionary War, after obtaining his commission he having no place to keep it, he handed it to Capt Cannon for safe keeping and has never seen it since, after the war was over he sent a man to Capt. Cannon (12) to get his commission, but it could not be obtained as Capt. Cannon had become insane and could given no account of it.

That he does not recollect the particular place he was in at the close of the war at the time he was discharged, but thinks it was at some place on the Mohawk River—He further states that he is very infirm and has a hard fever sore on one of his legs and is also very poor, that he lives about 25 miles from Albany where the Courts of Record are held and that from bodily infirmity he is wholly unable to attend a court at that distance.

That he has no documentary evidence and affidavits in relation to his service which together with other papers are not at the City of Washington, and as he understands & believes are in the War Department. 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) Josiah Skinner

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. J. B. Moore, Judge of Albany Courts.

#### Family Record

Josiah Skinner, born July 25, 1754

Elizabeth born August 5, 1758

#### Children

Dinah Skinner born New Lebanon July 28, 1779

Sarah Skinner same place March 29, 1781

Elizabeth Skinner same place December 3<sup>d</sup> 1782

Elizabeth same place October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1784

Joseph same place November 24<sup>th</sup> 1786

Deborah Rensselaerville August 31<sup>st</sup> 1788

Phila same place May 1<sup>st</sup> 1790

Joshua Green same place December 28<sup>th</sup> 1791

Esther same place February 22<sup>d</sup> 1794

Daniel Green same place February 1<sup>st</sup> 1796

Abigail & Ruth (twins) same place July 30<sup>th</sup> 1797

Chester Clark same place December 28<sup>th</sup> 1799

Letter dated July 31, 1915.

In reply to your letter dated the 20<sup>th</sup> instant, you are advised that it appears from the papers in the claim of Josiah Skinner, W. File No. 16,728, Rev. War, that he was born July 25, 1754, and while a resident of New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York, enlisted there in June 1775, as a Private in Captain Baldwin's company, Colonel Yates' regiment, was in the siege of St. Johns, served until December 1775.

In the Spring of 1776, he enlisted in Captain Nehemiah Fitch's Company; served four months.

In 1777, enlisted in Captain Fitch's company, Colonel Waterman's regiment, was in the battles immediately preceding the surrender of Burgoyne and served three months.

In the Spring of 1778, he served as Quartermaster in Colonels Staats and Waterman's regiment; three months.

The next season he again joined Captain Fitch's company, and went up the Mohawk River in pursuit of Indians and was in an engagement with Indians at the head of the Delaware; served two months.

April 28, 1781, he was appointed Lieutenant under Captains Hale and James Cannon in Colonel Marinus Willett's regiment, and served to the close of the war. He was allowed pension on an application executed April 20, 1818, while a resident of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York.

He married March 4, 1777, Elizabeth daughter of Joshua Green; she was born August 5, 1758. He died November 27, 1835, and his widow Elizabeth was allowed pension on an application executed December 6, 1836, while a resident of Berne, New York. She died August 28, 1840. Their children were:

Dinah Skinner born New Lebanon July 28, 1779

Sarah Skinner same place March 29, 1781

Elizabeth Skinner same place December 3<sup>d</sup> 1782

Elizabeth same place October 21, 1784

Joseph same place November 24<sup>th</sup> 1786

Deborah Rensselaerville August 31<sup>st</sup> 1788

Phila same place May 1<sup>st</sup> 1790

Joshua Green same place December 28<sup>th</sup> 1791

Esther same place February 22<sup>d</sup> 1794

Daniel Green same place February 1<sup>st</sup> 1796

Abigail & Ruth (twins) same place July 30<sup>th</sup> 1797

Chester Clark same place December 28<sup>th</sup> 1799

Chester Clark married July 24, 1820, Jane Sutherland and April 18, 1835, Mary Gardner.

End Notes—W.16728—Josiah Skinner

1. Josiah enlisted as a private on May 25, 1775 in Captain Hezekiah Baldwin's Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Second New York Continental Regiment. The muster roll is dated October 13, 1775 at Fort George. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 67, folder 19, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Major General Richard Montgomery of the Continental Army in Canada, General Montgomery was killed on December 31, 1775 in the storming of Quebec.
3. Nehemiah Fitch was the Captain of the Fourth Company in Colonel William B. Whiting's Seventeenth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
4. Asa Waterman served as the lieutenant-colonel under Colonel Whiting.
5. The Battles of Saratoga were fought on September 19 and October 7, 1777.
6. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered his British forces and allies on October 17, 1777.
7. Lieutenant Colonel Barent Staats of Colonel Philip P. Schuyler's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia.
8. Captain Fitch had resigned and First Lieutenant Gideon King was commissioned captain of the company of March 6, 1779.
9. Josiah was appointed lieutenant on April 27, 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of the New York State Levees. Josiah was assigned as a lieutenant in Captain Aaron Hale's Company on August 7, 1781 by Willett and the company was ordered to Schoharie to garrison the forts there. FROM: Colonel Marinus Willett's Letter and Order Book for 1781, Doc. No. 15705, Special Collections and Manuscripts, NYSL, Albany, N.Y.
10. The skirmish took place on November 10, 1781 near Lake Ut.
11. Josiah was appointed Lieutenant in captain James Cannon's Company in Willett's Regiment in 1782 but resigned his commission in favor of his brother Thomas who then served in Josiah's place Captain Cannon's Company as a lieutenant. Thomas has served as a captain in Willett's Regiment in 1781 but was not re-appointed in 1782 as a captain. He was commissioned as lieutenant on July 24, 1782.
12. James Cannon was appointed lieutenant-colonel commandant on October 2, 1786 of a regiment of Montgomery County Militia. On March 7, 1798, Elijah Holt was appointed lieutenant colonel commandant in place of James Cannon (who is) deranged in mind. FROM: Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment of the State of New York 1783-1821, ed. Hugh Hastings, James B. Lyon, State Printer, Albany, N.Y., Vol. I, pp 103, 405-406.