

Pension Application for Levi Skinner

S.14470

Sergeant, Captain White, Col. Whiting.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On the sixth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty two— Personally appeared before me, Henry J. Dievendorf one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Montgomery aforesaid being a court of record Levi Skinner a resident in the town of Canajoharrie in said county as the residence of said Levi in said town aged eight four 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 after stated—That in the year 1775 he resided in the town of New Lebanon in the County of Albany now County of Columbia State of New York about thirty miles easterly from Albany. That he enlisted into the service, about the first of May 1775 under Capt. George White, Lieutenant Jarvis Mudge & Ensign Grant—The first duties he performed after his enlistment was as a guard for the Committee of Safety appointed for there & the adjoining town. This duty he performed at the request of the committee & with the consent of Capt. White.—Those duties were, to take charge of the suspected persons that were brot before the committee for examination. He remained under the directions of said committee from about the 1st May until sometime in July when he joined his company then at Fort George—There were at Fort George at this time three companies, one commanded by Capt. Pratt of Spencertown, one commanded by Capt. Baldwin of New Lebanon & the company in which he served commanded by Capt. George White the whole under the command of Col. VanSchaick, & Lieutenant Col. Yates. The principal duties of those companies during the summer & first fall months were to transport & guard provisions & stores forwarded to the troops at Ticonderoga and to labour on the roads. He was taken on a scout by a party of Tories but effected his escape after a short time. He further stated that he was wounded in his right leg by an accident, whilst on board a boat conveying provisions across the Lake, this was sometime the first part of October—the wound was made by a splinter passing between the bone of the leg and the bones or cartilages were infirmed in such a manner that the wound never effectually healed but has continued form that day to this to be the cause of much pain and much of the time has prevented him from the ordinary business of life, it now is & has been a open & [fester some?] for more than forty years & it has been necessary to dress it daily for that length of time.

He was discharged from the service on account of said wound the latter part of Novem. 1775 after the surrender of Fort St. Johns to Gen. Montgomery. The discharge was obtained without his [?] by the surgeon of the Regiment. Doct Stringer signed by him & the officer commanding the Regiment. The discharge this deponent supposed was in his possession in 1818 (at which time he applied for a pension but did not obtain one on account of having served only in the state troops) but having made diligent search & being unable to find it this deponent supposes & believe it is lost.

This deponent further states that the wound rendered him unfit to perform Military duty, & that he received a discharge from Militia duty, signed by Col. whiting commander of the Militia Regiment where this deponent resided.—He further states that notwithstanding such exemption from duty, this deponent with two other of his townsmen hired an able bodied man for nine months to serve in the army which service was performed & for which they paid.

This deponent further states that in consequence of the proclamation of Gen. Schuyler calling on the militia t the time Burgoyne was advancing, he with others of his townsmen volunteered to join the army that was collecting to oppose him, that being unable on account of his lameness to perform

duty on foot, he went on horseback about the first of August 1777. That they marched from New Lebanon under the command of the above named Capt. White who acted under the orders of Governor Clinton & commanded a company of Rangers whose business was to scour the country about Moosic and Bennington for the purpose of intercepting the supplies which the British under Burgoyne were receiving from the Tories & [?] with which that part of the company [?]—This deponent states that they recaptured a large amount of cattle & horses from the tories which were driven to Stephentown & New Canaan & afterwards sold by order of the governor as he supposed for the benefit of the government.

He further states that he was with his company in the neighborhood of Bennington on the day of the Battle at that place & part of the time in hearing of the guns of the contending parties. The enemy were between our company and the Americans with whom they were fighting and when the enemy retreated, the company with whom this deponent then was, consisting at that time of eighteen men took twenty two of the Brittish & tories prisoners.

This deponent states that he continued doing duty in Capt. White's company at this time until after the capture of Burgoyne. The whole time spent in this tour was something more than two & half months.

The two terms of service above described do not in the opinion of this deponent constitute quiet half of the time he spent in the service, but the remainder of the duties he performed consisting of scouts & excursions on account of alarms & on one occasion when the Indians & Tories burned the settlements on the Mohawk he went from New Canaan his place of residence through Albany & Schenectady & up the river to Fort Hunter a distance of about ninety miles, in this excursion he went as a volunteer & was absent three weeks.

On another excursion at the time the news came of the burning of Cherry Valley, this deponent was in Albany, and volunteered & went to Schenectady they then heard that the enemy had retreated & he returned & immediately went with a scouting party that were called out to suppress the depredations of the tories who were plundering & pillaging the inhabitants of the country lying between Kinderhook & New Lebanon we took three tories in this excursion. He states that he was absent in these last mentioned excursions about six weeks.

He further states that at the time that Schoharie was burned he volunteered with others & went as far as Albany but the company to which he was attached was dismissed after a few days, [?] at that place, he then returned and went with a party on a scout to Hoosic a tory settlement which party & himself continued their scouts at intervals for many weeks.

This deponent states that the calls were so frequent that himself & his associates could attend to very little business but were on the alert for the most part of the time during the summer & fall of 1779 & 80.

This deponent states that at the time of his first enlistments in 1775 he was appointed as sergeant and served as a sergeant during the whole terms of service above related.

This deponent states that he has now in his possession the record of his age taken from the records of the town of Shanon in the State of Connecticut & that according to said record he was born in 1748, that shortly after the war he removed to the then town of Warrensbush now Florida in the County of Montgomery & State of [cut off]. That h has resided in the said State of New York ever since. That he removed to Canajoharie his present residence 3 years ago last fall. That during the said war he was in no general engagements or battles otherwise than is above related—except skirmishes. That during the revolution when out on service he saw Genl. Montgomery—was well acquainted with Genl. Schuyler—saw Genl Putnam frequently saw Col. VanSchaick--& many of the lower grade of Continental officers [?] names deponent cannot recollect.

Deponent saith also, that he hath not now any documentary evidence of his revolutionary services & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service other than what is hereto attached.

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) Levi Skinner
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Henry J. Dievendorff.