

Pension Application for Simon H. Terwilliger

R.10472 (Widow: Sorchy)

State of New York

Chenango County SS.

On this 31st day of August in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and Thirty two, personally appeared before the Honorable Robert Monell Vice Chancellor of the sixth circuit of the State of New York also Circuit Judge of said Circuit, Simon H. Terwilliger, a resident of the Town of Greene in said County of Chenango and State of New York, at the residence of said Terwilliger, who from bodily infirmity and old age is unable to attend in open Court, aged seventy nine 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 seventh 1832.

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

That the June just before harvest in the year 1775 or 76, cannot tell which he volunteered under Captain Davis in Col. Guy Johnson's Regiment and went out and had a skirmish that he lived at the time at Johnstown in the State of New York and that afterwards he moved to the town of Shawangunk, Ulster County and State of New York that the People after the declaration of Independence formed themselves into classes and that he was one of a class and in the fall of 1776 went into the service under Captain Roos in a Regiment commanded by Col Hardenbury and marched from Ulster County to the Jerseys and Haverstraw and took up winter quarters in New Jersey and he and his company was under the command of Major Logan, that he came back again in the spring to Ulster County, and served at least [???] in the summer or fall of 1777 and went under Captain Roos in the same regimen to Fort Montgomery and was there 3 months that he was at the Fort when Sir Henry Clinton sent General Vaughan up the North River and was near Fort Montgomery at the time it was taken, that his captain was killed at this battle and that Cornelius Masten was the Captain and that the American Troops then went up to Newburgh and there they built Cheveaux de Fries to prevent the vessels from going up the river, but that the British sawed off the timbers and proceeded up the river to Esopus.

That the regiment to which he belonged was one hour behind the troops under General Vaughan when he burnt Esopus, that he proceed[ed] up to Katskill [Catskill] when he heard of the surrender of General Burgoyne that they then went back that while in the expedition the American Troops caught a man by the name of Smith who was hung as a Spie [Spy] that while at Fort Montgomery he saw General Washington and General Putnam and that Col. Lamb was also there with a Regiment of Red Coats, that he helped build Fort Mongomery [Montgomery], Fort Constitution and the Fort at West Point during the war, that after Sir Henry Clinton had returned to New York and the Regiment in which he as in had returned down to Fort Montgomery he was discharged and went home and staid in Ulster County during the winters and that in the spring of 1778 he again entered the services under the same Captain in Col. John

Storms Regiment and went to New Jersey and then returned home, served this term two months and was drafted under the same captain and Col. Paudins [Pauldings] Regiment in Ulster County and was stationed on the frontiers from one place to another [another] until fall and then went home and staid during the Winter, served this time four months and in the next spring he was drafted for three months under Captain Conklin in Col Johnston's Regiment and served out his time on the front and was then discharged.

That he does not now recollect any more service until the 1781, that then two Indians came to the residence of Col. Johnston for the purpose of taking him and that the Col. [Sam?] then in season to go into his house and bar doors, but that the Indians took two of his servants (Black Men) and took them off that on alarm was given and pursuit was made by the neighbors that they followed the Indians and found that they had killed one white man and two girls, and he helped carry them out of the woods.

That the service in the whole about 3 years but that his mind is so feeble and his health so bad that he has forgotten the particulars and the times when and where he served except as above stated, that he has no recollection of ever having written discharge and that he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services unless the following persons are living (viz) Michael Billinger, Jacob Ostrander, Ezekiel Mastin, John Ronk, Cornelius Terwilliger and Peter Terwilliger, and that if they are alive he expects to be able to prove a part of his services that his name is onto on the pension Roll of the agency of any State and that he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present. (Signed) Simon H. Terwilliger

Sworn & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Robrt Morell, Vice Chancellor & Circuit Judge.

Letter in folder dated May 7, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the records of Simon H. Terwilliger and Josiah Terwilliger, who served in the New York Troops in the Revolutionary War and received pensions while residing in Chenango County, New York.

The records of these soldiers have been found and are furnished herein.

Josiah Terwilliger
W.16437

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, W.16437, based upon the military service of Josiah Terwilliger in that war.

Josiah Terwilliger was born in 1756, exact date not shown in Shawangunk, Ulster County, New York. The names of his parents are not stated.

While a resident of said Shawangunk, Josiah Terwilliger enlisted in the spring of 1776, served in Captain Uriah Drake's Company, Colonel Palmer's New York

Regiment and was stationed at Fort Montgomery for four months; in the fall of same year, he served another four months at Fort Montgomery under Captain Jacob Conklin in the New York Troops; later he enlisted for six months in Captain Jacobus Rose's New York Company, again marched to Fort Montgomery, and after serving about three months was taken sick and sent home to recover his health and while at home, Fort Montgomery was captured by the British and all the members of his company either captured or dispersed.

After the Revolution, Josiah Terwilliger continued to reside at Shawangunk, New York, until 1798 or 1799, then moved to Nine Partners, New York where he remained for about one year; then moved to Guilford, Chenango County, New York, of which place he was a resident when he applied for pension on October 9, 1832. His claim was allowed.

He died at said Guildford on January 29, 1833.

The soldier married January 15, 1783, in Clinton, Dutchess County, New York, Rachel Mills. The date and place of her birth and names of her parents are not shown.

Soldier's widow, Rachel was allowed pension on her application executed December 21, 1838, at which time she was aged seventy-five years and resided in Guilford, New York.

The only name of a child that is shown is son Josiah Terwilliger, who, in 1833, was a resident of Chenango County, New York.

In 1833, Hermanus Terwilliger, a brother so the soldier lived in Plattekill, Ulster County, New York.

In 1836, Rudolph Ostrom, a resident of Chenango County, New York, stated that he married a sister of the widow, Rachel Mills Terwilliger but did not give his wife's name.

In 1828, Samuel Fairchild, of Guilford, New York, stated that Rachel Mills Terwilliger was his aunt and lived at his home. He stated that he was fifty years of age, but did not give the names of his parents.

Simon H. Terwilliger
R.10472

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, R.10472, based upon the military service of Simon H. Terwilliger in that war.

Simon H. Terwilliger was born in 1753, exact date not shown, in Schenectady, New York. The names of his parents are not stated.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Simon H. Terwilliger. Resided in Johnstown, Tryon (later Montgomery) County, New York, the moved to Shawangunk, Ulster County, New York. He volunteered at said Johnstown, In June, 1775 or 1776, served in Captain Davis' Company, Colonel Johnson's New York Regiment and was in a skirmish; place where skirmish took place and length of this service not shown; he enlisted in the fall of 1776, and served five months in Captain Roos' Company, Colonel

Hardenburg's New York Regiment; he enlisted in the fall of 1777, in same company and regiment, went to Fort Montgomery where he served for three months, was in the engagement when Fort Montgomery was captured by the British, in which engagement Captain Roos was killed and his place taken by Captain Cornelius Martin; in the spring of 1778, he enlisted and served two months in Captain Cornelius Martin's Company, Colonel Johnson's New York Regiment; then enlisted in Ulster County, in same company, Colonel Paulding's New York Regiment and was stationed on the frontiers until fall; length of this service, four months; he again enlisted the following spring and served three months in captain Jacob Conklin's Company, Colonel Johnson's New York Regiment. The soldier stated that he assisted in building Forts Montgomery and Constitution and the fort at West Point.

Simon H. Terwilliger was allowed pension on his application executed August 31, 1832, while living in Green, Chenango County, New York, where he had lived for nine years.

He died the last day of February or the first day of March, 1834, at the home of his son, Henry S. Terwilliger, in Greene, New York.

The soldier married in February 1780, Sorchy VanKuren. They were married by the Reverend Gostchns, of the Reformed Dutch Church of Shawangunk, New York. Sorchy was aged eighty-one years in 1838.

No names of children appear, other than son Henry S. noted above.

In 1838, the widow's brother, Jacob VanBuren was aged seventy-nine years and lived in Ulster County, New York, where, he stated, he had always lived.

The names Cornelius, Peter and James Terwilliger appear; no relationship to the family stated.