

Pension Application for Stephen Turner

W.2198 (Widow: Amy) Amy Bennet and Stephen Turner were married on July 31, 1781. He died March 4, 1848.

B.L.Wt.24611-160-55

State of New York

Dutchess County SS.

On this third day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county of Dutchess in the State of New York Stephen Turner aged seventy three years a resident of the Town of Pawlings in the County of Dutchess who being 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 and served as herein stated that he was born in e County of Westchester in the State of New York the town he has forgotten on the tenth day of September in the year 1761, that he has a Record of his age in his possession, that while he was a child his Father & family removed to the Town of Pawlings in Dutchess County that he as living in said Town of Pawlings when called into service and has lived there since the Revolutionary war in the fall of 1776 he was drafted for three months in Captain John Berrys Company of the New York State Troops in the Regiment Commanded by Major Paine & Colonel Elijah Townsend that he joined his Company in the highlands below Fishkill & was engaged in building a battery in the highlands & in patrolling the Hudson River as far down as Peekskill until his term of three months service expired where he received a written discharge from his Captain which he has lost & returned home, that during the summer of the year 1777 he again was drafted for three months in Captain Joel Meads Company & Colonel Ludington's Regiment and marched to a the highland with his company and continued to patrol in the vicinity of the Hudson River until his term of three months had expired and their received a written discharge which he has lost or destroyed.

That a few months afterwards in the same year he was attached & enlisted in Captain Joel Meads Company & Col Ludington Regiment for no particular period as a minute man & a ranger that it was the duty & object of the company to protect the inhabitants from the incursions of a the enemy and the Cowboys or [Skinnas?] from the City of New York and that he remained and done duty in said Company less than three years until the Brittish [British] evacuated New York that the head quarters of said Captain Mead was at the; House of Col. Ludington, that the company was large & were not always under arms except in case of incursions from the enemy & Tories but a part of the Company except when an incursion or attack was expected were [suffered?] to return to their respective houses but were required to hold themselves to their respective homes but well required to hold themselves in readiness at a minutes warning while the other portion of the Company patrolled the county to intercept the enemy & destroy the bands of Tories & robbers that infested Dutchess & Westchester from the City of New York.

That he cannot say precisely what part of the time he was actually under arms, but at least one year of the period from the taken [taking] of Fort Montgomery until the British evacuated New York he was actually under arms under the command of Captain Mead or his subaltern officers & engaged in cutting off supplies of provisions cattle & horses which the Tories stole & robbed from the inhabitants & attempted to convey in New York to the army that he knew while in the service Colonel Graham and Colonel Crane.

That he recollects while under Colonel Elijah Townsend of a challenge to fight a duel that his Colonel received from Col. Crane but that aftertime & place was appointed it was prevented by the interruption of Friends.

That he had no documentary evidence of his service as a soldier of the Revolution and knows of no other persons by whom he can make positive proof of his service except by Abel VanScoy and Elisha Turner whose affidavits are hereunto annexed that he is known in his present neighborhood to Samuel Allen, Benoni Pearce, Daniel D. Aikin & Joshua White Magistrates of the Town of Pawlings, and to the Rev. Nathaniel Robinson a Baptist Clergyman & the Rev. John Reynolds a Methodist Clergyman who can testify to his character for truth & veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution that during this term of service under Captain Berry in 1776 and under Captain Mead in 1777, he was engaged in no civil pursuit or occupation, but that while the minute service under Captain Mead from the taken of Fort Montgomery until the evacuation of New York he was a part of the time engaged in civil pursuits but that during that period for at least one year he was actually under arms & doing duty as a soldier in Captain Meads Company as aforesaid.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension of [sic] Roll of the agency of any State. (Signed with his mark) Stephen Turner

Taken and subscribed the 4th day of Feb 1834 in open court. Henry J. Traver, Clerk

Letter in folder dated August 19, 1924, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.2198, it appears that Stephen Turner was born September 10, 1761, in Westchester County, New York.

While a resident of Pawling, Dutchess County;, New York, he enlisted in the fall of 1776 and served three months as a private in Captain John Berry's Company, colonel Elijah Townsend's New York Regiment.

He enlisted in the summer of 1777 and served three months in Captain Joel Mead's Company, Colonel Ludington's New York Regiment.

He enlisted late in 1777 and served as a minute-man and ranger in Captain Joel Mead's Company, colonel Ludington's New York Regiment, at various times until the British evacuated New York, being in actual service about one year.

He was allowed pension on his application executed February 3, 1834, while a resident of Pawling, New York. He died March 4, 1848.

He married July 31, 1781, at Fredericksburgh, Dutchess County, New York (later called Patterson, Putnam County, New York) Amy Bennett. She was allowed pension on her application executed April 25, 1849, while a resident of Pawling, New York, aged 86 years.

They had the following children:

Caleb born May 20, 1782.

Lydia born November 26, 1784.

John born February 19, 1786.

Jenny born April 10, 1788.

Sarah born May 10, 1790.

Stephen born June 14, 1793, married Sarah Eastwood.

Rhoda born March 7, 1798.

Katharine Maria born June 7, 1809.