

Pension Application for Joseph Underwood

S41278

Covered under the act 18 March 1818

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To Phineas White Chief Judge of Windham County Court in the State of Vermont.

I Joseph Underwood of Putney in the County and State aforesaid claiming the benefits of an act of Congress passed the 18th day of March Anno Domino 1818 entitled "An act of provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, Do in pursuance of the provisions of the said act, here, upon oath, make the following Declaration (to wit)--

That I the said Underwood, served as a private Soldier in the War of the Revolution on the Continental Establishment as follows. I inlisted into the Continental Army, for the term of three years, in the month of June 1777—belonged to the company under Capt. Wm. H. Ballard (1) in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Alden who was killed by the enemy at Cherry Valley (2) —after his death the Regiment was commanded by Col. Brooks of the Massachusetts Line —and at the close of said term in June 1780 (3) I was honorably discharged from the Army. But my discharge I have unfortunately lost so that this is out of my power—And I further declare that I know of no evidence which I can obtain to prove my having served as said, as I am poor and unable to send to a distance for testimony—And I further upon oath declare that by reason of my reduced circumstances I am in need of the assistance of my country for support.

[?] I herewith set my hand this fourth day of April A.D. 1818. (Signed) Joseph Underwood
Letter in file from a DAR member dated Sept. 7, 1931

In order to complete the lineage record for my children I am endeavoring to get information and war record of one, Joseph Underwood.

This man's son was born in Vermont in 1771 and moved to Rutland Vt. In 1800 where he was one of the first settlers. He married a Rebecca Hayes, he lived in Rutland Vt. 35 years, then moved to Brownsville NY where he died in 1843.

In the obituary of this man's grandson printed in Brownsville NY 1895 it states, "He was the grandson of Joseph Underwood a revolutionary war soldier.

I'm sorry I cannot give further data, he probably was with Vermont troops & later rec'd a pension.

Thanking you for any information you may give me or for any other references. Please find enclosed a self addressed envelope & \$1.00 in money. Hoping I may have an early reply.

Letter of reply dated September 15, 1931.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S41278, that Joseph Underwood enlisted, was not stated, served as a private in Captain William H. Ballard's Company, Colonels Alden and Brooks' Massachusetts Regiment and was discharged in June, 1780.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 4, 1818, while residing in Putney, Windham County, Vermont.

The date and place of his birth are not given and there are no data as to his family.

The above is the history of the only soldier named Joseph Underwood found on the Revolutionary War records of this office.

\$1.00 the amount of your remittance, will be refunded in due time, no charge is made for this service.

End Notes—S.41278—Joseph Underwood

1. Joseph served in Captain William Hudson Ballard's First Company in Colonel Ichabod Alden's Sixth Massachusetts Continental Regiment. In a "Return of Cloathing Drawn By the Non Commissioned Offiscers & Privetes In Captain Willm Hudson Ballards company In the Seventh Masstts Regiment for the Year 1778." No. 44, Joseph Underwood had received 1 Coat, 1 wastecoat (vest), 1 (pair of) Britches, 1 (Pair of) Shoes. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 37, folder 10, National Archives, Washington DC.
2. Cherry Valley was destroyed on November 11, 1778 by forces under Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant. Colonel Alden was killed in attempting to reach the safety of Fort Alden and Lieutenant-Colonel William Stacey was captured while attempting to reach the fort. Major Daniel Whiting of Colonel Alden's Regiment with the remnants of Alden's Regiment and the Cherry Valley residents that reached the fort put up a successful defense and prevented Butler and Brant from taking the fort. Major Whiting commanded the regiment under the Massachusetts Continental Line was re-organized in 1780. John Brooks was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the former Colonel Alden's Regiment which officially became the Seventh Regiment since Colonel Thomas Nixon's Regiment was called the Sixth Regiment at the same time as Alden's.
3. Interestingly is what Underwood doesn't mention. He doesn't mention the Saratoga Campaign of 1777, the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign of 1779 against the Iroquois Villages in Western New York and no details

about the Cherry Valley Massacre other than Colonel Alden had been killed. Alden's Regiment was in both the Saratoga and the Sullivan-Clinton Campaigns. They were engaged in the Battle of Newtown on August 29, 1779 and the late Alden's Regiment suffered one man killed and six wounded in this battle.