

Pension Application for Micah Skinner

S.3916

Private, Captain Skinner, Col. Willett

To the Senate and House of Representative of the United States of America in Congress assembled.—

The undersigned your memorialist asks most respectfully to present, that in the month of April AD 1781 he enlisted as a private soldier for a term of three years in Thomas Skinner's Company, Col. Marinus Willet's Regiment their parte muster at Albany and took our station on the Mohawk River—in the State of New York on the frontiers and that said company & regiment as your memorialist has always understood were raised by the state of New York in obedience to an act of congress passed in the year 1780 requiring the state of New York leaves to reinforce the Army of the United States to guard the frontiers that after such inlistment your memorialist was transferred to Capt. (his Christian name is forgotten) Cannons Company in the same Regiment in which company he continued faithfully to serve his country until after the close of the Revolutionary War when he was honorably discharged. That in execution of the object of the aforesaid Requisition he was stationed under the aforesaid command, upon the then frontiers when he was actively engaged in the Battle of Johnstown and in ambush skirmishes with the Indians on the Mohawk River during which he was frequently in extreme peril & suffering as well from the savage foe as from cold and hunger, having many times been out in scouting parties 2 and 3 days with out food or comfortable clothing.

That on the 6th day of February 1782 he started with Col. Willet's Regiment from their frontier—winter quarters on an expedition to Lake Ontario with the design of surprising & taking Fort Oswego during which expedition your memorialist indured sufferings from the severe coldness of the weather and extreme hunger which it is not in his power to describe and which can only be conceived from the fact that the expedition were eleven days in performing it and that they the whole 11 days, your memorialist further states that such was his weakness and exhaustion from hunger and his exposure for want of comfortable clothing that his feet were actually frozen from his hells to his toes so that they become bloated & that during the whole period of his service he was so constantly exposed to heats and colds that it brought on a kind of Constitutional Rheumatism which as afflicted him through life & which of late in his old age has become so severe as to render him unable to labour to any useful purpose, but to deprive him almost of the enjoyment of sleep that he is not destitute of property and without children who are able to support him and that unless he can obtain some relief from his country he can anticipating nothing in future but abject depradation and chilling penury, that his discharge being thought of no value has been lost, (my name in any discharge was spelt Michael how it was on the muster rool [roll] I know not but I think likely it was a mistake in the muster master).

Your memorialist made an application to the Secretary of war in 1818 which he understood was rejected on the ground that Col. Willet's Regiment was not strictly considered as belonging to the Continental Establishment—after which he hoped to be able to get along without renewing his application but absolute necessity now confronts him now to ask some remuneration for his early services and sufferings in the cause of his country and he most earnestly prays your honorable body to grant him a pension or some such other relief as they may deem just & reasonable and as in duty bound he will ever pray. Monroeville, Huron C. of O., [Ohio] 18 Jan'y 1832. (Signed) Micah Skinner

Sworn this 18 Jan'y AD 1832 before me. S. VanRensselaer J.P.

22^d Congress, 1st Session. H.R. 472.

March 15, 1832.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House to which is committed the bill (H.R. No. 351) for the relief of David Brooks.

Mr. Hubbard, from the committee of Revolutionary Pensions reported the following bill:

A Bill. Granting pensions to certain persons herein named.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he hereby is, authorized and required to place Micah Skinner, Benjamin Jordan, Abner Reckard, Ebenezer Holmes, Elias Chamberlain, Isaac Fellows, Isaac Richardson, Zachariah Sanders, Samuel Barrett, Abraham June, Charles Chamberlain, Nathaniel Montagu, and Nell Whittaker, on the list of revolutionary pensioners; and that he pay to them, each, during life, at the rate of eight dollars a month; commencing on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and thirty.