

Pension Application for Solomon Curtis

S.28697

State of New York

Chenango County SS.

On this eleventh day of February 1834, personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of said County of Chenango now sitting Solomon Curtis, a resident of Oxford, in the County of Chenango and State of New York, aged seventy eight 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 7th, 1832.

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

1775. That in the year 1775 he lived in Spencertown now Hillsdale Columbia County and State of New York and in April of 1775, a report came to Spencertown that there had been a battle at Lexington, Massachusetts, and that this deponent being a private in a company of New York Militia, commanded by Captain John Salisbury, started with said company for Lexington, that when they had reached Barrington in Massachusetts, news came that the Malitia need to go no further, and at Barrington he and the company were discharged and returned home having been in active service one week.

1776. That in the summer of 1776 he volunteered and enlisted as a minute man for the term of four years, in Capt. John Salisbury. Lieut James Phelps Ensign Benjamin Ford Company of New York State Malitia in Colonel Whiting's Regiment.

That about the time he volunteered and enlisted as aforesaid, three tours, whose names are John Savage, Richard Jones and Benjamin Ingraham on Sunday came into the neighborhood of Spencertown where he resided when he with the above named Captain Salisbury and more men besides this deponent went after said tories and arrested them and carried them to New Canaan about ten miles from Spencertown, that the said tories were tried at New Canaan and sentenced to Simsbury [?] and said tories were rescued at Bennington by 30 or 40 men, whilst they were carrying to Simsbury [?] said tories.

That he was absent from home in active service on this expedition one month.

That sometime during the year 1779 he with the company aforesaid marched from Spencertown to Fort Edwards and from thence they were ordered to march to the Mohawk Valley, that they marched through Schenectady to Stone Arabia and he was in a battle at Stone Arabia and remained several weeks with some Continental troops came to Fort Stanwix, when he with the company aforesaid were discharged and returned home having been in active service six months.

That during the said summer the enemy destroyed and burned several settlements along the Mohawk Valley.

That as he believes in the winter of 1780, he with the company aforesaid marched to Johnstown where there were about two hundred Highlanders, and they took the arms of the said Highlanders and when they returned home for this

expedition he with the company had been absent in active service for the term of six weeks.

That during the year 1776, '77, '78, '79 and so he was allied with the company aforesaid in active service, besides the times and in the manner above mentioned at least four months. That he was out on numerous expeditions against the Tories and enemy during said four years in the neighborhood of Spencertown.

That by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear more positively as to the precise length of times of his service, that at above related, but he can swear positively that he was in active service during the Revolutionary War as a private under the officers aforesaid for the term of one year, and he saith service he claims a pension.

That he could not produce the attendance of a clergyman and another respectable citizen who could verify as to their belief as to his age and the belief of his neighborhood as to his Revolutionary service in court without considerable inconvenience and expense, as they reside eight miles distant from the Fourth and he has caused their affidavits to be hereto annexed.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department.

To the first interrogatory prescribed the War Department to answers, that he was born at East Greenwich (now Warren), Connecticut the 7th February 1755.

To the second, he answers, that he has a record of his age at home in his bible.

To the third answers, that he lived at Spencertown in Columbia County and State of New York when called into service, that service the Revolutionary War he has lived at Tyelingham, Massachusetts, Concord, Spencertown and Oxford in the State of New York and that he now lives in Oxford.

To the fourth answers, that he always volunteered his service, that he never was a substitute.

To the fifth answers, that of the Regular officers who were with the troops where he served, he recollects Colonel Whiting, Generals Gates and VanRensalier [sic] that he recollects no continental Regiment and that of the Militia Regiment, he recollects Colonel VanSchicks only and that the general circumstances of his service as above as all set forth as he can recollect.

To the Sixth answers, that he never received a written discharge from service.

To the seventh answers, Nic Tracy, Ira Willcox, and John Tealy, [??] Oxford.

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) Solomon Curtis.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and hear aforesaid. P.B. Prindle, Dep. Clerk

Letter in folder dated November 21, 1933, written in response to an inquiry.

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Solomon Curtis was born February 19, 1755, in East Greenwich, (which was later Warren) Connecticut; the names of his parents are not shown in the claim.

While residing in Spencertown (later Hillsdale), in Columbia County, New York, he volunteered in April 1775, served as private in Captain John Salisbury's company, Colonel Whiting's New York regiment, was in numerous expeditions against the Tories and in skirmishes in which towns along the Mohawk Valley were burned and Tories were captured, was also in the Battle of Stone Arabia, and served until sometime in the winter of 1780, having served about a year in all.

After the Revolutionary War, the soldier lived in "Tydingham" (probably meant for Tyringham), Massachusetts, and in Concord, Spencertown and Oxford, New York.

Solomon Curtis was allowed pension on his application executed June 4, 1834, while a resident of Oxford, Chenango County, New York.

He died August 27, 1839.

There are no family data in the claim.