

Pension Application for Christian Knieshern, Kniskern

S.5659

State of New York

Greene County SS.

On the Fourth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred & thirty three personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Greene now sitting Christian Knishern (1) a Resident of the town of Cairo in the County of Greene aforesaid & State of New York aged Sixty Eight years & Eleven months 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 7, 1832.

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

That he entered the service of the United States in the Month of October in the year seventeen hundred & Eighty in the town of Schoharie then the County of Albany now in the County of Schoharie & State of New York very soon after Schoharie was burned, at the Middle fort in the town of Schoharie and Remained there so in the service nine weeks & then was discharged, but had no written discharge—and the Field officers as far as Recollected were Peter Vroman, (2) Colonels & Joseph Basker (3) Major and the company officers as far as Recollected on Christian Stubrwaugh (4) Captain Jacob Snyder Lieutenant or Ensign. That at the time he entered the service as above he resided in the town of Schoharie then in the County of Albany & State of New York and that he entered the service as a substitute for his Father Henry Kniskern (5) of the same place. That at the time he entered the service he was about fifteen years of age.

That he again entered the service of the United States in the next spring about the first of May 1781 at the Lower fort in the town of Schoharie then in the County of Albany now in the County of Schoharie, was drafted. Remained in the Service at this place six months & then was discharged but not in writing, was discharged about the first of November in the same year. He Resided in the town of Schoharie & County & State aforesaid; and his Field & Company officers as far as Recollected were as follows. Peter Vroman Colonel, Joseph Becker Major; Christian Stubrwaugh Captain & Jacob Snyder Lieutenant.

And again he entered the service of the United States about the latter part of April in the year 1782 & was stationed at Whitemans Fort at a place called Beverdam in the town of Berne, in the County of Albany & State of New York & continued in the service there untill the last of November in the same year & was then discharged but not in writing & was drafted; served at this time as near as he can state Seven months & that at the time he entered the service the last time he resided in the town of Berne in the County of Albany State of New York & his officers as far as Recollected are Peter Vroman Colonel; Christian Stubrwaugh Major; Adam Deets Captain & Mathias Shaultas, Lieutenant that their principal business was to guard against the Indians under Brant (3) & the Tories & Take care of the different places, property & ammunition which was in store in the different Forts where he lay; and this was only our Regiment & during the whole service of this declarant to his recollection & the different forts where he lay were within the distance of about twelve miles of each other; and this declarant states that he has no documentary evidence but proof of his service as is hereunto annexed and he herby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Christian Knieshern

Subscribed and sworn before me in open court Feby 4th 1833. William V. B. Heremance
Clerk

The answers of the declarant to the questions propounded by the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Greene—aforsaid pursuant to the directions of the Secretary of War.

I was born in the town of Schoharie in the County of Albany now Schoharie & State of New York in the year aforsaid one thousand seven hundred & sixty four.

I have a record of my age in the family Bible and also a Family Record & it is also in the Bible that belonged to my Father, my bible & other Record is at my home.

I lived in the town of Schoharie in the then County of Albany now Schoharie & State of New York in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & sixty four.

I have a record of my age in the family Bible and also a Family Record & it is also in the Bible that belonged to my Father; my bible & other Record is at my home.

I lived in the town of Schoharie in the then County of Albany now Schoharie at the time I Entered the service the two first times above mentioned (to wit at the Middle & Lower Forts) & in the town of Berne in the County of Albany where I entered the Service the last time to wit at Whitemans Fort, and since that time I resided about 11 years in the town of Berne & then removed to the town of Greeneville in the County of Greene aforsaid & lived there untill about four years since when I moved into the town of Cairo in said County of Greene & State of New York where I now Reside.

I entered the service in the first place as a Substitute for my Father for the nine weeks service & for the six & seven months service I was drafted.

The names of the Regular officers as known to me at different forts were Peter Vroman Colonel; Joseph Becker Major, Christian Stubrwaugh Captain Jacob Snyder Lieutenant at the Middle & Lower forts in Schoharie and Peter Vroman Colonel. Christian Stubrwaugh (8) Major, Adam Dietz Captain & Mathias Shaultas Lieutenant at Whitemans Fort in Bern.

I never received a written discharge at any time.

I am known by Colonel Ira T. Day, Colonel Frederick P. Osborn, John R. Osborn, Amos Cornwall, The Reverend Eli Deniston.

End Notes—S.5659—Christian Knieshern, Kniskern

1. It could be that the write or transcriber has erred as the name is Knieskern, Kniskern, etc. When Christian signed his name it looks like a K although it is sloppy but he was almost 69 years old and may have had trouble with his hands.
2. Peter Vrooman was the Colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia. The men who served in this regiment were from the United Districts of Schoharie and Duaneburgh.
3. The First Major was Thomas Eckerson and the Second Major was Jost (Joseph) Becker.
4. Christian Strubrach was commissioned Captain of the First Company on February 20, 1778. The other company officers commissioned on the same date were Jacob Snyder as the First Lieutenant, Johannes Dietz as the Second Lieutenant, and John W. Enders as the ensign all in Colonel Vrooman's regiment.
5. Unfortunately there appears to be no record of Christian serving in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment. Henrich Kniskern is listed as serving in Captain Stubrach's Company. Henrich is listed also as serving in Captain Dirck Miller's Company and in Captain George Richteneyer's Third Company in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment. Christian says he was about fifteen years of age and a substitute for his father which would explain about his name not being on a militia roll for 1780. He states he served in October and for a period of nine weeks but he fails to mention Sir John Johnson's raid on the Schoharie Valley on October 17, 1780.
6. The Beaverdam settlement residents served in Colonel Philip P. Schuyler's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia. Commissioned on March 4, 1780 as Captain was

William Dietz, Matthias Shultes as First Lieutenant and Adam Dietz Junr., as the Second Lieutenant.

7. Captain Joseph Brant commanded a detachment called Brant's Volunteers of about eighty white men and Indians.
8. Christian Stubrach served as a captain to the end of the war and was not a major. Adam Dietz also served only as a second lieutenant and not a captain.