

Pension Application for Isaac Simkins

R.9590

State of New York

Westchester County SS.

On this Twenty Seventh day of May in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight hundred and Thirty Four personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas in and for the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Westchester Isaac Simkins a resident of the Town of Pound Ridge and County aforesaid aged sixty six years [in margin it says 'born Sept. 67'] on the second day of September last past who being first 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 in the Revolutionary War under the following named officers and served as herein stated that is to say on or about the first day of June one Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty this Declarant volunteered his services as a drummer and joined Captain Vanderburgh Company and was attached as this declarant believes to Colonel Philip VanCortlandt Regiment but at this time was Commanded by Colonel Willis (1) as this declarant now believes and served one year as a drummer in said company & regiment faithfully and Immediately Enlisted that is to say about the first day of June one thousand seven hundred and Eighty one for and during the said war of the Revolution that this declarant enlisted at New Windsor Orange County & State of New York under Captain Vanderburgh as this declarant now believed the name was and joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt that this declarant enlisted as a drummer (2) and served as such until peace took place never left the company or regiment without permission and served his said time out faithfully that this declarant was marched to West Point—Albany and up the Mohawk River to a place called Stone Robby (3) [Stone Arabia] where our said regiment had an engagement with the Indians and was marched back to West Point and into the State of New Jersey and to Albany again and into Schoharie (4) County this declarant served his said time out faithfully and honestly making in the whole time that this declarant served two years six months and sometime over. That this declarant was always a true friend to the Independence. This declarant has no recollection of receiving any written discharge that if this declarant did it is lost. This declarant was born in the town of Bedford Westchester County and State of New York on the second day of September one thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Seven but this declarant has no record of his age. This declarant removed to Fishkill Dutchess County & State of New York about two years before the Revolutionary War where this declarant resided when he entered the service as aforesaid soon after peace took place this declarant then removed back to Westchester County where he has ever since resided and has resided in the Town of Pound Ridge aforesaid for the last thirty years that this declarant resided in the town of FishKill Dutchess County where he entered the service as aforesaid. This declarant never was drafted nor served as a substitute but always served for himself. This declarant recollects the following named officers General George Washington, (5) General MacDougal, Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt, Colonel Willis, Captain Sacket Captain Goodwin, Captain Vandenburgh and many other officers whose names this declarant does not now recollect. This Declarant does not know of any officer living with whom he served. That this declarant is known in his present Neighborhood to Abijah Holmes [?] and James Brown both Residing in the Town of Pound Ridge & before in the County of Westchester aforesaid who can testify to this declarants character for veracity their belief of his age and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution and 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) Isaac Simkins.

Sworn & Subscribed in open court this 27th day of May 1834. N. Bayles Clk.

End Notes—R.9590—Simkins or Simpkins

1. Captain Henry Vandeburgh of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Fifth New York Continental Regiment in 1780. There is no record of Isaac in this company or regiment. There is a listing for a Jeremiah Simkins who enlisted as a private in Captain Henry Godwin's Company for three years in Colonel Lewis DuBois Fifth New York Continental Regiment. When the Fifth New York was consolidated with Colonel Phillip VanCortlandt's Second New York Continental Regiment on January 1, 1781, Captain Vandeburgh was transferred to the Second New York. Jeremiah, who had enlisted for the war was transferred to Captain Vandeburgh's Company; he deserted on February 1, 1782. Previously Jeremiah had been listed as sick in Albany Hospital since April of 1781. According to page 197 of Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York, ed. Bertold Fernow, Vol. XV, State Archives, Vol. I, Albany, N.Y., Weed, Parsons and Company Printers, 1887: The following information is found for Isaac Simkins for the Second New York: "Simkins, Isaac, private, enlisted for war, discharged on ac[count] of disability A.P. [Assembly Papers] 22-26." Unfortunately these records were burned in the capitol fire of March 29, 1911. There is NO listing for Jeremiah or Isaac in Captain Vandeburgh's Company in Colonel VanCortlandt's Second New York Regiment in Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 69, folder 34, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Because of Isaac's age of 14 years he would have had to have served as a drummer in 1781 but Captain Vandeburgh's Company had David Philips as a drummer who served with the company for the remaining period of the war.
3. The Battle of Stone Arabia was fought on October 19, 1780. There were no Continental Troops at this battle. Isaac would have been 13 at this time. Isaac's name for any service as a drummer in the New York State Levies for 1780 has not been found.
4. The Fifth New York Regiment wintered in Schoharie in 1778-1779 and then went on the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign in the summer of 1779. When the campaign ended they returned to West Point, NY and to New Jersey.
5. Commander-in-Chief General George Washington, General Alexander McDougal and Captain Samuel Sacket of the Fourth New York Continental Regiment. Captain Sacket died on April 15, 1780.

Isaac's pension application was rejected based on no proof of service and Drummer David Philips who served as the drummer in Captain Vandeburgh's Company from January 1781 to June of 1783. Isaac claims 2 years and six months service but no Simkins except for Jeremiah appears on the muster and pay rolls until he deserts. Isaac may have been a son or younger brother. Neither Isaac nor Jeremiah appear in the Balloting Book for Military Bounty Land; this is because Jeremiah was listed as a deserter making him ineligible for the bounty land.