

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Walter Skinner R9636

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS

Lewis County }

On this 2nd day of november 1833 personally appeared before me Samuel Z Jones a Justice of the peace in and for Lewis County in the said State of virginia Walter Skinner a resident of Lewis County in the State of Virginia aged seventy three 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. That in the year 1776 He volunteered in Carroll county in Maryland under Captain David Lockett in a company of Maryland Militia to serve six months if so long required He was marched to a place called Havre De Grasse [sic: Havre de Grace] the British were then over in Pensylvania The Maryland troops were marched over and at a place called Brandywine we had a battle in the fall of 1776 [sic: 11 Sep 1777] where General Washington was defeated. He applicant was in a regiment commanded by Col. Ward and under General [William] Smallwood. Col. Wards horse was shot under him and in the retreat he was taken on behind General Smallwood on the same horse. He was marched back into Maryland and discharged at Havre De grace having served from May till in November 1776 full six months as a private militiaman and volunteer. He returned home to Carroll county, and in the month of May 1777 He again volunteered in a company of Maryland Militia under captain Hanson in a Battallion under Major McPherson was marched to Port Tobacco near the Potomac was kept there watching the british in the Potomac They landed on the Virginia side and made an attack on the Va. Militia at Esq'r. Brents and burnt Brents house The Maryland Militia with some Artillerists prepared to cross in Barges with a few small cannon to try to take their vessel They however returned to it too soon for us and we had to haul of we were kept along the Potomac on the Maryland side watching the enemy till in November 1777 He was discharged by captain Hanson having served six months in the Maryland Militia. Then again in March 1778 He again volunteered in a company of Maryland Militia men under captain Bentley He was marched from Carroll County in Maryland was marched to the shore of Chesapeake Bay at a place called Cove Point There joined a regiment commanded by Campbell They were stationed there but were marched to other places along the Bay to guard and watch the enemy particularly at the mouth of Patuxent. He was continued in this service till in September 1778 when He was discharged having served six months tour as a private militia man. In March 1779 he joined a company of Maryland Minute men under captain Brown He was soon called out from Carroll county to the ~~mouth~~ of Patuxent. continued there till in May when he was permitted to go home. He was then taken sick and served no more this year of 1779 but six weeks. But in March 1780 He was called out as a minute man was marched to Baltimore from there down the Patapsico [sic: Patapsco] to the Bay, and down the western side of the bay and again back to Patapsico thence down to Annapolis and below there to the mouth of the severn river Hereabouts he was continued in the service till in December 1780 when he was discharged having been out nine months under this call He was generally under the command of Captain Brown and of Col. Lockett (David the same man that was his captain before and under the same General Smallwood Then in July 1781 He was again ordered out as a minute man from Carroll county under his same captain Brown, was placed in Col Campbells regiment marched to Potomac crossed at a narrow place over into Westmoreland county in Virginia Thence into Richmond county thence crossed the Rappahannock into Essex thence down through King and Queen into Gloucester county Virginia here somewhere in the upper end of this county we were stationed near York river till sometime in October [19th] when Lord Cornwallis surrendered himself and his army prisoners of War to General Washington Lay Fayette [sic: Lafayette] [Anthony] Wayne and others we were then sent back through Virginia to Winchester to guard prisoners taken at York by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis we left those prisoners under Col. [William] Darke, and returned to Maryland and were discharged in Nov'r. 1781 having been out full four months This tour as a private minute man in the Maryland

troops. This was the last tour he performed The enemy being out of our waters we had some rest. The remaining two years of the war he was not again called out He served in all as a militia man and minute man during the war of the revolution two years and eight months at least. He removed into Prince William County in Virginia in 1784 and in 1807 he removed to Harrison County in Virginia and in 1833 into Lewis county in Va where he now lives. He has been sorely afflicted by disease is not able to attend court He lives more than fifteen miles from the Courthouse. He saw at Yorktown at the surrender of Cornwallis Generals Washington Lay Fayette Wayne and several others whose names he has forgotten. He saw many regular officers and Militia officers whose names he never heard He saw regulars troops and militia Pennsylvania Va. & Maryland troops. He does not now remember if he ever knew the number or names of regiments He has no documentary evidence He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. 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. Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid.

Walter hisXmark Skinner

The several interrogatories prescribed by the war department were propounded to the applicant to which he gave the following answers viz

- 1st. That he was born in Carroll county in Maryland in the year 1760-
- 2nd. That he has no record of his age-
- 3rd. That he was living in Carroll county in Maryland That he removed from there to Prince William in 1784 and in 1807 He removed to Harrison county in Virginia (which by a law of 1816 part became Lewis county where he now lives & has since first of 1833.
- 4th. That He volunteered first was afterwards a volunteer and minute man.
- 5th. He saw Generals Washington Wayne LayFayette and some others whose names he has forgotten he saw many regulars and militia officers at yorktown where he was marched after the surrender of Cornwallis. He saw regular and militia troops Pa. Va. & Maryland troops. He cannot remember the Nos. or names of regiments though he saw many. He thinks he heard no names except continental & state troops regular and militia. The general circumstances of his services are set forth above.
- 6th. He rec'd. discharges from all his captains above named signed by each of them at the respective times of his discharges. He has lost them long since.
- 7th. That he is known in his present neighborhood to Elijah Waggoner and Shelton Furr. They can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief and the neighborhood generally belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. There are no resident clergymen near him. There are many Itinerant methodist preachers with whom he has no acquaintance. He is too frail to travel to their meeting service and subscribed this day and year aforesaid-

Walter hisXmark Skinner

[W. G Singleton mentioned in the following two documents investigated a large number of fraudulent applications from Lewis and Harrison counties. For further details see the pension application of David W. Sleeth, S6111.]

Walter Skinner, applicant—

this man stated on the 13th July 1834 - that he had never done any service in the Revolutionary War, and that he told the man so who called on him to get him a pension - thinks his name was Calvin Waldo- Waldo wants[?] something he dont know what. He went from Harrison County to Lewis County with Waldo, and was sworn to what Waldo had written before Samuel Z Jones - he thought at the time and ever since that he swore only to what he had told Waldo - the above all he knows about the matter - this statement was made in presence of N. Goff. was read to Skinner and acknowledged to be correct— W. G Singleton Nov. 18, 1834

War Dept P[ension] O[ffice] March 16 1835

Sir, The claims of the following named persons under the act of June 7 1832 the merits of which have been thoroughly investigated by Mr. W. G. Singleton a Special Agent appointed by this Dept. for that purpose, have upon the receipt of his report been rejected, Viz —

Anthony Swick [R10360]
George Wyr [R11917]
Walter Skinner
Elisha Griffin [Griffith S10192; not rejected]
John Harbert [R4585]
Abraham Brake [R1147] and
You will please inform them of this decision on their claims
Nathan Goff
 Clarksburg Harrison Co Va.

Michael McKinney [McKinny R6767]
John Roe [R8932]
Christopher Knight [R6023]
Gilbert Gallions [Gallion R3876]
John Cole [R2130]
John Mitchell [R7274], all of Harrison Co Va.
I am