

[Endorsed]

Capt. Simpson, Jan'y 12, 1779. Petition dismissed as being contrary to a rule laid down by the council not to deliver clothing to any officer whose regiment was at camp in any case except a prisoner and wounded.

The soldiers of the Pennsylvania line were enlisted for three years or during the war. About the 1st of January, 1781, happened the revolt of the Pennsylvania line. The soldiers claimed their discharge, contending that though the war was not terminated, they were entitled to discharge at the termination of three years of service. This question arose during the late war and was decided in favor of the soldiers. The regiments were eventually consolidated into six regiments, and there being supernumerary officers, Simpson retired from the service. This was on or about the 1st of January, 1781. He had also served in General Sullivan's campaign against the northern Indians in 1779. Soon after he left the army he got married.

A brother of Michael Simpson, William Simpson, was at Boston during its investment. I have heard that seeing a cannon ball from a British gun rolling over the plain, and not sufficiently estimating its force, he put out his foot to arrest it, but it broke his leg. This happened on the 27th of August, 1775, and the wound resulted in his death.

As to the personal appearance of General Simpson my own impression is that he was a large, powerful man near to six feet in height; and a highly respectable aged lady now residing in Harrisburg, confirms this statement, and added that "he looked like a general."

He had a remarkably loud, clear voice, and I have it from credible authority— from one who had frequently perceived it and who is now residing in Harrisburg, that he could be heard across the Susquehanna in calling to his servants about the farm, or to the boatmen on the opposite side of the river, the river being there three quarters of a mile or more in width. The general owned the ferry on the York county side of the river, and for awhile leased the Chambers ferry on the opposite or east side of the river. The water at that ferry, at low water, was rather deeper than at the ferry at Harrisburg.

I have been informed that when General Washington was in this neighborhood during the disturbances in western Pennsylvania, he paid a visit to General Simpson at his farm. Washington was at Harrisburg in 1794 and went as far west as Bedford, where he was on the 19th of October. From this he turned toward the east, leaving the army to proceed westward under

the command of General Hamilton. Washington reached Philadelphia on the 28th of October, where congress was about to assemble in the month of November. If he visited General Simpson it was probably on his return from Bedford.

The song about Plato, I have been informed, was often sung by the general. So far I have not been able to trace it, or a part of it might have been attached to this.

The general was married a second time. His second wife was a widow lady of Bedford, in this state, a remarkably fine looking English woman. I understand that he was then about seventy years of age, and his groomsmen was twenty-five.

The general is buried in the grave yard of the Paxton church. I understand that he had the iron railing which is now there, prepared for or placed around the ground which he destined for his own burial place. This railing, I think, was the first one erected in the Paxton grave yard, and perhaps was the first one erected in any grave yard in this neighborhood. It was not then customary here to place around the dead, or to build splendid trophies in their honor, or to do more than put over or near to their resting place some inexpensive memorial, sometimes—

"With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture decked,"

but, generally, with mention of their name and years, and sometimes days; their virtues often briefly proclaimed; but their faults or frailties unacknowledged.

General Simpson was possessed of amiable qualities. He was a warm friend, kind, liberal and obliging, and by his neighbors was liked and respected.

He died on June 1, 1813, age 73. I have heard that when he died the clock in his house stopped. As to this—

I do not say "now the truth may be,
I say the tale as 'twas said to me."

Whilst we are engaged in commemorating the events of our revolutionary struggle and rescuing from oblivion or bringing to public notice the names and services of those known to us who risked their lives and fortunes in a cause, by many considered doubtful in result for a considerable time after the conflict began, let us not forget that there were many others who died in the hospital, the prison ship, or the battle field, whose names and particular services have been forgotten. As to these let us say what some of them might have thought: "Needs there the praise of the love written record,
The name and the epitaph graved on the stone;
The things that we lived for, let them be our story.
We ourselves remembered only by what we have done."

JULY, 1876.

GEO. W. HARRIS.

credible