

Pension Application for Jotham Ames

W.15819 (Widow: Keziah) September 16, 1767, Jothan Ames & Keziah Horyward were married.

B.L.Wt.1410-200

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Pensions

Washington, D.C.

December 20, 1893.

Sir:--

In response to your communication requesting information concerning the correct name of the widow of Jotham Ames, whose military and family history was furnished to you in 1891, and in which you state that "his first wife, Keziah, died before the Revolutionary war and the widow who survived him was named Sarah, to whom he was married sometime after the war and who died March 16, 1837", I have to advise you that a careful examination of the papers in the case shows the following facts:

The application for this pension was made by Simeon C. Ames, a son of the soldier, and was for the amount alleged to have been due to Keziah Ames, the soldier's widow, at the date of her death which occurred, as stated in the papers on file with the case, on March 16, 1837. The son, in his declaration for pension, dated at Middlefield, N.Y. April 28, 1852, which, it will be noticed was 15 years after the death of the [?], says: "That he is the only surviving child of Jotham and Keziah Ames both now deceased; that his father and mother died at the town of Middlefield in said County; that his father, Jotham Ames, died at said town of Middlefield on the - - - day of May, 1812; that his mother, Keziah Ames, also died at the said town of Middlefield aforesaid the 16th day of March, 1837."

No mention is made in any of the papers of a second marriage by the soldier or of any person bearing the Christian name Sarah. There was no certificate from the town clerk at Bridgewater, Mass., where the marriage was stated to have occurred, nor any family or other record of marriage, furnished as evidence in the case. The most important document in the case bearing on the marriage of the soldier and the Christian name of the widow is a certificate from the Surrogate of Otsego County., N.Y., in which he states that "by the addition of testimony satisfactory to the said Court it was proved that Jotham Ames, late of the town of Middlefield, in said County, died in the month of May in the year 1812; that he left a widow whose name was Keziah Ames and that he left Simeon C. Ames his only child him surviving who is over the age of twenty-one years. That Keziah Ames the said widow died at the town of Middlefield, in said County, on the 16th day of March, 1837, leaving the said Simeon C. Ames her only child her surviving."

The amount due on the certificate to Keziah Ames as the widow of the soldier, allowed on the supposition that she did not die until the year 1837, was over \$1600, while the widow Sarah would have had no title to pension unless she had been

married to the soldier prior to the year 1794, in which event she would have received only a small amount.

It is quite likely that this case was a fraud.