

Pension Application for Tjerck (Jerrick) Beekman
W.17294 (Widow: Rachel)

B.L.Wt.161-200 Lieut. Issued Oct 2, 1790. No papers. Name spelled Jerrick Beekman.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the seventh of July 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows."

State of New York

Ulster County SS.

On this fourteenth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight personally appeared before Jacob Snyder one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Ulster aforesaid Rachel Beekman a resident of the Village of Kingston in the County of Ulster aforesaid aged seventy four years and unable by reason of sickness and bodily infirmity to appear in open court, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows.

That she is the widow of Tjerck Beekman formerly of Kingston aforesaid now deceased who was a Lieutenant in the Regular Army and in the Second New York Regiment in the Revolutionary War. That the said Tjerck Beekman entered into the service of his country soon after the commencement of the war of the Revolution but at what exact date she cannot state.

That some time in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six in the fall of that year as she believes he was appointed an ensign in said regiment but in what company and under what officers this deponent cannot state and continued in active service as such ensign in defence of his country from that time until some time in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight when he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and that after such promotion he continued in active service in defence of his country as such Lieutenant in said regiment until sometime in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one and was then allowed to return home subject to be called upon whenever his services should be needed.

That the said Tjerck Beekman at the time of entering such service as aforesaid was enlisted as this deponent believes and resided at Kingston Ulster County and State of New York—That he was duly commissioned as such officers and that the commissions have been in this deponent's possession until within a few years last past since which time they have been lost and this deponent is unable to find the same or either of them although she has made diligent search therefor and that she does not remember the dates of such commissions—

That this deponent is unable to state the particular officers under whom such service was made but that he has at different times been under the command respectively of General Putnam, General Sullivan and Colonel VanCortlandt—

And this deponent further states that as she believes from conversations held with her said husband during his life time that he was present and engaged in the Battle of Bunker hill, in the Battle of White Plains, was with the army under General Washington at the time of the taking of the taking of the Hessians at Trenton in December 1776 at the Battle of Brandywine in September 1777 and in October 1777 was at the taking of Burgoyne being among the troops dispatched by General Washington to the assistance of General Gates who again joined Washington immediately after the taking of Burgoyne. That he was with the army in winter quarters at Valley Forge in the winter and spring of 1777 & 1778 and that in the winter of 1778 & 1779 was in winter quarters at Rochester Ulster County. That he was with General Sullivan in his campaign against the Indians & others in the interior.

She further states that the accompanying book contains—her husband's journal of his march &c with his regiment in 1779 kept by him during said march in his own hand writing—That it formerly contained a journal of more of his marches and services but it was formerly at different times and some years since been torn out and destroyed thinking it entirely useless.

That the receipt attached hereto signed "Benjin Pelton Capte" was found among the old papers of her said husband and she believes it to have been executed at the time it bears date—and she further states that she has no other or further documentary evidence in support of her said claim.

She further declares that she was married to the said Tjerick Beekman at the City of New York on the sixth day of October one thousand seven hundred and eighty four by the Rev. Isaac Blauvelt a regularly ordained minister of the Reformed Cutch Church. That the only surviving witness of her said marriage is her sister Gertrude Dumont of the Town of Kingston in the County of Ulster aforesaid and that at the time of such marriage the said minister had no settled charge but was preaching at different places and is now either dead or residing at some place unknown to this deponent that she cannot find any and believes there is no other record proof of her said marriage than the family record which is attached and which contains a statement thereof in the hand writing of her said husband and has been in the possession of this deponent since the death of her said husband.

She further states that he husband the aforesaid Tjerck Beekman did on the twenty fifth day of December one thousand seven hundred and ninety one as appears by a minute on the said family record attached hereto and which said minute is in the hand writing of this deponent's father.

She further states that she has never been married to any other person than the said Tjerck and still remains his widow. That she was not married to the said Tjerck Beekman prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 to wit at the time above stated. And this deponent further states that she is not able to attend personally in court by reason of sickness and bodily infirmity. (Signed) Rachel Beekman.

Sworn & subscribed on the day & year above written before me. Jacob Snyder one of the Judges of the County Court of Ulster County.

State of New York
County of Ulster SS.

Theodorick R. Westbrook of Kingston Ulster County, and State of New York being duly sworn says that he is one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and he is the son of the late Rev. Cornelius DePrey Westbrook D.D. and Sarah Beekman. That Sarah Beekman, his said mother was the daughter of Tjerck Beekman and Rachel Dument. That the said Tjerck Beekman was a Lieutenant in the Second N.Y. Regiment of the Army of the Revolution, and his commission as such Lieutenant, now in deponent's possession, bears date June 28, 1779, by its terms took effect from September 1, 1778. That the said Tjerck Beekman died, when the mother of deponent was an infant as deponent was always informed & verily believes, this body is buried beneath the church building of "The First Reformed Dutch Church of Kingston". That the said Tjerck died leaving him during his surviving his widow aforesaid, Rachel Dument, the grandmother of deponent, and three children, to wit; John, Gertrude, and Sarah, who were his only descendants. That John, as deponent was always informed & believes, died unmarried. That Gertrude, who deponent was always informed & believes, died unmarried. That Gertrude, who deponent well remembers, was the wife of Hon. Charles H. Ruggles, for several years, one of the circuit Judge & Vice Chancellor of the State of New York, & Afterwards one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals of said state, and died childless.

That the father of deponent the Rev. D. Westbrook, died at Kingston Ulster County NY March 25, 1858, this mother aforesaid, Sarah Beekman, died at Kingston aforesaid February 15, 1873. That the grandmother of deponent, Rachel Dument, the widow of said lieutenant Tjerck Beekman died also at Kingston 17th July 1856 in the ninety fourth year of her age.

That the only lineal descendants of said Tjerck Beekman are the children and grandchildren of said Cornelius D. Westbrook and Sarah Beekman, and they (the children) are as follows:

To wit, John Beekman we think February 17, 1820 & died October 28, 1855, leaving him surviving two daughters Maria & Harriet and one son John Beekman, all of them are now living.

Second Theodorick Romeyn Westbrook (deponent) born [?] 20, 1821.

Third Cornelius DePrey Westbrook, born January 8th 1822, & still living.

Fourth Rachel Gertrude Westbrook born 19th October 1824, was the wife of Peter Y. Cutler now deceased, and died without issue December 26, 1855.

Fifth, Charles Ruggles Westbrook born March 4, 1829, and still living.

Sixth Mary Amanda Westbrook born 13th February 1829, now the wife of James L. VanDunen and still living.

Seventh Hannah VanWyck Westbrook born September 17, 1830, the widow of the late Charles W. Barrett, & still living.

That deponent was sought reply and resided with his Grandmother Rachel Dument, until after his marriage. That he well remembers the application of his said Grandmother for a pension as the widow of Tjerck Beekman aforesaid deceased, and that the same was granted to her, at the date according to deponent's recollection, of three hundred & twenty dollars per year, payable semi-annually on the 4th of September & 4th of March. That the first payment, which included back years, was as deponent now remembers, sixteen hundred dollars. That when the application for the pension was made, deponent well remembers, that a search was made for his grandfather's commission, but could not be found. That a part of the evidence furnished was a diary a journal kept by the said Tjerck Beekman during a portion of his services, also an affidavit of the late Hon Lucas Elmendorf, and (as deponent now remembers) are of the late Hon Jonathan Harlunmk, father of the Hon. A. Bruyn Hasbrouck. Deponent remembers no other papers [?] there which accompanied the petition of his grandmother & her notification though there may be. Deponent has never seen the papers since 1838, but there are circumstances, which deponent could now repeat, which have indelibly impinged upon his mind the fact that said diary, and the affidavit of the said late Judge Elmendorf form a part of the papers upon which the application was based.

That about two years before the death of his grandmother, she gave to deponent a desk of his grandfather, and back of are of the drawers, deponent found the commission of his grandfather aforesaid, Lieut. Tjeck Beekman, and has since reclaimed said commission with the [?] of the whole family, and the same was formally given to him by his said grandmother.

That his mother, the late Sarah Beekman, only a few months before her death, gave to him the genealogy of the Beekman family, written in the Holland language & proving that said Tjerck Beekman was the Great-Great-Grandson of Wiliielmus Beekman, who came to this country from Holland in 1647.

That deponent has also in his possession the original certificate of membership of said Tjerck Beekman in the Society of Cincinnati, dated 10th December 1785, & signed G. Washington President", and "H. Knox Secretary". That this was retained by deponents Grandmother & mother until after their death, when deponent with the [?] of all the family took the same.

That deponent is well assured that every [?] of the descendants of his Grandfather will gladly [?] to the diary aforesaid, now on file in the pension office of the United States, being given to deponent. That deponent would furnish their written consent to such transfer but owing to their living in different and distant localities, it would occasion trouble & delay. That deponent needs said diary now to answer inquiries which have been addressed to him concerning his grandfather's life.

Deponent respectfully prays that said diary of said Tjerck Beekman may be forwarded to him. (Signed) T. R. Westbrook.

Sworn before me Sept. 18, 1856? W. J. Smith, Notary Public.