

### **Pension Application for John Davis**

W.17613 (Former Widow: Dorcas Chrystyance)

Declaration. In order to obtain the provision made by an Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838, entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows."

State of New York

Saratoga County SS.

On this twenty ninth day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty three personally appeared before me Nicholas B. Doe, one of the Judges of the Court of common Pleas in and for said County of Saratoga NY, Dorcas Chrystyance a resident of the town of Northumberland in said County of Saratoga and State of New York, aged, eighty nine years and upwards, 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 an act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows.

That she is the widow of John Chrystyance late of the town of Northumberland in said Saratoga County, NY, Deceased who departed this life on the twelfth day of January 1834.

That previous to her marriage with the said John Chrystayance she was the widow of Lieutenant John Davis who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution.

And Declarant further said that she was married to the said John Davis (her maiden name being Dorcas Ackerman) in the early part of the fall. The precise date or month she does not remember, of the year 1781 by the Rev. Dominic Kelly a Baptist minister in the town of Saratoga in said County of Saratoga.

That there were present at said marriage as follows—Ebenezer and Susanna Davis, Matthew VanAmboy and his wife Polly, Alpheus Davis and his wife Thankful and William Ackerman and his wife Elizabeth and Lemuel Davis son of the above named Ebenezer Davis who was then a boy of about ten years of age and who declarant believes is still living. The rest of the witnesses have long since departed this life.

Declarant has no certificate of her marriage nor has she any record thereof and not having born any children, she has never had any occasion to make any record of births.

Declarant is not aware that any record exists of said marriage as it was not usual in those times, to wit, at the time of her marriage for ministers who performed marriages to give certificates or records to the parties and Declarant further saith that she was well acquainted with her first husband the said John Davis for several years pervious to her said marriage and that she well knows that the said John David joined the army at the commencement of the war of the revolution, this fact is impressed upon the mind of this declarant from and by the circumstance that Declarant's Brother James Ackerman went with the said Lieutenant Davis and served under him as a waiter and declarant further says that as her marriage to and with the said Davis did not take place until nearly the close of the war, She cannot testify to much of his said services.

She has however repeatedly heard her said husband narrate a variety of circumstances connected with his said service but which with regard to many have passed from the recollection of this declarant.

She however remembers having heard him say that he served in the year 1777 under General Schuyler at Tycanderoga where he the said Davis lost two horses.

That in the year 1777 he was engaged in the expedition against Burgoyne and at Stillwater Saratoga Beamis Heights in which he was engaged for the space of three months or more.

Declarant also remembers that her said husband informed her that a short time previous to the Surrender of Burgoyne. He the said Davis was one of three who went in pursuit of and captured five Tories whose names was as follows to wit one Loveless, (who was hung) one Cole and relatives whose names were Ceas, and Declarant further said that previous to her marriage with the said Davis she resides in the town and County of Saratoga NY and that she resided there after her said marriage until the death of the said Davis which took place on the twenty third day of march one thousand eight hundred and thirteen being at the time of his death seventy four years of age.

And declarant further saith that from the time of her marriage as aforesaid until the close of the war the said Lieutenant Davis was repeatedly out on duty in Scouting parties, and in guarding the lines in the neighbourhood of Saratoga in some of these expeditions he was out for a week at a time, in some three days in others one and so forth the precise [?] of such services Declarant does not remember but distinctly recollects that it and they occurred subsequent when said marriage and declarant further saith that as she resided in the town of Saratoga aforesaid for the space of Fifty years, there are doubtless in that town many person still living who remember her said marriage and who know that for more than thirty years Declarant and the said John David lived and cohabited together as man and wife.

And declarant further saith that she was married as aforesaid he the said Davis in the fall of the year 1781 as aforesaid, that the said Davis died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 1814.

That she afterward, married John Chrystyance at Saratoga NY on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 1815 that she said Chrystayance departed this life as aforesaid on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 1834. And that she remains the Widow of the said John Chrystyance. (Signed with her mark) Dorcas Chrystyance

Subscribed by making a mark and sworn before me N. B. Doe one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County of Saratoga this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April on the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three and I certify that the said Dorcas Chrystyance is a credible witness and is a woman of truth and veracity who makes a mark not having learnt to write and who in consequence of bodily infirmity and old age is unable to attend court.