

Pension Application for Richard Hatfield

W.16597 (Widow: Mary, daughter of Benjamin Griffen, Married Richard August 23, 1778. Richard died November 2, 1813.)

I, Mary Hatfield, the widow of Richard Hatfield late of the Town of White Plains in the County of West Chester deceased do hereby certify and declares, that I am now in the seventy eighth year of my age, and owing to bodily infirmities, am now, and for the last two years have been confined to my swelling house in the said Town of White Plains.

And I do further certify and declare that I was born in the Town of Mamaroneck in the said county, that my Father's name was Benjamin Griffen, who died in a Mamaroneck aforesaid.

And I do further certify and declare that I contracted Marriage with the said Richard Hatfield during the Revolutionary War and the said Marriage was solemnized on the 23d day of August 1778 at Mamaroneck aforesaid at the dwelling house of my said Father.

That the record of our said Marriage is preserved in the Family bible of my said Father which corresponds exactly with the said date.

That the said Richard Hatfield previous to the commencement of Hostilities between this country and great Britain resided in his Father's family in the said town of White Plains, but that after the war commenced, his father's family removed to the Northern part of this county.

That as I resided in the Town of Mamaroneck about Five miles below the town of White Plains, with my Father, and as the said Richard Hatfield as will before as after our Marriage was with the American Troops which were above the White Plains, after the Battle generally known as the Battle of White Plains.

I did not see him but seldom when he would or could get permission of the commanding officer to come to Mamaroneck, where he conversed with me with respect to the proceedings of the Army, and then difficulties, but according to his statements to me, his duties were often, and mostly about the time and after our Marriage in the immediate service of the commanding officers in this county, that he was most of the time absent with our Troops.

That I sometimes saw him with parties of our Troops in Military Dress—That I made a visit soon after our Marriage to the "Oblong" so called in Dutchess County, where his Father had then removed to and I remained there some weeks, but my husband was absent almost the whole of that time with the Army, and I returned back to my Father's House in Mamaroneck.—That while I resided at my Father's and before our Marriage, the said Hatfield would call there some times in company with other officers and take Tea with me at my Father's.

That the said Hatfield staid above with the Army as he informed me, and occasionally came down with a party of Troops which he commanded at the time. That I saw him soon after the Battle at Pines Bridge in this County, and he came to my Father's with a Horse which he said they had taken from the enemy. That this was I think in 1781 or 1782.

That my said Husband was at the burning of Bedford, with our Troops, also at Danbury, and on his return, he related to me the facts of the Battles, and how much he was exposed.

That he was often sent by the commanding officers from different to other Posts, and frequently dispatched to Poughkeepsie on Public business, also to Albany, Fishkill and other places.

I went to Compond in the latter part of 1779 and remained at my husband's Father till Sept. 19th, 1780, and then returned to my Father's in Mamaroneck, and remained there till the next of April, when I removed with my effects to Salem in this Country, where I resided permanently, but my husband was at Home but very little, being absent with the Army, that in 1777 my Husband was with Colonel Duer, and that from my acquaintance with him after the British Troops came into this county—My husband was almost entirely with our Troops and devoted his time and service to the Public.

That generally when not on active duty in the Field with the Troops my Husband was at Head Quarters with the commanding Officers aiding and assisting them, as he was a young man of good education of strong Whig principles, a good and ready Penman these officers found him very useful. That my husband was out with the Troops, or in the service of the country in the Army as afore mentioned through the whole of the Revolutionary War.

I often, after the war was over, when he was stating the services he had rendered his country and the time he had spent in the Army and the Monies of his own, which he had expended on Public Duty during the war—in the Army—heard him complain that he had been but poorly paid, and that the country ought to make him & others like him whose services it had rendered, greater compensation.

And I further certify and declare, that the several papers and documents set forth and referred to in the deposition of Samuel Youngs Esqr is genuine, and that the matters stated in the said deposition are in my opinion true.

I find among my husband's Papers entries made in his own hand writing of the monies he expended out of his own pocket when in the service of his Country in the Revolutionary War—continued from day to day for months in succession, and in the same papers my husband in his own hand writing—gives credit for money received in payment of other expences [expenses] separately from his other Accounts.—

That I find among his papers the charges he made for a gun he purchased, sword, and Military Treatise—and the like—and that he has charged in his own handwriting, or is dues for Military Services—for months in succession – while the charges, I have above referred it—and from those papers it is evident to myself and to all who have seen them that my said Husband was out on Military Duty, as an officer, the greater part, if not the whole of the Revolutionary War.

And I further certify and declare that my said Husband died on the second day of November 1813 at our residence in White Plains—and that I have continued his widow to the present time.

And I do further certify and declare that my said Husband never received any Pension – to my knowledge and belief.

And I further certify and declare that the annexed is my said Husbands commission as Lieutenant in a company raised out of the Militia in West Chester County—by a resolve of the Convention of the State of New York of which company Samuel Townsend was Captain in Col. Thomas Thomas' Regiment.

And I further certify and declare, That my son Richard Hatfield Junr who is now deceased—sometime after the death of his Father (my said Husband) after my said son had removed to the City of New York, where he was a practicing Attorney until his Death, came to my residence at White Plains aforesaid, and enquired after his fathers commission as Major, saying that he wished it for the purpose of entitling him to a Membership in the Cincinnati Society, land I advised him to omit applying for that situation—and he did omit accordingly.—

And I further certify, that I have no doubt, but my said Husband was and acted as Major in our troops—that I know he was called major and passed by that Title—and that he had a commission as such as I always understood and believed, and that as I had no doubt of his having such commission—I never took any pains to preserve it—and that it was undoubtedly lost—as stated in the depositions of Richard H. Woods and Henry Purdy annexed hereto.

As a further evidence that my said husband was Major, I annex a short letter fond among his papers, which is genuine dated at Capt. Hights on the 8th April 1780—requesting my husband to attend and qualify the officers lately commissioned in the Regiment—and directs the Letter to Major Hatfield and written by Nathaniel Delavan.

And I further certify, that the said Samuel Youngs whose deposition is annexed was a Lieutenant in the Troops stationed in the county and that he draws a pension as such officer at the present time—as will appear as I believe on examination at the Pension Office. (Signed) Mary Hatfield.

Sworn the 11th day of April 1837 before me Caleb Tompkins first Judge of Westchester Court of Com'n Pleas.