

Pension Application for Francis Jacobs

R.5533 (Widow: Catherine) Married April 18, 1819. Francis died December 27, 1844. Francis Jacobs served as a waiter to Genl Washington. It appears he got a pension, his widow did not however.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

The petition of Francis Jacobs, a citizen of and resident in the State of New York.

Humbly Sheweth;

That you petitioner did, in the Spring of the year of our Lord 1776, volunteer and attach himself to the military family of General George Washington, commander in chief of the American Army as a domestic Servant, and served the General during the Revolutionary War, and whilst he was President of the United States residing at New York.

And you petitioner further Sheweth, that he received from General Washington an honorable discharge, stating that your petitioner had served him with fidelity, honesty, and Sobriety, curing the War, and whilst he was President of the United States as aforesaid.

And your petitioner further Sheweth, that in the night previous to the battle of BrandyWine, General Washington was informed (at a late hour) that the British Army was making a movement, which indicated an intention of crossing the Brandywine that night, or nest morning; that the General, with his Staff Officers, moved rapidly, on horseback, to the place where the alarm was given, taking the nearest route across fields and woods. That your petitioner, with a guide, went before as Pioneers; that in crossing a field skirted with young underwood, they came to a brush fence, which your petitioner attempted to capture on his horse; that a young Sapling got in between your petitioner's right thigh and the stirrup-strap; the impetus being so great, that it brought down your petitioners horse, and thereby your petitioners right knee and left ankle were dislocated; that after a few weeks, he got so far restored, as to be enable to resume his station again with the General.

And your petitioner further Sheweth, that he experienced nothing more than ordinary inconvenience from his wounds, until he advanced in years, when the knee & ankle joints became so weak, that your petitioner could not perform manual labor which required and [an] exertion on his foot.

And your petitioner further Sheweth, that by virtue of General Washington's discharge to your petitioner, and the good character he had given him, the Commissioners of the Erie and Chaplain Canals were pleased to appoint him a keeper of a canal lock; that the said commissioners, at the same time, received of your petitioner, his discharge from General Washington, which your petitioner supposed was necessary to be put on their files.

And your petitioner further Sheweth, that the said appointment of Lockkeeper afforded him and his wife a comfortable support for about five years, and kept them from penury and want, but that in the course of the last spring, he has been displaced & removed from the office of Lock-keeper, owing to his being disqualified for manual

labor, added to his advanced age, bordering on four score, in consequence of which removal as Lockkeeper, he has lost his support for himself and his aged wife, and cannot by reason of old age, infirmity and lameness, perform manual labour, to obtain bread. Your petitioner is induced to apply to your Hon'ble Body for relief, on the ground of his having served his country faithfully, and had his limbs injured in its service; but he has been so unfortunate as to be unable to produce General Washington's discharge to him, which the Canal Commissions, have either lost or mislaid, as will appear by the annexed Certificate from the Hon'ble Samuel Young, one of the said Commissioners. Thus Circumstanced, Your petitioner hopes the testimony of officers yet living, to establish the fact of his having served General Washington during the Revolutionary War, and which are hereunto annexed, will together with Colo Young's Certificate, be deemed Satisfactory.

Your petitioner would crave leave to refer to the Certificates which he has obtained from Colo Nich's Fish in the City of New York, and General John H. Wendell of the City of Albany, two Gentlemen of high standing and great respectability of Character. The first was a Major in the 2nd Regt, and the second, a Capt. in the first Regt in the New York line of Continental Troops during the revolution, as by their General Certificates hereunto annexed, will appear.

Your petitioner has also obtained the affidavit of a private who served in the New York line of Continental Troops during the War for Independence (a man of fair character) who testifies that your petitioner, received his wounds by the fall from his horse, on the night previous to the battle of Brandywine, which affidavit is also hereto annexed.

And your petitioner further Sheweth, that the aforesaid testimony, added to his own affidavit, and a Certificate from the respectable Physician Surgeon in the City of Albany, also hereto annexed, is all the proof which your petitioner can present your Honorable Body, to enable him to obtain from the Government of the United States, relief in his present destitute situation.

Your petitioner therefore, reposing himself with confidence on the Justice of that Government, that it will not allow an aged and infirm Servant of the illustrious Commander in Chief of their Armies during the struggle for Liberty and Independence, to suffer in penury & want; humbly prays, that he may be placed, for the few remaining years which he may be permitted to exist, on the pension list as a private, or in some other way, favorably notice, as your Honorable Body in your Wisdom shall deem just and Equitable.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c.

(Signed) Francis Jacobs.

Signed by Francis Jacobs in my presence Jas Van Ingen Sworn this 21st Jany 1832 before me. Harm S. Van Ingen, a public notary in and fore the State of New York.