

Pension Application for Jacob Morris

W.2322 (Widow: Sophia)

B.L.Wt.6269—160-55

State of New York—County of Chautaugue [~~Chenengo is neatly crossed out~~] SS.

On this 29th day of March A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty=five, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace, within and for the county and State aforesaid, Sophia Morris aged fifty seven years, a resident of Fredonia in the State of New York, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of Jacob Morris deceased, who was a Major and Private of Dragoons in the war of the Revolution. For evidence of her husband's service, she refers to the proof on which he was pensioned under the act of June 7, 1832, at the rate of three hundred and seventy nine dollars, and sixteen cents per annum.

She further states that she was married to the said Jacob Morris in Richfield N.Y. on the first day of march A.D. 1830, by one Daniel Nash a clergyman and that her name before her said marriage was Sophia Pringle that her said husband died at Butternuts, N.Y. on the ninth day of January A.D. 1844, and that she I snow a widow.

For proof of their marriage and his death, she refers to the evidence on which she was pensioned under the act, approved February 3, 1853.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the act "approved March 3, 1855." (Signed) Sophia Morris.

The foregoing declaration and affidavit were sworn to and subscribed before me, on the day and year above written; and I certify that I know the affiants to be credible persons; that the claimant is the person she represents herself to be, and that I have no interest in this claim. Allen Hinckley, Justice of the Peace.

State of New York

County of Otsego SS.

On this fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Otsego, at the Court House in Cooperstown in said County, Jacob Morris a resident of Butternuts in the said County and State aged seventy six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed 7 June 1832.

That in the month of January in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six for this deponent then being a resident of Morrisania in the County of Westchester in the County of Westchester and State of New York was appointed aid de camp to the then Major General Charles Lee, commanding a division of troops in the Continental service, and immediately interest the family of that officer in the capacity of aid de camp and served with him through the campaign of that year, during his command of the southern department.

We passed sometime at Williamsburgh in Virginia to oppose the measures of Lord Dunmore then Governor of Virginia who had a British force then on shipboard at Norfolk. We passed down to Portsmouth opposite to Norfolk and how I witnessed the first cannonade from the enemy. Soon after and about the beginning of May we proceeded to Charleston South Carolina to repel the attacks upon that [?] of Sir Peter Parker and Sir Henry Clinton. The army under the command of Sir Henry Clinton was landed on one Island east of [?] when the west stood fort Moultrie and on the East end was protect a body of our Infantry to guard a narrow pass between the two Islands but which was severely was [?] but in an extremely low tide.

On my arrival at the fort a few days before the attack, with orders from Gen Lee to Col. Moultrie the officer commanding the fort & heard a brisk firing of musketry and [I just can't read this writing!!! It's so slanted I can't make out the letters.]

Letter in folder dated October 10, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your request for information relative to Jacob Morris who applied for pension from Chenango County, New York, on account of service in the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, W.2322, based upon the military service of Jacob Morris.

The date and place of his birth and the names of his parents were not given.

While living in Morrisania, Westchester County, New York, he was appointed aid-de-camp to Major General Charles Lee in January, 1776, and served as such with the rank of major until December, 1776, and was in the battle of Fort Moultrie. He served from December, 1776, until March 1777, as aid-de-camp to Major General Nathaniel Greene, with the rank of Major and was in the second battle of Trenton and the battle of Princeton. Early in the summer of 1777 he served several weeks as aid-de-camp to Major General Arnold. During the period between March 1777, and the summer of 1778 he served at various, amounting to about thirty days in all as private in Captain John Heard's company of cavalry and was in the battle of Monmouth. In the summer of 1778 he served three or four weeks as aid-de-camp to Major General Greene, with the rank of major and was in the battle of Rhode Island.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 15, 1832, in Chenango County, New York, and at this time he was seventy-seven years of age and was living in Butternuts, Otsego County, New York.

Jacob Morris died January 10, 1844, in Butternuts, New York.

This soldier stated that he married in 1777 and referred to "the cares of an increasing family", but no names were stated. He married March 1, 1830, at Richfield, Otsego County, New York. Sophia Pringle, the daughter of John Pringle of Richfield, New York. [Though it is not stated, it appears as if he married two times.]

She was allowed pension on her application executed April [?] 1853, at which time she was fifty-five years of age and was living in Fredonia, Chautauqua County, New York.

In 1853, Richard Morris of Butternuts, New York, aged seventy years, stated that he was the son of Jacob Morris. Reference was made to other children of the soldier but their names were not given.

One Delia A. Pringle was living in Fredonia, New York, in 1855, but it was not shown that she was related to the widow, Sophia.

The papers in said claim contain no further data relative to the family of Jacob Morris.