

### **Pension Application for Peter Roosa**

W.26398 (Widow: Leah) Married December 29, 1780. Peter died April 20, 1825. Leah died February 14, 1839.

It appears as if Peter never filed for a pension, the file contains no deposition by him.

A Return of the names of the Captains, Lieutenants and ensign's for three companies of Militia in the precinct of Shawangunk in the County of Ulster. The said precinct being first divided into three districts or beats in manner following viz. On the North west side of the Shawangunk Kill or River, to from one company, between the Shawangunk Kill and the Paltz River to from one other company and on the South East Side of the Paltz River to from one other Company. The several officers of each company chosen under the Inspection of two of the Committee are as follows:

For the North west side of Shawangunk river.

Thomas Jansen Junr Captain.

Mathew Jansen First Lieutenant.

Abraham Smedes Second Lieutenant.

Peter Derken Ensign

For the district or beat between the Shawangunk Kill and the Paltz River.

Matthew Rea Captain

Siah Robinson First Lieutenant

Petrus Roosa Second Lieutenant

James Hunter Junr Ensign

For the district or beat on the South East side of the Paltz River.

Jacobus Rose Captain

Cornelius Masten First Lieutenant

Wilhelmus VanDemark Second Lieutenant

Isaac Hardenbergh Ensign

Shawangunk August 22d 1775.

The above is an abstract from the minutes of the proceedings of the committee of Shawangunk transmitted per order of the Committee. J. Bryn Chairman

State of New York

Secretary's Office

I certify the preceding to be a true copy of "a Return of Militia officers of three Companies in Shawangunk Precinct Ulster County" Dated August [tear] 1775 and bound up in Volume 27 at the papers & records of the provincial congress of New York page 268 which papers are deposited in this office.

And I further certify that it appears by the minutes of the council of appointment of this state in this office that on the 3d of May 1779 Peter Rosa was appointed a Lieutenant in the Levies appointed for the defence of the State consisting of 1000 men and commanded Lieut. Col. Henry K. VanRensselaer and Lieut Col. Albert Pawling. Arch'd Campbell. Sep Secretary  
Albany December 1, 1837.

State of New York  
Ulster County SS.

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 1837 personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County Leah Roosa a resident of the Town of Shawangunk in said County and State aged 80 years. Who being 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 4<sup>th</sup> 1836.

That she is the widow of Peter Roosa, who was an Ensign and Lieutenant in the war of the Revolution that as she has been informed and believes her said husband and serv[d] as Ensign in 1776 in Capt. Smith's Company of ranges on the East side of the Hudson River in Dutchess County in the said State for nine months and afterwards was a Lieut in the New York Levies and was out frequently on the frontiers in Ulster county against the Indians as late as the year of 1782, and that he had charge of a company of Malitia [Militia] and was a captain near the close of the war and was absent from home at different times on duty til peace.

That she has no documentary evidence in support of her said husband's service and relays on the record for proof thereof.

She further declares that she was married to her husband the said Peter Roosa on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 1780, as will appear by the entry made in the hand writing of her said husband in their family Bible herewith transmitted. That her husband the said Pete Roosa died on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 1825 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by the proof hereto annexed. (Signed) [?] Roosa

Sworn and subscribed the day and yea above written before me. Abraham A. Deyo. One of the Judges of Ulster Common Pleas.

#### Family Record

1783 May 26<sup>th</sup> is born my first son Derrick Roosa and baptiaized by the Rev'd Mr. Wm Nest.

1785 Octob'r 17, Is born my first Daughter Annatie Roosa, and baptiz'd by the Rev'd Mr. VanNest, the same night.

1787 Nov 22 Is born my second daughter Annatie Roosa and baptiz'd by the Rev'd Mr. Goshhius.

1793 January 27<sup>th</sup> Is born my third son Aldert Roosa and Baptised by The Rev'd Moses Frailigth.

1796. Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Is born my third daughter Velly Roosa and baptized by the Rev. Moses Frailigth.

17[??] Nov 7, is born my second son Anthony Rooza and batpized by the Rev'd Moses Frailigth

1817 June 16<sup>th</sup> is born my first son Jacob C. Roosa Baptised by T. Abram B. Wilson.

1780 Decembr'r 22d was married Petrus Roosa to Leah Crispel

Alder Roosa, is my name Shawangunk is my station herein is my dwelling place wen [when] I am dead and gone and all my bones are rotting. I leav this to remember me that I can not forgetting. Aldert Rooza

Newburgh Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1841.

Sir

I was really surprised this morning on the receipt of your letter to JG Clinton the number of Congress from Orange County which letter also contained the enclosed pay certificate in the case of Leah Roosa widow of Peter Roosa decease, the letter above referred to which relates to the claim of Leah Roosa addressed to Hon J. G. Clinton House of Representatives is under date of September 9<sup>th</sup> 1841. And the last part of said letter which only refers to the above claim is as follows.

*"In the case of Leah Roosa deceased the testimony of General Belknap respecting the eight months service of 1776 has not been addressed as required and it is therefore inferred that the grade asserted in the declaration is abandoned and a certificate asked upon the terms indicated in my letter to Mr. Armstrong, accordingly a certificate for twelve months as Lieutenant (one hundred & sixty instead of one hundred & eighty as erroneously made out in her former certificate) and eight months as private is herewith enclosed" Signed &c.*

Accompanying the above letter was enclosed a pay certificate for one hundred eighty six dollars & sixty six cents, dated 8<sup>th</sup> inst. & payable to Aldert Roosa Administrator.

I may as well state in this place that the widow held a pay certificate for Lieutenants pay for \$180 per year which your letter above states should have been \$160 instead of \$180. That a mistake had been made of \$20 per year in her former certificate. Which the department claims the right to deduct contrary to the express opinion of the attorney general who decided that over payments on to be considered as debts due from the pensioner of the United States & not to be deducted from their pensioners—and I should deem this a case falling under this rule as this payment is to go to the heirs of the pensioner & not to the pensioner himself – as well might you compel the widow of a pensioner to account to the Treasury for the money over draw by her husband in his lifetime but to show you the utter inconsistency of the statement made in this case bearing your signature I give you a copy of a letter now in my possession.

*"Pension Office August 11<sup>th</sup> 1841.*

Sir

*Your letter covering the affidavit of Genl Belknap has been received. In the letter I had the honor address you on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June last upon the subject of an increase of the pension to Mrs. Lean Roosa since deceased informed you that upon a final adjustment of such increase it would be paid upon a certificate issued in the name of the executor or administrator as the case might be and that such appointment should be duly certified*

to this department by the Court the want of that information properly authenticated is now the only objection in the way of a final settlement of the claim.

*I have the honor to be very respectfully. Your mo. Obt. St. J. L. Edwards  
Hon J.G. Clinton, Hose of Represetnatives.”*

In the above letter you will perceive that the affidavit of Genl Belknap is expressly admitted to have bene received & from the tenor of the letter satisfactory I should observe here that this was the second affidavit procured from Genl Belknap the other although seen by me in the office was reported to be lost if the last one has not the same fate I have to regret it as the heirs have been already put to much unnecessary expense. But to show you farther the unjustness of the transaction I give you a letter of a latter date now in my possession.

*“Pension Office August 25<sup>th</sup> 1841.*

*Sir*

*I am not able to find among the papers of Leah Roosa decd any proof showing the time of her death. If that proof has already been furnished it has been mislaid—It will be necessary therefore preparatory to the issue of a new certificate for the eight additional months as a lieutenant, that such proof be filed in this office, I have the honor to be*

*Very Respectfully your Obt Servt J. L. Edwards  
Hon. J. G. Clinton, House of Representatives.*

By the last above letter you see that an addition of eight months had been allowed for the claimant as a Lieutenant & that nothing then remained in the way to prevent & that nothing then remained in the way to prevent a certificate for eight ;months additional as lieutenant but the proof of the death of the claimants mother, which was furnished and now an answer I get the enclosed certificate which only allows privates pay for the increase but deducts \$20 per year as an alleged overpayment. I think on reading the foregoing you will not have much cause to find the reason of my surprise on the receipt of the letter first mentioned.

In order that you may have a proper history of this claim will give it. The claim is under the laws of 1836 and claims for nine months services in the year 1776 as lieutenant under Capt. Isaac Belknap in a company of Ranger of the State of New York & for other services during the war and particularly described. The claim was presented in the year 1837 & in the year 1838 a pension was proposed for the term of 7 months in the year 1779, but on a further correspondence a pension certificate was presented for eleven months served as Lieutenant at \$146.33 per year.

That subsequently the department promised to allow another month of same grade but which was not done at that time when I was at Washington in April 1839, a pension certificate was then granted for \$180 per year of same grade as above. Since which the claim has rested until the last application for the addition of the same in 1776.

The proof to support the claim was as follows. The affidavit of Ebenezer Price & Isaac Belknap were both presented to prove that Peter Roosa served in Captain Isaac Belknaps Company of Rangers for Ulster County in the year 1776 Price served to 8 or

9 months service as a Lieutenant & Genl Belknap to nearly one years service but Belknaps affidavit was afterwards alleged to be lost. Abraham Wood served to one month under Capt. Gillespie as lieutenant in the year 1778 & Samuel S. Crawford to two months in the same year 7 months as admitted as lieutenant in the services under col. VanRensalaer [VanRensselaer] by your department and in the year 1782. The order to Capt Cross referred to in the papers show that in April 1782 Lieut Roosa is ordered to assemble his company of Levies for service in that year & Jacob Masten swears that Peter Roosa served 4 months in the year 1782 as Lieutenant commandant in the Levies that after 4 months service Masten left & went into other service & still left said Roosa in the service yet the department would only allow four months of this service, you will therefore perceive that although we p[rove] more than 9 months service as Lieutenant in the year 1776. Three months in 1778, 7 months in 1779 and the order dated in April 1782 ordering been out for the season should be proof of his service for 8 months in that year coupled with the proof of 4 months service & he still left in that service, and further it is known that only the new levies served 4 or 4 ½ months in the year 1782. And from all this service proved & admitted the widow was only allowed \$180 per year when proof of twenty seven months is made to the department.

When the first claim was made for the department utterly derived that there was any such service as claimed in the year 1776 & that decision was presented in until the payments were produced to your department. Then the objection was caused that no proof could be found of the grade of Peter Roosa at that time although sworn to by Price & Belknap. I then forwarded to the department a document showing that he was a Lieutenant during the time of that service was called so by his general—then it was discovered that the first affidavit of Genl Belknap was lost, then the department promised if Genl Belknap would make an affidavit of Peter Roosa's Service as Lieutenant in the year 1776, eight months additional pay would be allowed as Lieutenant & Doct Crump then promised me that the pay certificate should be made out to the heirs as there was then no executor or administrator appointed.

Resting on this promise I procured & forwarded to your department the affidavit of Genl Belknap & supposed then the labour was finished. In your next letter your admit the receipt of the affidavit, but then require that an executor a administrator should receive the certificate one of the heirs then made a journey of 30 miles to the surrogate of Ulster County & procured letters of Administration on his mother's estate at an expense of \$12.00 a certificate of which was then forwarded to your department, supposing that would be final, but again I am informed that although the affidavit of Genl Belknap was satisfactory and an addition of eight months as Lieutenant would be allowed, yet no proof of the time of the death of Leah Roosa could be found in your department, although to my own knowledge that proof had twice before been furnished to your department yet the administrator with his witness made a journey of 100 miles to New York to reprove it no court then being in session except there. And flatering [flattering] myself that the correspondence in this case would be furnished that proof was forwarded and in return I find that the department gives a certificate for

8 months a private instead of Lieutenant and strikes off twenty dollars per year from the original pension on the ground it was too much.

I ask of you the favour to examine this case in person & do me the justice to allow the eight months as Lieutenant which has been promised in your two last letters. I return you the last pay certificate in order that a new one can be issued. I address this to you personally as I believe you to be ignorant of the true facts and do so in my own name as the adjournment is near at hand & the Hon. J. G. Clinton through whom this correspondence has been caused or may be on his way home before this would reach your city. I direct it directly to your office.

I am respectfully your obt servt. H. Armstrong. Newburgh N.Y.

J. L. Edwards Esqr, Com'r of Pensions.