

Pension Application for Samuel Seely

W.19335 (Widow: Mercy) Samuel died January 10, 1827.

State of New York

Chemung County SS.

On this 11th day of September 1838, personally appeared before me, Jacob Westlake one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the said County of Chemung Mercy Seely a resident of the Town of Elmira in the said County & State aged seventy seven years & 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 the act of congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is the widow of Samuel Seely who was in the service of the United States, at different periods during the war of the Revolution in the Militia of the County of Orange, as a private of Dragoons, and a Cornet of Dragoons in the company of Dragoons commanded by Capt. Eben Woodhull in the County of Orange in the State aforesaid, as will appear by the affidavits hereunto annexed.

She further declares that she was married to the said Samuel Seely on the fourth day of January seventeen hundred and seventy nine in the County of Orange aforesaid as will appear by the affidavits hereunto annexed.

She further declares that she was married to the said Samuel Seely on the fourth day of January Seventeen hundred and seventy nine in the County of Orange aforesaid by the Revd Mr. Carr, then a Presbyterian Clergyman resident in the said County of Orange.

That her husband the said Samuel Seely died on the tenth day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred twenty seven and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

She never had any record of her marriage nor does she know nor can she learn after diligent enquiring that there is any church or town record of the same. (Signed) Mercy Seely

Sworn before me the 11th Sept. 1838. Jacob Westlake a Judge of Chemung Com. Pleas NY.

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Haynes Bartlett of Romulus in the County of Seneca in the state aforesaid being duly sworn says that his age is eighty one years and upwards. That previous to and during the war of the Revolution he resided in the County of Orange in said state. That he was well acquainted with Samuel Seely the husband of Mercy Seely whose application for a pension is annexed—That he said Samuel Seely was frequently called into the service, as were most of the inhabitants of the County of Orange who were able to perform military duty.

The situation of that county bordering on the Hudson and subject to attacks from the Indians and Tories in that part of orange County which formed what was then called "the Minisink Frontier", rendered it important that the Militia should be in constant readiness, & the calls for their services were very frequent.

From his best recollection he details the following as the services performed by said Seely within his personal knowledge.

In Oct or Nov 1775 the said Samuel Seely was in service three weeks at New Windsor in the County of Orange in a company of orange militia commanded by Capt. Thomas Moffat, and while there, under the command of Col. McLaughlin. This service was as a private of Infantry or foot.

In October 1777 the said Seely was in service six weeks as a private in a company of Dragoons commanded by Capt. Ebenezer Woodhull under the immediate orders & direction of Gove. Geo. Clinton. They were ordered out about the time Fort Montgomery was taken. The deponent was in the same company of Dragoons, and recollects that Kingston or Esopus was burnt during this tour of service, as they were in light at the time.

This tour of service was principally performed at Little Britain in the County of Orange, and at Marbletown and the neighborhood of Kingston on the Hudson.

In the fall of 1778 (about October) the said Seely was in service one month at Clarkstown on the lien between Orange County & the State of New Jersey as a Cornet in the company of Dragoons commanded by Capt. Woodhull; under the immediate orders & command of Col. Cooper and Gen. James Clinton. This was as a Cornet.

In the month of July 1779 the said Seely was in service as a Cornet in the company of Dragoons commanded by Capt. Woodhull, one month, at Stony Point under Genl Anthony Wayne.

The deponent was with said Seely in the services above detailed.

In the year 1776 as he has always understood from having lived his neighbour and conversant with the transactions of the period, the said Seely was in service at Frog's Neck or Frog's Point, Horse Neck and the neighborhood of Kingsbridge three months and a half in the company of Cavalry under Capt. Woodhull as a private—the deponent was not with him in that service, but from the general belief at the time and his own knowledge of his going with the company from Orange County and his return with it, after the lapse of that time and the concurrent testimony of the community that Woodhull's company was in service that period of time on the lines near New York he has no doubt of the fact.

The said Seely was married on the 4th Jany 1779 to Mercy Bartlett, the sister of this deponent, and as the identical Mercy Seely named in the annexed pension application. The deponent was not present at the marriage ceremony, but from the connexion between him & here, and the fact they lived together as man and wife until the death of the said Seely in the year 1827, he has never doubted, and does not now doubt, that they were legally married. The said Mercy Seely still surviving & still remains his widow, having never since been married.

This deponent is not a pensioned under the act of June 7, 1832, on the roll of the New York Agency for services rendered in the War of the Revolution in said County of Orange in the said Company of Dragoons commanded by Capt. Woodhull and other services. (Signed) Haynes Bartlett

Sworn before me the 11th Sept. 1838. Jacob Westlake, a Judge of Chemung County Courts.