

Pension Application for Joshua Simmons

W.16953 (Former Widow: Hannah Dep)

Private and Corporal. Joshua died at sea. Married Sept 1776, Joshua died Sept 1788.

State of New York

Suffolk County SS.

On this sixth day of August one thousand eight hundred and forty personally appeared before Hugh Haley First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county, Hannah Simmons a resident of the town of Easthampton in said county, aged eighty two years 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—and the act explanatory of said act passed March 3^d 1837—That she was married to Joshua Simmons—who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution in the month of September 1766—that after the marriage the same fall he left home and went into the service as a soldier in the Army of the United States, that she understood that he continued in the service until his return which was seven years and eight months after he left home in the fall of 1776 as above stated—that her husband the aforesaid Joshua Simmons died at sea on a voyage to the West Indies about four years after his return from the service of the United States, and about the year 1788—That she was afterwards married to Cyrus Dep—and that he is now living, but that he abandoned her more than fourteen years ago—and left her helpless to take care of herself and unprotected—that he was cruel and treated her in an inhuman manner threatening he life and actually attempted to take it—and leaving the mask on his chin when he attempt to carry his threats into execution in attempting to cut her throat—that she now considers herself a widow—and such on the 4th of July 1836 and equitably entitled to the provisions of the pension laws. . . and she further declares that her said husband Joshua Simmons drew bounty lands in the State of New York and was in the service of the United States for a period of time as by reference to the certificate of the Comptroler of the State of New York hereunto annexed will more fully appear—that she was married to the said Joshua Simmons by the Rev. Samuel Buel Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in the town of Easthampton aforesaid that she has no family record and knows of none of any description. That she has never received a pension and that this application is for her sole use & benefit. (Signed with her mark) Hannah Simmons.

Sworn & subscribed by making her mark before me this 6th day of August 1840. H. Halsey First Judge Suff. Co. NY

County of Suffolk

Scipio Schellinger of the Town of East Hampton, in the said county being duly sworn, deposeth & saith that he is in the Eighty Seventh year of his age says that he well knew Joshua Simmons, knew him from a boy, until he died. He was the son of an Indian woman from the land of Montauk of a light complexion, was with him almost every week & sometimes every day, whenever he (Joshua) was in the Town of East Hampton & Deponent father saith, that he was present at the house of Rev. Smauel Buell in East Hampton & saw the said Joshua Simmons married to Hannah who is the present Hannah Dep cannot tell the year nor the month that they were married, but knows it was before he (Joshua) went into the army. Recollects every particular about his going away from home, when he supposed he listed in the army, cannot tell where he listed but thinks he went away with Major David, always understood he listed during the war & was entitled to a large tract of Bounty Lands, he was gone from home a long time—cannot tell how long. When he Joshua returned home witness went immediately to see him frequently heard him talk of being in the army but cannot tell of but one particular, that is.

That a small number were sent out from the company upon what he called a skouting [scouting] party & that they were come upon upon [sic] by the light-horsemen & nearly or quite all were killed except he (Joshus) & one or two others who made their escape by secreting themselves in a pile of longs until the light horsemen went away and then returned to the army. Frequently heard him (Joshua) say

while at home that he meant to go on to his Bounty Lands to farm it but he never went. Shortly after he went to sea where he (witness) understood he was lost. (Signed with his mark) Scipio Schellinger

Sworn & subscribed this the 28th day of Feb'y 1843 before me Josiah C. Dayton, Justice of the Peace.

State of New York
Secretary's Office

I certify that it appears by the Military Register in this office that Joshua Simmons enlisted as a soldier in Captain Walker's Company in the 4th New York Regiment on the first day of January 1777 to serve during the war and was a corporal in January 1781 & private in January 1782—It also appears by the ballotin Book of the Commissioners of the Land Office of this State that Joshua Simmons was a private in Capt. Hamtramck's Company in the 2^d New York Regiment at the close of the war and that 600 acres of Bounty Lands were granted to him by this state—See printed Balloting book page 43. Arch'd Campbell, Dep. Secretary. Albany April 1, 1840

State of New York
County of Suffolk SS.

Be it known that before me Josiah C. Dayton, a Justice of the Peace in & for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Hannah Simmons, the widow of Joshua Simmons and made oath in due form of law, that she is the identical person named in a declaration made before Hugh Halley, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the said county on, or about the year one thousand eight hundred and Forty—to obtain a pension under the third section of the Act of the Fourth of July 1836, but has been told that she was barred in consequence of a second marriage to Cyrus Dep, who was then living but has since died in winter of 1841.

She is now told, that by an act passed at the last session of Congress she now being a widow is entitled to the benefit of that before mentioned acts. She therefore now renews her application by referring the commis'r of Pension to her before mentioned declaration proof of her husband's service, marriage &c of which she is told is on file in the pension office, that she is now a widow & resides in the Town of East Hampton County & State aforesaid. (Signed with her mark) Hannah Simmons

Sworn & Subscribed this 11th day of June 1843 before me Jonah C. Clayton, Justice of the Peace.

The above named Hannah Simmons further states under oath that her husband Joshua Simmons was the son of an Indian woman of a very light complexion and never had a drop of Negro blood in him. She well knew his mother, Jane Simmons. (Signed with her mark) Hannah Simmons

Sworn & subscribed this 20th day of Jan'y 1843 before me. Jonah C. Dayton, Justice of the Peace.