

Pension Application for Moses Stiles

W.24373 (Widow: Catrina Orchard, former widow.)

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 & an act explanatory of said act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows.

State of New York SS.

On this 21 day of September 1832, personally appeared before the Justices of the Justices Court in the City of Albany Catrina Orchard aged eighty years, a resident of the town of Bethlehem, County of Albany & said State of New York, who being first duly I am according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. And an act explanatory or amendatory to said act passed during the late extra session of Congress.

That she is now the widow of Edward Orchard, who died at Bethlehem aforesaid in the fall of the year 1827.

That she lived with said Edward Orchard thirty three years as his lawful wife during which time she had two children John & Henry Orchard, who are both living near this declarant in said County of Albany.

That she was married to said Orchard in the City of Albany but the name of the Clergyman who performed said marriage ceremony declarant is unable to remember. That at the time of her said marriage to Edward Orchard as aforesaid she was the widow of Moses Stiles and resided with one Counard Loucks in said town of Bethlehem. That she was then the mother of three children by said Moses Stiles, the youngest Betsy being then a child of about four years of age. That at the time of her marriage to said Moses Stiles she lived at her father's house in the town of Florida in said state. That said Moses Stiles also lived in said town of Florida. That their said place of residence was about twelve miles south west of the City of Schenectady. That in consequence of no clergyman residing hearer, she was obliged to visit Schenectady to be married. That her father & sister & a boy by the name of McMasters were the only persons who accompanied said Moses Stiles & declarant to Schenectady upont he said occasion of their marriage. That she as duly married to the said Moses Stiles at Schenectady in the presence of the said persons all of whom have long since departed this life. That said marriage took place in the 15th day of January in the year 1784 and that the marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev'd Mr. Vrooman a clergyman then residing in said City of Schenectady. That this declarant has no record of her said marriage and does not know that any has ever been kept. That owing to old age and loss of memory she is unable to specify particulars of her husband's (the said Moses Stiles) revolutionary services.

She remembers however that he did serve for many years during said war with the Continental troops. That he enlisted therein at Florida aforesaid, was shortly afterwards appointed corporal in which capacity he continued to serve until his discharge, which was given him at the close of said war as declarant verily believes.

That declarant was well acquainted with said Moses Stiles before he entered the service as aforesaid as he resided near her father's in said town of Florida and also during his service, but she cannot positively testify to any of the particulars of his service. That upon one occasion during his said service he visited home and remained two or three days, at which time he was arrayed in his regimental clothes. That after his discharge as aforesaid he returned to Florida and was married & this declarant as is herein before particularly related. That after he said marriage to Moses Stiles, she continued to reside with him as his lawful wife in said Town of Florida and became the mother of three children. The eldest Margaret, now resides in West Troy NY; the second Eve, at Stony Hill NY and the youngest Betsey Bice with this declarant in said town of Bethlehem. That her husband the said Moses Stiles died in the fall of the year 1890 or when her youngest daughter the said Betsey was an infant. That after his said death she went to reside in the family of one Garret VanAntwerp & afterwards into the family of Conrad

Loucks in said town of Bethlehem where she resided about one year when she was again married to said Edward Orchard as aforesaid. That she is not the widow of said Edward orchard and has remained single & unmarried since the day of his death which took place at Bethlehem aforesaid in the fall of the year 1827. (Signed with her mark) Catina Orchard

Subscribed & sworn the day & year aforesaid before me & I certify that the declarant Catrina Orchard is unable to write her name having never learned to write. Colvin Pepper, Justice.