

Pension Application for Hezekiah Terrill

W.22393 (Widow Betsey)

State of New York

Hamilton County SS.

John Rosevelt of the Town of Providence in the county of Saratoga and State aforesaid being by me duly sworn according to Law dooth [sic] on his oath depose and say that he is 87 years of age and was born at Hoosick A.D. 1773. That he moved to the town of Providence aforesaid in the month of December 1790.

That said Providence adjoins what was formerly known as Caughnawaga in the County of Montgomery now Broadalbin Fulton County, that deponent resided in the same neighbourhood and became acquainted with Hezekiah Terrill within two or three and not exceed three years from the time Deponent came to said town as heretofore stated that about two years after deponent came into the Town of Providence as heretofore stated a grist mill was built in the neighbourhood within two or three miles of Deponents Residence and Deponent was acquainted with said Hezekiah Terrill before said mill was built that when deponent first knew him as aforesaid he lived with Betsy Terrill the present applicant for a Pension, now of the Town of Mayfield Fulton County and state aforesaid his wife that the said Hezekiah and Betsy Terrill was reputed and understood to be Husband and Wife that they lived together as such from Deponents first Acquaintance with them as aforesaid until said Hezekiah Terrill Died which according to deponents best recollection was between thirty and forty years ago that he knew them booth [sic] to the time of said Terrills Death and has known the said Betsey Terrill from his [?] town to the present time the deponent was Seventeen years of age when he came to the said town of Providence as before stated and Deponent has resided in said Town ever since deponent further says that he had known Geoshon [Gershon?] Terrill from his infancy to the present time.

That he is a son of Said Hezekiah and Betsy Terrill and now resides in Mayfield Fulton County that when Deponent came to said Town of Providence and when he became acquainted with said Hezekiah and Betsy Terrill as aforesaid this region of country an almost unbroken wilderness and there were but six or eight families within several miles of the Place where Deponent resided.

Deponent further says that he never knew any other Hezekiah Terrill and never knew any other Hezekiah Terrill [sic] and never knew any person by the name of Betsy Terrill except the wife of said Hezekiah Terrill who resided Mayfield aforesaid that said Terrill was reputed and understood to have been a Revolutionary Soldier from the State of Connecticut and Deponent verily believes he was such Soldier Deponent further says within a short time after he came to the said town as before stated.

He became acquainted with Dr. William Dewey and Dr. Whitman the former of whom resided in Caughnawaga aforesaid and the latter in Galway Saratoga County that they was both practicing Physicians at the place aforesaid that they booth died a great many years ago as he is informed and believes Deponent further says he was acquainted with David Beers who died a short time since and with his Father and Mother that he became acquainted with about the somewhere [sametime] he did with

said Terrill and wife that said Beers was a relative of said Terrill family that none of said Beers family are living to Deponents knowledge or belief that said David Beers was in Deponents employ several months at one time many years ago and Deponent was well acquainted with him up to the time of his Death and Deponent verily believes that he was a man of truth and that his statement are and were at all times entitled to full credit and belief.

Deponent further says that when he first became acquainted with Mrs. Betsy Terrill as before stated she was a very young girlish appearing woman and he believes she had been married but a short time but deponent was not present at her marriage and is not able to state its precise date but he always knew that they lived together as husband and wife and never heard is [?], that the Deponent is very confident that he was acquainted with said Hezekiah and Betsy Terrill as early as the year one thousand and ninety two (1792) that Deponent came to this conclusion from his relatives and the time he moved into the county as before stated and his age at the time and the first that the county was nearly all a wilderness, at the time there was but a few families living within several miles of Deponent one of which was said Terrills family who resided within about two miles of Deponent.

Deponent further says that the grist mill before mentioned was known as the Schmerhorns Mill this Deponent would further say the why, he referred to the acquaintance of Doctor William Dewey and Whitmore and David Beers, he was requested by Mr. Terrill to state if he recollected them and knew the man that at her request he made the above statements respecting Doctor Dewey and William and Beers he made the said statement as far as he could Recollect, that said Deponent has no interest in said claim. [

(Signed) John Rosevelt

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 5 day of September 1860. Henry Y. Manzer Justice of the peace.

I hereby certify that I am well acquainted with John Rosvelet and have been for fifty years, that he is a man of unsullied character and member of the Baptist Church [?, page folded up on corner] Manzer since I have known him that his statement are entitled to credit in all places. Dated 5th Sept. 1860, Henry Y. Manzer Justice of the Peace

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of July, 1838, entitled "An Act granting half-pay and pensions to certain widows."
State of New York
County of Hamilton SS.

On this 19th day of April 1860, before the Court of the Surrogate and County Court Session and county clk, held in and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared, Mrs. Betsy Tyrell, a resident of Mayfield in the County of Fulton and State of New York aged 85 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 7th July 1838. That she is the widow

Hezekiah Tyrell deceased, who was a private in the State or Continental Troops, (she does not know which) of Connecticut in the Revolutionary War, that he served at different periods altogether between twelve and fifteen months during said war, that he first entered service [left blank] on or about the [left blank] day of [left blank] 17 [left blank] [left blank], and served until on or about the [left blank] day of [left blank] 17 [left blank], when he was honorably discharged, and returned to his home. He again enlisted for a second term and served about eight months, that he enlisted the second time [left blank] on or about the [left blank] day of [left blank] 17 [left blank] and served until on or about the [left blank] day of [left blank] 17 [left blank] when he was discharged and returned home.--for dates she refers to her land papers on file.

She further declares that she was married to the said Hezekiah Tyrell on or about the 19th day of November, 1790, that her husband, the aforesaid Hezekiah Tyrell, died on or about the 21st day of August, 1821.

She further declares, that she has received a Land Warrant under the Act of 1855, as the widow of the aforesaid Hezekiah Tyrell, and she respectfully refers the Commissioner of Pension to her papers on file in his office upon which her land warrant was issued, for proof of identity, marriage, and her present widowhood, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st of January, seventeen hundred, and ninety four, viz: November 19, 1790. She further swears that she is now a widow, that she has never before applied for a pension, for the following reasons until since she has received her Bounty Land Warrant that she has been informed that she is entitled to a pension on account of her husband's service in the Revolutionary War, and she hopes the said reasons will be entirely satisfactory to the commissioner of Pensions.

(Signed) Betsy Tyrell

Sworn to and subscribed before the said Court, on the day and year first above written, and it is hereby certified by said Court, that the applicant is known to be a resident of the said County and State is of the age as above represented, and is a highly credible person.

Cyrus H. Brownell, County Judge and Surrogate of Hamilton County.

State of New York

Fulton County SS:

On this 26th day of July 1855 before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Fulton and State above named personally appeared David Beers who being by me duly sworn deposes and says that he is seventy eight years of age and was born in North Stratford in the State of Connecticut on the 2d day of July 1777—that deponent was born in the same Town with Hezekiah Terrill and was acquainted with him from the time deponent can first recollect.

That deponent well recollects that said Hezekiah enlisted as a soldier in the American Army in the War of the Revolution, though this deponent was at the time but three or four years of age—saw said Hezekiah Terrill enlisted at Fort Stratford in the State of Connecticut and was in the actual service as a soldier as deponent is

informed & verily believes—that deponent same said Hezekiah Terrell when he returned from the war—

That he first came to the house of deponent's father and had his uniform on at the time—that deponent has repeatedly heard his father who was in the Army with said Hezekiah Terrill say that said Terrill was in the service as a soldier and he has also heard said Terrill relate many incidents which occurred while he was a soldier in the said War—

That deponent saw the Continental money said Terrill brought home & which he said he received as pay for his services—that he has repeatedly heard him say that he was in service at West Point and was one of the guard at the time Major Andre was executed at Tappan—

That deponent is of the opinion and verily believes that said Hezekiah Terrill enlisted under Captain Middlebrooks, (1) or in the Company Commanded by him— That he has heard said Hezekiah Terrill repeatedly state that he was at West Point in service under General George Washington (2) at or about the day the General Arnold (3) proved traitor and left his Army—and that he was honorably discharged just before the war closed by General Washington—Deponent further says that the said Hezekiah Terrill removed from the State of Connecticut to the State of New York about five years after the close of the war of the Revolution and settled in Caughnawaga in the County of Montgomery in the State of New York (now known as Broadalbin in Fulton County—

That about two years after he became a resident of the State of New York he married with Betsey Taylor daughter of Niles Taylor of Caughnawaga in said County of Montgomery [now Broadalbin in Fulton County]. That he was so married with her as aforesaid on the 19th day of November 1790 by Elder Smith a Baptist minister—that deponent was present at said wedding as a guest & saw them married—that deponent knew said Hezekiah Terrill from the time of his marriage as aforesaid until the time of his death & knows that said Hezekiah Terrill and Betsy Terrill whose maiden name was Betsy Taylor, lived together as man and wife until the time of his death in the month of April 1821 & deponent believes he died on the 9th day of April 1821—

That he has been acquainted with Betsy Terrill the widow of said Hezekiah Terrill since her marriage with said Hezekiah Terrill & knew him for two years before her marriage with him & is now well acquainted with her—that she resides in the Town of Mayfield in the County of Fulton and has since the death of her said husband and that she is now—a widow—

Deponent further says that he saw the said Betsy Terrill sign the annexed declaration and knows her to be the identical person he saw married to said Hezekiah Terrill, and deponent verily believes that said Terrill served in the War of the Revolution and that record evidence will be found showing the facts that he enlisted as a soldier & served for three years and was honorably discharge by General George Washington under who he served—that he was in service at West Point—that he was one of the guard at the execution of Andre, and all the necessary evidence of his service entitling him to bounty land and a pension—that deponent has no interest in this claim nor is he concerned in its prosecution. (Signed) David Beers.

The above named David Beers was duly sworn before me on the day and year first above written and subscribed the foregoing affidavit—and declared upon his oath duly administered by me that the matters herein stated were true—and I certify that the affidant is a credible person and entitled to belief and that I am not interested in the claim or concerned in its prosecution. George Pease, Justice of the Peace.

State of New York
Fulton County SS.

In this 26th day of July 1855 before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State above named personally appeared Betsey Terrill aged seventy nine years on the 8th day of May 1855 a resident of the Town of Mayfield in the said County and State above named who being by me duly sworn according to Law declares that she is the widow of Hezekiah Terrill who was a private soldier in the Revolutionary War in the Revolution in the State of Connecticut for the period of three years and that he continued in actual service in said war as a soldier for the period of three years and that he was honorably discharged by General George Washington a very short period before the close of said war.

That deponent was informed by her said husband and verily believes that he was in the service of the United States as a soldier and under the command of General George Washington at the time of the Capture of Major Andre (4) and was appointed by the commanding officers and acted as one of the Guard at the execution of Major Andre at Tappan the 2d day of October 1780.

That her said husband Hezekiah Terrill was born at North Strafford in the State of Connecticut as deponent is informed and verily believes on the 2d day of July 1759.

That he received a written discharge from general George Washington as he informed deponent but the said discharge has been lost and deponent cannot find the same.

That deponent is not acquainted with any person by whom she can prove the fact of his actual service in the said war. Nor does she know the name of the Officers except that of Washington and Colonel Meigs.

Washington and Colonel Meigs, (5) under who her said husband served, but she verily believes that the Record will have the facts that her said husband Hezekiah Terrill enlisted as a soldier in the State of Connecticut [sic] & served in the American Army (6) under Washington in the State of New York and that he was in the service under Washington at the time of the Capture and execution of Major Andre—and that he served as a soldier in the continental Army for the period of three years, beside service a period of three months before he enlisted, which service was rendered as a substitute for a soldier who was drafted, but his name deponent does not now recollect—Deponent further says that at the time she was married to the said Hezekiah Terrill and for several years thereafter he had in his possession several bills of the old Continental currency which he informed deponent he received at the time of his discharge in part payment for his services as a soldier.

She further states that she was married to the said Hezekiah Terrill at the Town of Caughnawaga in the County of Montgomery in the State of New York now know as the Town of Broadalbin in the County of Fulton and State of New York, on the 19th day of November 1790 by Elder Smith a Baptist clergyman who was quite advanced in years at that time and deponent verily believes that he died many years since—that she has no record of the marriage, nor does she know that any record was kept by any one—that she does not know of any person by whom she can prove her marriage with said Hezekiah Terrill, except one David Beers who was present at the time deponent was so married, and knows the fact that said Beers resides in the Town of Edinburgh County of Saratoga and State of New York. That she lived with her said husband Hezekiah Terrill until the 9th day of April 1821 when he died at the Town of Mayfield in the County of Montgomery, now in the County of Fulton & State of New York. That her name before marriage was Betsy Taylor, and that she is now a Widow. (Signed) Betsy Terrill

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty land to which she is entitled under the act of March 3d 1855 never having received bounty land or knowing that she is entitled except for the above service—And she hereby constitutes and appoints Charles C. Lucker of Washington D.C. her attorney to prosecute her claim and procure her warrant hereby authorizing and empowering her said attorney to obtain from the proper authorities at Washington City or elsewhere certified copies of any Army or Navy Records or documents in which her said husbands services may be recorded and to procure any and all other evidence that may be necessary to establish her claim as fully as if personally present & working & countermanding all former authority that may have been given for the above aforesaid purpose. (Signed) Betsy Terrill

Sworn to Subscribed and acknowledged before me the day and year first above written; and on the same day personally came before me David Page a resident of the said County of Fulton in the State above named and John Roosevelt Junr. a resident of the said County of Fulton in the said State, to me known as credible witness who being duly sworn declare that they are personally acquainted with Betsy Terrill widow of Hezekiah Terrill, who has made and subscribed the foregoing declaration –that they were personally acquainted with said Hezekiah Terrill and his wife, during the lifetime of the former and knows that they lived together as man & wife & were so reputed and they believe that the husband of the said Betsy Terrill was the identical person who performed the service mentioned in the above declaration & that the above named Hezekiah Terrill is now dead and the said Betsy Terrill is now a widow. And they further swear that they are disinterested in this claim. (Signed) David Page, John Roosevelt Junr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me and I certify that I am not interested in the claim or concerned in its prosecution. George Pease, Justice of the Peace

End Notes—W.22393—Hezekiah Terrill

1. Captain Middlebrook appears to have been an officer in the Connecticut Militia.
2. Commander-in-Chief of the American Armies General George Washington.

3. Major General Benedict Arnold of the Continental Army Commanding at West Point, New York in September of 1780.
4. Major John Andre´ a British officer was in disguise when captured. He was working with Arnold in the West Point conspiracy.
5. Colonel Return J. Meigs of the Sixth Connecticut Continental Regiment from May 10, 1777 to January 1, 1781.
6. Hezekiah's name appears on a muster roll of Captain Timothy Allyn of the Seventh Company having enlisted as a private on April 24, 1782 and joining the regiment on June 3, 1782. Allyn's Company was in Colonel Samuel B. Webb's Third Connecticut Regiment. Captain Allyn retired on January 1, 1783. Captain David Dorrance transferred from the Fifth Connecticut Continental Regiment to Webb's Regiment on January 1, 1783. Dorrance now commanded the Sixth Company and Hezekiah was now in the company. Hezekiah was discharged on January 2, 1783. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 10, Folder 54, National Archives, Washington, D.C.