

Pension Application for Richard Thorne

W.15808 (Widow: Sarah) They married January 7, 1768. Richard died February 20, 1820.

United States of America

State of New York, County of Queens

Town of North Hempsted [Hempstead] SS

On this fifth day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight personally appeared before the Honorable Horatio G. Ouderdunk one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Queens, Sarah Thorne a resident of the Town of North Hempsted in the said County of Queens aged eighty eight 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 fourth one thousand and eight hundred and thirty six.

That she is the widow of Richard Thorne late of the said town of North Hempsted, deceased, who was an officer in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War. That her said husband was a Captain and subsequently a Major In the Malitia [Militia] of the State of New York, and was in the actual service of the United States during the said war.

That according to her best recollection and belief her said husband entered the public service as an officer immediately or soon after the commencement of the Revolutionary War—that he served in various capacities from the time he entered the public service until the close of the war.

This deponent well recollects of her said husband being present as an officer and taking an active part at the Battle of Long Island (as it was called) and that he was engaged in the retreat of the American Army from Long Island to White Plains in the County of Westchester State of New York at which time he served under General George Washington that a short time previous to the battle of Long Island and while this deponent's husband was home on leave of absence from the army, one Col Birch who was in the English service came with a party of soldiers to the house of this deponents husband and took deponent's husband a prisoner, and carried him to the City of New York and confined him in the Prevoost of that City where he remained a prisoner about seven weeks, when he was liberated or exchanged thorough the instrumentality of his friends, immediately after which he again entered into the service of his country as an officer, and took command of a Regiment in the said County of Queens—and remained its principal officer until after the peace, during which time he was in active service, that deponent cannot now state the particular service her said husband was in during the whole war, but she well recollects that during the whole war he was almost constantly absent on duty as an officer from his farm and his family, that her said husband's house was frequently robbed and pillaged by the English soldiers, that deponent cannot at this time state positively whether her said husband entered the service voluntarily or not but her present recollection is that the regiment to which he as attached was ordered into service and this deponent further saith that she has no documentary evidence in support of her

said claim, unless the Commission hereunto annexed shall be considered such evidences which said commission was found among her said husband's papers after his decease.

She further declares that she was married to her said husband in the said County of Queens on the seventh day of January in the year seventeen hundred and sixty eight by the Reverend Leonard Cutting. That her husband the said Richard Thorne died in the said Town of North Hempsted of the twentieth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty of a disease called the gravel [Kidney stones] with which he had been afflicted for many years.

And that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed—

And this deponent further saith that by reason of her bodily infirmity and age she is unable to attend Court for the purpose of making this her deposition in open Court. (Signed with her mark) Sarah Thorne

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me and I do hereby certify that the said Sarah Thorne cannot from bodily infirmity attend the Court, that she is a woman of good moral character, and that statements made by her under oath are in my opinion entitled to full belief. Horatio G. Ouderdonk, Judge of Queens Co., Courts