

Pension Application for John Ward

W.4609 (Widow: Deborah) Married fall of 1778. John died October 13, 1831.

The widow's application for pension gives a lot of great details, so her deposition is being transcribed.

State of Pennsylvania

County of Philadelphia SS

On this twenty fourth day of December 1836 personally appeared before me John Richter Jones, Esqr, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Philadelphia foresaid, Deborah Ward a resident of Roxborough township in the County of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania aged seventy four years ten months and sixteen days, 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 4, 1836.

That she is the widow of John Ward, who was a private soldier and drummer in the revolutionary war and served as herein stated, according to the best of her knowledge and belief.

That in the year 1775 soon after the battle of Lexington the said John Ward volunteered as a private soldier under Gen. Ethan Allen and marched with him to Ticonderoga and Crown Point and he the said John Ward was present in taking those two places, the said John Ward then resided with his parents in or near the Town of Addison in the State of Vermont. Soon after the taking of Ticonderoga and Crown Point in the same year the said John Ward enlisted under Captain John Noble for nine months, and marched under General Montgomery to take Canada.

The first battle that he was in during this campaign was at St. John's which was taken after a siege of six weeks, then they went to take Montreal, at which the said John Ward was present when it was taken by the Americans. The Army or a part of it along with which was the said John Ward, then marched or went to the Three Rivers, and it was there the said John Ward was taken sick, and was sent back to St. John's and afterwards returned home to the residence of his parents Asa Ward and Hester Ward in the State of Vermont, which was then claimed by New York as part of that State.

When the said John returned home he was still sick. After he got well or recovered from his sickness he enlisted again which was in the year 1776, he this time enlisted in what was called the 8th Battalion of Yonkers, in Captain Edmeston's Company of Infantry by Col. Can Schaick's Regiment—she remembers the said John Ward had a figure (8) on the buttons of his coat, he listed this time for one year. The said John Ward in company with other soldiers then were taken to Ticonderoga and from there to Lake George, and from there to Albany, at which place his term of enlistment expired and he returned home to his parents residence, during this campaign the said John Ward was a Drummer.

It was some time in 1777 that he returned home this time, he remained at home till the latter part of the Summer of 1778, when he was drafted in the militia or went as a volunteer I cannot say who was his officers—they were not a great way off

from she remember he came home occasionally. He was at home in the months of November of that year for that was the time he was taken prisoner along with her parents and herself and a great many other persons.

She was two or three miles distant from home engaged in secreting their goods when she was taken prisoner and she thinks her husband was taken at their dwelling—and was brought down to the lake, where she saw him he had his soldier clothes on. The Indians made several attempts to scalp him.

The enemy was composed of British and Indians and were commanded by General Carlton. The said Deborah and her parents together with a great many women and children were put on board of the ship “Marian” on Lake Champlain, and were sent to Whitehall to the fort to protect them from the Indians it was said. The enemy killed the cattle and hogs and left them lay and set fire to the houses, and bars and burnt them down with all their contents, and they destroyed everything for many miles.

The said John Ward her husband was taken to Quebec and was imprisoned with about 40 others, that were taken with him, he was kept in prison for about 40 others that were taken with him. He was kept in prison for about one & a half years, and then he and some others were taken about one hundred miles below Quebec and set to making tar for the British [British] government, one night he and seven others concluded to make their escape they took a small boat and rowed across the St. Lawrence river but were again taken by some Indians, after being kept about 4 weeks he again made his escape and came home nearly dead.

She and her husband then resided in Rutland State of Vermont until the war was over and peace declared which was soon after.

In the year that peace was declared; she and her husband removed from Rutland to the town of Adian [Aidan] in the State of Vermont. In 1811 they removed to the town of Mentz, Cayuga, County State of New York. And two years after removed to Auburn in Herkimer County and [New York] state and they continued to reside there untill her husband’s death.

She further declares that the said John Ward her husband in the year 1819 obtained from the United States a pension on account of his military service in the revolution, under the Act of Congress of 1818. He used to draw it at the Auburn Bank, State of New York. He continued to draw it up to the time of his decease. He had a pension certificate and she has frequently seen it previous to his death, but as it was supposed to be of no use after his death no care was taken of it; and it is lost.

She further declares that she was married to the said John “Ward in the latter end of June or the beginning of July (1778) in the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, that they were married at her parents house in the town of Addison in the State of Vermont. That her parents, Nathaniel and Mercy Hinkley and two of her brothers Nathaniel and Isaac and her sister Mercy Hinkley, Genl John Strong, and his wife Isaac Hellick and sister. Col. Phillip Stone and wife, Deacon Grandy and Salome and his wife, Nathan Smith, John Ferris and his wife, Jonathan Oakes and Olive Avers and a number of young persons were present at the wedding—Jonathan Oakes and Olive

Avers were Bridesman and Bridemaid – She does not know the name of the person who married them but thinks he was a Major in the American Army.

She has no certificate of her marriage, nor never heard of such a thing in those days. And she knows of no record of their marriage and all the persons that were present at her marriage she believes are dead except her brother Nathaniel who was then about ten years of age, and now resides near Plattsburge [Plattsburgh] State of New York, and her sister Mercy who intermarried with [?] Goodspend and resides about 12 mile from Crown Point New York State, and was at the time the said Deborah and John Ward were married about eight years old.

The said Deborah and her husband the aforesaid John Ward had thirteen children, nine sons, and four daughter[s]—five sons and two daughters are still living to wit, John Ward resides in Canada, Reuben Ward and Nathaniel Ward on Lake Ontario, Loyal Ward at Blackrock, [Alolf?] Ward, Orleans County, State of New York, Deborah Ward is intermarried with Stedman Atherton resides in Vermont & Laura intermarried with Rev. Dixon A Nicholas with whom the same Deborah Ward resides & Philadelphia County, State of Pennsylvania.

She further declares that her husband the aforesaid John Ward died at Auburn in Cayuga County, State of New York on the 13th day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty one, aged seventy one years and upwards, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. (Signed) Deborah Ward.

Sworn and Subscribed on the day and year above written Before Me. John Richter Jones, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Phila. County State of Pennsylvania.