

Pension Application for Henry Wiles

W.18449 (Widow: Elizabeth) They married November 1767. Henry died June 10, 1821.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the third section of the act of Congress of the 4th July, 1836.

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State of New York

County of Cortland SS.

On this 2nd day of March, 1837, personally appeared before me, Oliver Kingman Esq one of the Judges of the County Courts, in and for said county of Cortland, Elizabeth Miles, a resident of the town of Freetown in said county of Cortland and State of New York, aged eighty nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is the widow of Henry Wiles, who was a private soldier in the Revolutionary War and that he entered said service & continued therein agreeably to the following statement as near as she can state the same—That is to say:--

That the said Henry Wiles, resided at Freysbush in the County of Montgomery and State of New York, and that he there enlisted as a private in the Company commanded by Capt Peter Ayle for the term of nine months—

That he thus enlisted in the month of March 1778; that he assisted a part of the time in the commencement of said town in boating up the Mohawk River in carrying provisions and men under the command of Col Willett. The latter part of said tour was performed at Saratoga and its vicinity, and a part of the time in boating on the North River—

That he served out his said time of nine months and was then discharged and came home in the month of December or the forepart of January, after winter had set in with snows. That during said nine months he came home and stayed but a few days, not exceeding one week as she believes and then again returned to service.

That he also served as a volunteer, as she believes in the company commanded by Capt Gross the year preceding the foregoing being in the year 1777,--that he went early in the spring and was in the service during the whole summer and fall. That he was a part of the time at home and was in a battle there or in its neighborhood, called the Oriscany [Oriskany] battle, with Indians, Tories & British.

That Gen. Herkimer commanded in the battle and was there wounded. That her said husband was also a part of said year 1777, at Cherryvalley [Cherry Valley] guarding the place against the Indians & Tories.

She thinks he was gone in said service in said year 1777, as aforesaid, at least six months.

That he also volunteered again in said service during the least year of the War, and was absent one or two months and during this last year he was in the battle at Johnstown—That she believes he was thus in the said service in the whole at least

eighteen months in the whole. That this deponent had to work out at farming herself while her husband was thus absent—that she fled her house many a night in terror, with her little children for fear of the Indians, and stayed in the woods.

She further declares that she was married to the said Henry Wiles in the month of November 1767—But she cannot tell the day of the month—That her husband, the aforesaid Henry Wiles, died on the tenth day of June 1821, at Huntsville in the Count of Otsego and State of New York; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

That she has no documentary evidence in her power to support her claim.

That she has no child who was under sixteen years of age at the time of the death of her said husband.

That her maiden name was Elizabeth Fritcher.

She further says that she cannot state the name of the officers, except as aforesaid under whom her husband served, owing to her great age and consequent loss of memory—She often hear him name others. (Signed with her mark) Elizabeth Wiles

Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year above written before me—and I also certify that said deponent is a person of credibility and truth and that she cannot from bodily infirmity attend the court also the reason of her subscribing by making her mark is inability to write for want of learning, as well as from age and infirmity. Oliver Kingman, Judge of Cortland County Court.

Letter in folder dated June 2, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to Elizabeth Wiles.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in the pension claim, W.18449, based upon service of Henry Wiles in the Revolutionary War.

Henry Wiles, his name shown Hendrick or Hendrick Weyl in Dutch, resided in Freysbush, near Fort Plain, in Tryon County, the part which was later Montgomery County, New York, at the time of the Revolutionary War. His age and the names of his parents are not shown.

He enlisted in the spring of 1777, and served six months as private in Captain Gross' company of New York troops, during which service he was in the battle of Oriskany. He enlisted in the fall of 1778 and served in the New York troops under Colonel Clyde at Cherry Valley when it was burned, afterwards guarded the inhabitants near there. He enlisted in the spring of 1779, and served nine months in the batteau service under captain Peter H. Ehle, engaged a part of the time on the Mohawk River, also, on the North River near Saratoga. He enlisted later, served as private in Captain Veeder's company, Colonel Frederick Fisher's New York regiment and was in the battle of Johnstown, this service about two months.

The soldier died June 10, 1821, in Otsego or in Huntsville, Otsego County, New York.

Henry Wiles married October 4, 1768, Elizabeth Kritscher, who resided in Stone Arabia, not far from Fort Plain, New York, before her marriage; they were married by Rev. Rosecrans, Pastor of the Dutch Reformed church of Stone Arabia, New York. The names of Elizabeth's parents are not shown, nor the date and place of her birth.

Elizabeth Wiles, the soldier's widow, was allowed pension on account of his service in the Revolutionary War on her application executed March 2, 1837, at which time she resided in Freetown, Cortland County, New York. She was then aged eighty-nine years. She was living there in 1848.

In 1838, Coonradt Wiles, the second child of Henry and Elizabeth Wiles, resided in Freetown, New York; he was born January 10, 1771, had one brother who was older than [than] he was who had died two years previously, his name not stated; Coonradt had three younger sisters, and five younger brothers. The only name stated was that of Adam Wiles, who was aged fifty-five years in 1837, at which time he resided in Cincinnatus, Cortland county, New York.

In 1848, one Henry Wiles was present in Cincannatus, New York, when Elizabeth Wiles, the soldier's widow, made affidavit in regard to her pension, but no relationship between them was stated.

In December 1845, Henry Murphy, born December 4, 1762, was a resident of Fort Plain, Town of Minden, Montgomery County, New York. He was a nephew of Henry and Elizabeth Wiles, and was in service in 1780 when his uncle Henry Wiles was at Stone Arabia.