

Pension Application for Henry T. Willse, or Willsey, or Wilsey

W.26034 (Widow: Margaret)

State of New York

Montgomery County SS

On this 19th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Montgomery & State of New York, now sitting, Henry T. Wilsey at the Town of Johnstown, in the County and State aforesaid aged eighty two 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

In the year Seventy six this applicant entered and drafted in the Militia service in the company commanded by one Stephen Deryea, the other officers names he does not recollect under Deryea, he does not recollect to what Regiment this company belonged, but if belonged to the forces commanded by Gen Putman.

That he drafted in the County of Dutchess & State of New York where he then resided, and he and said company went from the last mentioned place to Kingsbridge, to join the standing forces at that place, that he went out in August the day he cannot state and was discharged a little before Christmas or the Holy Days, that at this time he entered and drafted for five months and that the five months were up about that time as aforesaid, that he was verbally discharged[ed, and has no written Discharge and served the full term of five months at this time.

That he again drafted in the year seventy eight, some time in the month of October the day he cannot state, in the company went down from Dutchess aforesaid to Fish Kill, for the purpose of aiding and assesting [assisting] the forces belonging to service against the British who had then possession of New York and the surrounding places, that this part of the company was commanded by Lieutenant Barent Van Kleeck, that while they were at Fish Kill, they were commanded by Major Van BenScoten this is the only field officers name he recollects. This applicant was out during this time for the space of one month and has no written discharge.

This applicant further states that he again in the year seventeen hundred and eighty, drafted in a company of militia, commanded by Captain Reynolds, that he drafted in Dutchess aforesaid and that a part of this company commanded by Lieutenant Tridelle went from the last mentioned places to a Place called a Mile Square, below the White Plains, that he went out sometime in the month of January in that same year that he was out above one month at this time, that he has no written discharge and this applicant further says that he has no other or further testimony of his services except his own declaration that all his witnesses are dead and that this proof is the best proof in his power to produce.

And this applicant further says that he was out on alarms frequently over and above the times before mentioned, and this was during the whole Revolutionary War

that he was out in this manner at least six months & says that all his services amount to 13 months for which he claims pay.

And this applicant says that he was born on the fifteenth day of January in the seventeen hundred and fifty. That the record of his age is recorded in an old Dutch Testament, of his father containing the birth of his father's family and this is the only record he has.

And this applicant says that he has resided in the County of Albany and in the County of Montgomery & State of New York since the revolution and that he removed from Dutchess aforesaid to Albany County and from there to Montgomery, where he now resides.

And this applicant says that he is acquainted with Barent H. Vrooman, Cow Wemple and the Reverend Abraham Fan Horn Minister of the Gospel, who can testify to his character as to veracity and their belief as to his being a Revolutionary Soldier.

He was acquainted with none of the regular officers & can state no other circumstances about the same.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State. (Signed) Henry T. Willse

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk

Letter in folder dated August 17, 1932, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information relative to the husband of Margaret Wilsey whose name is listed on the Census of Pensioners of 1840 as a resident of Westerlo, Albany County, New York, aged eighty-eight years.

You are furnished herewith the record of Henry T. Willse, whose, widow, Margaret, received a pension on account of his service in the Revolutionary War. The data contained herein are obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, W.26034, based upon the service of Henry T. Willse in that war.

Henry T. Willse, whose signature appears Willse but whose name is shown under various other spellings as Wilse, Willsey and Willey, was born January 15, 1750, the place not stated.

While a resident of Dutchess County, New York, he enlisted and served as private in the New York troops as follows: from August, 1776, five months in Captain Stephen Duryee's Company, Colonel Brinkerhoff's Regiment; from sometime in October, 1778, one month in Captain Isaac Hageman's Company; from sometime in January 1780, one month in Captain Reynold's Company, Colonel Humphrey's Regiment; and, aside from these periods of service, on frequently alarms amounting in all to at least six months, specific dates and officers' names not given.

After the war, the soldier resided in Albany County, New York, and after that, in Montgomery County, that state.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 19, 1832, at which time he resided in Johnstown, Montgomery County, New York.

The soldier married on December 25, 1771 (as stated by the widow), in Dutchess County, New York, Margaret Miller; the ceremony was performed by Rev. Isaac Rysdyk, then pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Hackensack, Dutchess County, New York.

The soldier's widow, Margaret, was allowed pension on her application executed December 6, 1837, at which time she was a resident of Westerlo, Albany County, New York, aged eighty-five years.

An extract from the records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Hackensack, New York, shows the following:

Marriage Register

Married, December 24, 1773, -- Henrick Wiltsee to Grietja Muller.

Baptismal Register

Baptized, January 25, 1774, Cornelia, d. of Henrik Wiltsee & Margrietje Muller.

Baptized, April 19, 1778, Petrus, S. Henrik Wiltsee [spelled 2 ways] & Margaretha Muller.

Baptized July 16, 1780, Teunis, S. Henrik Wilssee & Margaretha Muller

Baptized February 22, 1784, Mary, d. Henrik Wilssee & Margaret [spelled 2 ways] Muller.

Baptized, March 11, 1787, Esther, d. Henrik Wilssee & Margareth Muller.

In 1837, the soldier's brother, John I. Willsy (as he signs), was a resident of Westerlo, Albany County, New York; he referred then to four children of his brother and his wife, Margaret, as living. He stated also that they were married in 1771.