

Pension Application for William Wilson

W.15817 (Widow: Elizabeth)

State of New York

County of Montgomery SS

On this 21st day of May 1844, personally appeared before me James Voorhees one of the Judges in and for said County of Montgomery 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 July 4, 1836.

That she is the widow of William Wilson who was a private soldier in the year 1780 in Colonel Harpers Regiment of New Levies which was raised for a term of nine months. Again that in the year 1781, he, the said William Wilson, her said husband was commissioned a Lieutenant in Colonel Willet's Regiment of New Levies or nine months men, but cannot state the precise length of time which he served, but is of the opinion that it was not now more than one half of the nine months for which he was commissioned.

And again, that in the year 1782, he, the said William Wilson, her said husband was again engaged as a Lieutenant in said Colonel Willet's Regiment of nine months men or New Jersey Levies, land that he served about the same length of time which he served in the previous year to wit: 1781.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Wilson in the month of November in a few days after he closed his services in Colonel Harpers Regiment as above stated. That the marriage ceremony was consecrated by the Reverence Mr. Rysdike at Fishkill in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York, And that he name, prior to marriage was Elizabeth Caniff.

She further declares that her husband the aforesaid William Wilson died on the 5th day of February 1841, in the town of Clifton Park in the county of Saratoga, and State of New York at the advanced age of about one hundred years, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period of time as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

She further declares that during her husband's life time after Congress passed a law granting pensions to officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution, approved June 7th 1832, her husband the aforesaid William Willson said that he was entitled to a Pension under said act, and said that he would not apply by reason of his then advanced age supposing that he would not live long enough to enjoy its benefits, or even supposed that he would not live until his claim for a Pension should be allowed; he at the same time being in possession of property sufficient to make him more than comfortable the remainder of his life, and that he had no anxious desire for any more is the reason she assigns why her husband did not apply for a Pension under the provisions of said Act.

She further declares that her first child was born on the 23d day of January 1782, and that they called her Polly, and that she died on the 23d day of march 1826, in the town of Watervliet County of Albany.

That her second child whom they called John was born on the 23d day of September 1784.

She further declares that by reason of the length of time since the Revolutionary War, connected with her "present advanced age. She is not able to give as particular and minute a description of her late husbands services as she could have done a number of years ago. She therefore solicits the favor to alter or amend, or to explain this her declaration (if requisite) at some time hereafter provided that testimony as to service and the proof of marriage should not be found to exactly correspond.

She further declares that their house was destroyed by fire about one year after the death of her husband, together with all its contents, including their Bible which contained a record of their marriage, and the time of the births of their children, also many papers which related to his services in the Revolutionary War, and also his commission as a Lieutenant as before stated.

She further declares that she hereby makes oath to the facts set forth in the foregoing declaration, according to the best of her recollection, knowledge and belief.
(Signed with her mark) Elizabeth Wilson

Sworn to and subscribed this 21st day of May 1844 before me. James Voorhees,
Judge of Montgomery County Courts.