

Pension Application for John Cronk (Cronkhite)

W20926

State of New York
Rensselaer County SS.

On this first day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Rensselaer in open court Lois Cronkhite a resident of Pittstown in said County aged seventy 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 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of John Cronkhite who was a Sergeant in the Revolutionary war in a company commanded by Capt. Hicks (1) in a Regiment commanded by Col. Van Schaick that he entered the service as she was informed and believes in 1776 but when he enlisted on in what company She does not know, She was informed and believes truly that he was in the Battles of Monmouth, Eutaw Springs and at the taking of Cornwallis (2) and was present at the Execution of Andre. (3)

That a portion of his service was performed in Capt. Finks (4) Company—but in what Regiment she does not know.

That she was informed by her said husband that he Enlisted for during the war and continued there in till its close in the winter of 1783.

That she was knowing to his having Bounty Lands for his services during the Revolutionary War and that he sold the same for a trifle some thirty five or forty years since.

That she has been informed and believes that there is evidence of the services of her said husband in the office of the war department at Washington to which she begs leave to refer—That she married the said John Cronkhite on the 28th day of March 1782 that she was married by a Squire Van Volkenburgh then residing in Hoosick that he was on a Furlough – that he remained at home about one fortnight after he said marriage and then returned to his company and Regiment which were stationed some where on the North River

That he continued frequently to visit her until he was finally discharged at or near Newburgh in the winter or Spring of 1783—that she has no Documentary Evidence of his Services or of her marriage with the said John Cronkhite.

That the said John Cronkhite died in the month of September 1816 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

(Signed with her mark) Lois Cronkhite

Sworn in open court this 1st day of February 1838. Henry R. Smith, Clerk

W.20.926 (Widow: 5818 Albany N. York. Lois Cronk, alias Cronkhite widow of John Cronk, alias Cronkhite N.Y. who was a Corporal in the Revolution. Inscribed on the Roll at the rate of \$88 per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March, 1843. Certificate of Pension issued the 9th day of July 1844 and sent to Hon. D. L. Seymour, Troy, N. York. Act of March 3, 1843.)

28th Congress, 1st Session. Rep. No. 158. Ho. of Rep.

Lois Cronk, Alias Cronkhite (To accompany Bill H.R. No. 147)

February 15, 1844.

Mr. J. A. Wright, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, submitted the following.

REPORT

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Lois Cronk, alias Cronkhite made the following report.

This is an application by the widow of John Cronk, alias Cronkhite, for a pension; and the only questions presented for consideration is, the time of the marriage. The marriage being proved beyond all controversy, the only question raised is, was the marriage prior to 1794?

Matilda Dillingham swears, in 1841, that she is 60 years of age, knew husband and widow for 54 years; that she was well acquainted with the family raised by them; that they were always regarded and reputed as man and wife; and that, from the ages of the children, she has no doubt of the marriage being prior to 1794.

Joseph Lewis married sister of husband and according to the family Bible that came into his possession Hannah Cronk, daughter of widow, died in March, 1816.

Benjamin Gifford, brother of widow, swears that he knows the time of his sister's marriage well, because there were some objections to the match; and one was, that the deceased was a *soldier* at the time.

John Cronk, son of widow, is 45 years of age; his father and mother had 11 children; the eldest was Hannah, she was married and died in 1816; there was a record of the marriage of his parents and of the birth of the children, which fell into the hands of Patsey, his sister, who married Joel Wilson, which record, he is informed,

is destroyed; he has a recollection of that said record showed the birth of Hannah to be in the latter part of 1786; that he was born according to this record, in 1794, and there were three children older than he; that there were about two and a half years between the ages of the children; has no doubt of the marriage of his parents prior to the year 1783, and thinks that the record he saw shows the marriage to be in 1782. This was sworn to in August 1839.

Ira Cronk was 45 years of age in 1838; there were 11 children—three older than he alive; his father and mother lived together as man and wife from the first of his recollection.

Then follow a number of old papers connected with services in the Revolution, dated as early as 1780—all of which go to show, from their appearance, the age and connexion [sic] that the deceased sustained to the county; and which papers were found among the papers of the widow.

Hiram Hunt knew the widow and her husband for many years, traded with them for more than 20 years past; has no doubt of the fact of their being man and wife, and of their raising a legitimate family of children. He is 70 years of age.

N. McMasters said that he was 48 years of age in 1838, has no doubt of the marriage of the parents, went to school with the children prior to 1810; always reputed to be children of said widow and deceased.

Manford Smith, a merchant, corroborates the above statement in the way of selling goods and trading with widow and husband.

Joseph Collins swears to services of deceased in the Revolution and to the marriage, and speaks of the difficulty that was made to the marriage; the marriage was in 1782.

Mr. Gilbert swears to the death of his father in the fall of 1816, and that his mother has ever since remained a widow.

The widow's own statement shows she was married in 1782, she gives the name of the justice of the peace who married her.

The good character of all the witnesses is proven.

Taking the whole case into consideration, the committee think the proof shown the marriage was prior to 1794, and, therefore, they report a bill.

An Act for the relief of Lois Cronk, alias Cronkhit.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representiv [es] of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be and he is hereby, directed to place the name of Lois Cronk, alias Cronkhite, widow of John Cronk, alias Cronkhite, late a corporal in the New York line of the army of the revolution, on the pension roll under the act of the seventh of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows," and also under the act of the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-three, entitled "An act granting a pension to the widows of certain revolutionary soldiers, (misprinted in the law, "An act granting a pension to certain revolutionary soldiers,") at the rate of eighty-eight dollars per annum.

Sec. 2 An be it further enacted, That the said Lois shall be entitled to the full benefit of all laws and resolves which shall hereafter be passed, continuing in force the said acts, or either of them. Approved My 31, 1844.

End Notes—W.20926—John Cronk

1. John enlisted as a private on November 13, 1776 in Captain Benjamin Hick's Company, Fourth Company, in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Continental Regiment for during the war. He was promoted to corporal on January 4, 1780
2. The Battle of Monmouth, N.J. was fought on June 28, 1778, the Battle of Eaton Springs, South Carolina was fought on September 8, 1781. The First New York was not there in that battle and the Yorktown, Virginia Campaign was from September 28 to October 19, 1781.
3. Major John Andre was hung on October 2, 1780.
4. Andrew Fink was the Captain of the Third Company in Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment.