

### **Pension Application for Thomas Dempsey or Dempsy**

W.1574 (Widow: Mary)

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an Act of Congress passed July 4, 1836, entitled "An act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows."

State of New York

Oswego County SS

On this eighth day of June Anno Domini (1847) eighteen hundred & forty seven personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County of Oswego now sitting Mary Dempsey a resident of the Township of Ameliasburgh in the District and County of Prince Edward in Canada West, aged (86) eighty six years & upwards who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by an act of Congress passed July 4, 1836 entitled "An act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows."

That she is the widow of Thomas Dempsey late of the Township of Ameliasburgh in the aforesaid District of Prince Edward and Canada West in which he departed this life on the (17<sup>th</sup>) seventeenth day of December (1845) eighteen hundred & forty five.

That she was married to said Thomas Dempsey on the 22d day of December 1781.

That her husband said Thomas Dempsey was a soldier of the United States during the War of the Revolution. That during said War of the American Revolution her said husband resided in Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess in said State of New York from whence he entered the service of the United States and served in the Militia of Dutchess County aforesaid for a period of at least three or four years, in the latter part of said War, off & on and as occasion required being often called out by the officers of said Militia. That as she has always been informed by her said husband & which she verily believes true, he rendered his first service at Fishkill in said County of Dutchess which was for sometime, but Declarant is now unable to state the length of time of said service at Fishkill or the officers under whom it was rendered but thinks that Captain Abram [Fox or Fort] commanded the company in which her said husband served at Fishkill aforesaid.

That the next service her said husband rendered was under Captain Swartwout at West Point, as Declarant verily believes, for at least a period of three months, Declarant is now unable to state the precise year or years in which the aforesaid service was rendered at Fishkill & at West Point but verily believes it was rendered as aforesaid after the taking of Fort Montgomery & previous to the year 1780. That in said year of 1780 her said husband served for a period of three months in the Company of Captain McKinstry in the Regiment of Colonel Malcom, at Schoharie and in the vicinity of the Mohawk River.

That in the year 1781 her said husband served for a period of nine months in the company of Captain Gilbert Livingston in the Regiment of colonel Albert Pawling. That he served on numerous occasions during said war in said militia of Dutchess

County previous to serving under Captain McKinstry and under Captain Livingston as aforesaid.

That he served under numerous officers which Declarant is now unable to call by name and in various parts of the Country then ravaged by the Indians & Tories. He served at Fort Stanwix, at the different posts along the Hudson & Mohawk Rivers and the adjacent country. That after the expiration of his nine months service under Captain Livingston as aforesaid he served again for sometime under Captain Swartwout at West Point, but Declarant is now unable to state the length of time he was in said service.

And Declarant further saith that she was married to her husband said Thomas Dempsey on the (22d) Twenty second day of December (1781) seventeen hundred and eighty one at the residence of her father, Peter Lawson, in Poughkeepsie in said County of Dutchess by the Rev'd Chauncey Grames a Presbyterian clergyman who then preached & lived at Fishkill in said County of Dutchess.

That the following persons were present at her marriage, to wit, Mary Johnson, Elisabeth Johnson, Thomas Jacox, Peter Fardon, John Fardon, Aaron Raff, Matthew Lawson, Hester Jacox, Ann Chase, Margaret Doxtator & others, of whom Elisabeth Johnson & Margaret Doxtator are now living near Declarant in Canada aforesaid & are the only persons whom Declarant knows to be now living who were present at her said marriage.

That previous to her marriage as aforesaid Declarant resided in Poughkeepsie aforesaid & born the maiden name of Lawson.

That she was married to her said husband as aforesaid and but a short time before his nine months under that officer expired. That her said husband & said Captain Livingston lived near neighbors to each other in Poughkeepsie aforesaid and at the time Declarant was married her said husband said Thomas Dempsey & Captain Livingston came home together and after her said marriage they both returned back again to the service and that her said husband served his said nine months out and after being duly discharged from the service returned home.

That her said husband rendered the aforesaid service under Captain Swartwout at West Point also after Declarants said Marriage to him.

That her said husband died as aforesaid without asserting his claim to said pension. He moved with Declarant & his family from Poughkeepsie aforesaid more than fifty years ago into Canada West aforesaid and continued to reside there until the said day of his death. That previous to his death he often spoke of his pension but for a number of years before he died he was laboring under the effects of disease, and owing to bodily infirmities was unable to bear the fatigues of a journey to the United States necessary in order to have the requisite papers made out and executed and the proof collected to obtain said pension, Declarant now visits Oswego aforesaid for the purpose of making this application for said pension.

That the accompanying Record is a true Record of Declarants family. The names of the children thereon recorded are those of Declarant & her said husband Thomas Dempsey. Said Record was made by her said husband more than forty years

ago & is now taken from an old book of his for accompany [sic] this Declaration.  
(Signed with her mark) Mary Dempsey

Subscribed & sworn the day and year aforesaid in open court being the said  
Court of Common Pleas now sitting. D. McCarty Dep Clk (clk absent)

Thomas Dempsey born Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1758.

Mary Lawson born March 27<sup>th</sup> 1761.

We was married December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1781, by Chance [spelling differs from the deposition]  
Graham, minister of Fishkill.

Betsey our first daughter born Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1782.

Peter our first son born March 8<sup>th</sup> 1784.

Sarah was born October 7<sup>th</sup> 1786.

Margaret was born October 24<sup>th</sup> 1789.

Thomas was born February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1793.

Isaac was born April 29<sup>th</sup> 1795.

Ann was born Dec'r 28<sup>th</sup> 1796.

William was born July 15<sup>th</sup> 1799.

Catharine was born March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1802.