

Pension Application for Lawrence Grace

W.16276 (Widow: Elizabeth)

State of New York

Rensselaer County SS.

On this 13th day of April 1818 before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the said County, personally appears Lawrence Grace aged 60 years resident in the City of Troy in the County aforesaid, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled “An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War.”

That he the said Lawrence Grace enlisted (1) on the 3d day of May 1781 in the Town of Troy in the State of New York in the company commanded by Captain ____ Teirce (2) of the Regiment commanded by Col. Marinus Willet, that he continued to serve in the said company & regiment until the winter of 1782, when having served the full term of his enlistment (nine months) he was discharged from service at Fort Herkimer State of New York, that he was in the action when Col. Butler was killed, (3) near the German Flatts and in the skirmish with the Tories of Indians at Johnstown (4) in the summer of 1781 (5) and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support—and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

Sworn to and declared before me, the day and year aforesaid. Jas. Mallory

State of New York

Rensselaer County SS

Personally appeared before the Justices Court of the City of Troy in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York Elizabeth Grace (6) of said City and deposeth and saith that she is the Lawful Widow of Lawrence of Lawrence Grace [sic] said City of Troy now deceased that she is now Seventy five years of age and was Lawfully married to said Lawrence Grace in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty by a Lutheran Minister at her Fathers House that her her [sic] Husband Lawrence Grace enlisted in June one thousand seven hundred and eighty one as a soldier in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Marinus Willett in Capt Peter Tiers’s (7) Company for nine months in the expedition to the western part of New York to to [sic] Stone Arabia and Johnstown that he served his time out and was regularly discharged that he died in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight, before the passage of the Acts by the Congress of the United States for the granting of Pension to all those that performed Military service in the Revolutionary War and further that the said Lawrence Grace before their marriage went on a Tour of Duty as a soldier in the Militia under Lieut. Wager (8) to Schoharie for three months and on his return they were married and further this deponent saith not.

(Signed with her mark) Elizabeth Grace

Sworn before the Justice of the Justices Court of the City of Troy, this 19th day May 1838 in open court. Geo. Wheeler, clerk &c.

End Notes—W.16276—Lawrence Grace

1. There is no record of a Lawrence Grace in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies from 1781 until January 6, 1784 when the regiment was disbanded. Lawrence's pension application was rejected as the March 18, 1818 act did not apply as Willett's Regiment was not a Continental regiment. Lawrence applied again on September 5th 1820 and he was again rejected for the same reason. It wasn't until the June 7, 1832 act covered the militia men that had a least six months service.
2. Captain Peter B. Tierce (Tearse, etc.) was appointed on April 10, 1782 to serve in Willett's Regiment and not in 1781.
3. Captain Walter Butler was killed in a skirmish at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.
4. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
5. In Lawrence's September 5, 1820 declaration he states the following: "Was in Several Battles against the Indians & was severely wounded in the head." He also stated that his first enlistment was at Albany and the 2nd was out west of Albany on the Mohawk River. He also mentioned his wife Elisabeth between the age of 50 and 60 years old and that his occupation had been that of a farmer.
6. Elizabeth's maiden name was Myers. Cornelius Myers made a deposition in support of his sister's claim.
7. A pay receipt was now included and solves the mystery of Lawrence's service in 1782.

Albany 3d Sept 1784

Sir

Pleas to deliver to Mr. Henry all my pay which is due me as a soldier in Colo Willetts Regt of state troops and his recpt shall be safisient Voucher for the same a wit ness my hand.

Witness present

[??] servt]

Nathaniel Henry

Abraham Ten Eyck

Lorance Coris paymaster.

On reverse side

Albany Sept 6, 1784

Recd the [w]hole amount of the within mentioned pay the Certificate Amounts to £21.3 N Henry

Coris or Corus not Grace was used as Lawrence's surname.

Lawrence Corus enlisted in captain Nathaniel Henry's Company in May or June of 1782 in Willett's Regiment. As Captain Henry did not fill the quota of recruits to receive his commission he was discharged and Lawrence was transferred to Captain Tearse's Company after July 7, 1782.

In Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173 (Willett's Levies) National Archives, Washington, D.C. the following was found:

"Certificates to be Accounted for by Coll. Willett in the year 1782"

"Lawrence Corus 5. . 15. . 6 Henrys"

"No Remark or Vouchers at all for these mens Pay"

There are two more lists, *"Certificates to be accounted for by Coll. Willett, Pay of 1782:* and *"Pay for 1782 Certificates to be accounted for by Coll. Willett".*

This second list has several named crossed out but Lawrence's was not one of them.

8. Probably First Lieutenant Jacob Weeger or Wager of Captain Cornelius Lansing's Second Company in Colonel Stephen J. Schuyler's Sixth regiment of Albany County Militia. So far a muster or payroll for this company has not been located. As Lawrence was born about 1758 he would have served in the militia when he turned 16 years of age. So far the surname Corus can be verified for Willett's in 1782 but not in 1781. Henry Bulson testified as to serving with Lawrence in Captain Tierce's Company and John Wheeler for serving in Captain James Cannon's Company in Willett's Regiment also testified as serving or seeing Lawrence serve in Captain Tierce's Company. The pension application file is 28 pp including the cover page. Since Lawrence died in 1828 before the 1832 act, his levy and militia service was not covered by those acts plus in his 1818 application he does not mention being wounded in the service.