

Pension Application for James Griffis or Griffiths

R.4321 James died December 18, 1836, wife died about two years previous to this date. Married Catharine on June 7, 1783.

There doesn't seem to be a deposition for James Griffis in the file, only from his children trying to collect their father's pension. The following letter is dated July 12, 1933, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to James Griffis or Griffith, who served in the New York troops, War of the Revolution.

You are furnished herein the record of the only James Griffis (variously spelled), that is found on file in the Revolutionary War records of this office, who served with the New York troops; and the data given below were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, R. 4321, based upon his service in that war.

James Griffis (Griffiths) was the son of Peter from "Albanii". It is stated that the family, originally, were from Wales and spelt their name Griffiths, until after the Revolution, it was written Griffis, as it was shorter and more like the pronunciation. The date and place of birth of James Griffis is not given, and the name of his mother is not shown.

James Griffis married June 7 or 13, 1783, Catharine Froelick (Fralick), the daughter of Barona Froelick of "Freehold". Their marriage was recorded on the records of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Athens, Greene County, New York. They moved about 1800 in Upper Canada. He died December 18, 1836 or 1837 in Grantham Township, Lincoln County, Canada. It is stated that he was in the eighty-seventh year of his age at the time he died. He was buried by the side of his wife, in the Episcopal Burying Ground at the "Two Mile Creek", Grantham Township. Canada. His wife had died about two years previous.

The following children survived their parents, James and Catharine Griffis (Griffith), and were all living in 1852—

Peter Griffis, fifty-nine years of age in 1852 and living in Grantham Township, Canada.

Mary Lorroway

Sarah Hodgkinson in 1859 residing in West Zora Township, Oxford County, Canada.

Custina (Cristiana) Hodgkinson in 1853 sixty-three years old and in Lincoln County, Canada.

Lydia Coursin

Hannah Oustroudt.

On May 1, 1852, Peter Griffis applied in behalf of himself and the above named heirs, for the pension that might have been due on account of the service of his father, James Griffis (Griffiths). He alleged that his father lived during the War of the Revolution in either orange or Sullivan County, New York and served from 1776 or 1777, three or four years under Captain Wright in Colonel VanCortland's New York regiment, also had other short tours.

The claim was not allowed, as proof of the alleged service was not established.

In 1852 James Lorroway was residing in Grantham Township, Canada, and stated that he had known James and Catharine Griffis (Griffiths) from about the year 1820; no relationship shown between James Lorroway and the above named daughter, Mary Lorroway.