

Pension Application for William Harris

W.17052 (Rachel) Married April 17, 1782. William died September 4, 1840.

Letter in folder dated August 14, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

William Harris was born in Westchester County, New York. The date of his birth and names of his parents are not shown.

William Harris enlisted, place not shown, in 1775, soon after the battle of Bunker Hill, for six or nine months in the company of Captain Daniel Mills, Colonel James Holmes; New York Regiment; he started for Saint Johns, Canada, but on reaching Albany, was taken sick and returned home; exact length of this service not shown; afterward, William Harris served as a private in the New York troops, as follows: one month under Captain Richard Sackett; one month under Captain Fleming, Colonel Thomas Thomas' Regiment; one month in Captain Sackett's Company and one month in Captain Nathan Olmsted's Company, both tours under Colonel Thomas Thomas; six months under Captain David Randal, was stationed at Fort Montgomery and assisted in laying the chain across the Hudson River; one month in captain Jesse Kelly's Company, Colonel Thomas' Regiment, was taken prisoner during this tour, carried to New York and held in close confinement for three months; after the release of William Harris from prison, he re-enlisted served in captain Jacob M. Vermelya's Company under Colonel Runnewell at Honeywell in the Horse Guards engaged in guarding the lines; length of this service, one year. During this tour, soldier's brother, Abijah Harris, was lieutenant of the company and commanded a small force of which William Harris was a member. They went as far as New Rochelle, New York, where they were in an engagement with a party of the enemy, twice their number, but in which they captured four prisoners and killed one man. Said Abdjah Harris was living in Westchester County, New York, in 1828. His age was not given.

After the Revolution, William Harris resided in Westchester County, New York, in Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York, in Chautauqua and in Erie Counties, New York.

He was allowed pension by an act of Congress, approved May 20, 1830 at the rate of \$8.00 per month, pension to commence January 1, 1828. In July 1830, soldier was living in Buffalo, New York, where, he stated, he had then lived for about nine months.

He died September 24, 1840, at the home of his son-in-law, Joel S. Smith, in Hamburg Erie County, New York. The name of the wife of said Joel was not shown.

The soldier married April 17, 1782, Rachel Rundle or Rundell. They were married at the home of John Rundle in Bedford, Westchester County, New York. No relationship of John Rundle to Rachel was shown. The date and place of birth of Rachel are not given.

Soldier's widow, Rachel, was allowed pension on her application executed May 16, 1842, at which time she was aged seventy-seven years and resided in Hamburg, Erie County, New York.

She died February 25, 1844, place not shown.

In 1847, two sons of the soldier and his wife are referred to, namely John and Morgan Harris. Their ages and places of residence are not stated. In 1848, Sylvester Andrews, of Silver Creek, Chautauqua County, New York, stated that he was a son-in-law of William and Rachel Harris but did not give the name of his wife.