

Pension Application for Jacob Lawson

W.20426 (Widow: Mary) Married Jacob married Mary Miller in the fall of the year 1785. Jacob died June 10, 1844.

B.L.Wt.51,757-160-55

Milton, July 16, 1847.

Sir,

In here enclose you further papers in the care of Mary Lawson applicant for a pension.

In your communication of 10 February last you suggest the proving evidence of aged persons who have known the applicant & her husband to have lived together as husband and wife.

In pursuance of that suggestion I here forward you the affidavits of three respectable and very aged men, Joseph Berry and has known them to live together as husband and wife since 1786 Richard Rhoads has known them as such as early as 1787 and Benjamin Townsend as early as 1793. And all those persons corroborate in saying that they never heard the legality of their marriage called in question; I have selected these three men on account of their being the oldest men in the neighborhood and also because they are men of unquestionable veracity, Mr. Townsend has for a long while been one of our leading men. He has twice been nominated by the Federal party and run for member of Assembly & has been elected at different times supervisor, Town Clerk, Justice of the Peace, and other officers in this town although the political character of the town was strongly opposed to him yet by his personal strength standing & moral worth he has been elected against a large political majority. These affidavits I promise will be sufficient with the other evidence to establish the marriage within the other evidence to establish the marriage either the time which will entitle him to a pension.

You say that Col. Lambs rolls on file do not furnish the precise time that Lawson served under him and at your suggestion I have proven & there forward your certificates of papers on file in the Legislature of this state and also a certificate from the comptrollers office.

First permit me to call your attention to the enlistment of (marked A) and although the signatures are so defaced that the clerk of the Assembly could not certify to the; yes, the endorsement on the envelope& the appearance of the paper leaves no doubt in my mind of it—being the original Enlistment of Jacob Lawson such is also the opinion of Thomas Machin as appears from his annexed affidavit, it is at any rate the enlistment of some one by Captain Machin at the period in which Lawson was [?] and shows the manner & term for enlist he enlisted at that time.

The next I would call your attention is the certificate of Anthony Lamb (marked B) he certifies that among his father's papers he found one entitled "List of Levies for completing the 2d regiment of Artillery of the United States raised under the direction of the State of New York pursuant to an act of the Legislature of said state extracted from the returns of the officers appointed to raise them and to record for the said regiment specifying the time on which the recruits respectively joined & noting the

deserters and other casualties this paper is endorsed "Returns of recruits joined the 2d regiment of Artillery 1782 Feb 10th".

On this paper among other is the name of Jacob Lawson who appears to have enlisted 13 March 1781 and there appears nothing against his name in the column to note deserting & other casualties.

Admitting that Lawson enlisted on the 13 March 1781, he must have been in the service as late as 10th Feb 1782, the date of the above document and it is also fair to infer that he must have continued & served to the end of his enlistment otherwise it would have been so noted under the column of Deserters and other Casualties.

The next to which I would call your attention is the certificate from the Comptroller (Marked C) by which it appears that Lawson was paid for services from 13th March 1781 to 1 January 1782. The year 1781 is the only year that the state of New York paid her soldiers raised under the requisition of Congress and upon the pay roll of that year it appears that Lawson received pay up to the end of that year for 9 months & 19 days service.

The next I will call you attention to the affidavit of Solomon Utter (marked D) he belonged to the same regiment & knows that Lawson served a number of years always understood that he had enlisted for during the war & was discharged on the disbanding of the Army.

This affidavit with the affidavit of Benjamin Lowring & William Bloomer now on file in the application) Lawson for a pension is established by parole, the fact that Lawson served until the close of the war.

Lawson being recruited in the State of New York for the United States service in pursuance of an act of the Legislature as it clearly appears from the pay roll certified by the Comptroller and the revolutionary document found among the papers of Col Lamb, certified to by his son Anthony Lamb, on the 13th March 1781 he could not have enlisted for a less time than 2 years or during the war and as then appears no evidence that he deserted or in any other way left the service until the close of the war and as then appears no evidence that he deserted or in any other way left the service until the close of the war. The fair deduction arising from these documents is that he must at least have served two years.

But again there is no documentary evidence which goes at all to refute this presumption, the Documents on file you say do not show the precise time that Lawson served yet from the documents certified and here forwarded it appears he must have served from 13th March 1781 to 11 Feb 1782 and beyond that period; he must also have enlisted for the term of at least for the term of at least 2 years and if he had deserted or otherwise have been discharged before the term of his service expired would it not have so appeared in the revolutionary documents you have.

Yours Wm Soper.

To the Honorable J. L. Edwards, Comms'n of Pensions.