

Pension Application for Garret Putman

W. 16687 (Widow Rebecca)

This widow received a handsome pension, \$413.33 per annum. Arrears \$2,273.31 plus semi-annual allowance ending 4 Mar 38, 206.66, total \$2,479.97.

State of New York
County of Montgomery SS.

On this 27th day of December 1836, personally appeared before the Honorable John Hand one of the Judges of the County Courts for the County of Montgomery aforesaid, Rebecca Putman a resident of Johnstown in the said County of Montgomery and State of New York aged 72 years the 15th of March last, who, being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of Garret Putman who was a Captain in the Army of the Revolution and served as herein more particularly specified.

That during the period of the Revolutionary War down to the year 1781 she had no personal knowledge of the services of the said Capt. Garret Putman only from additional evidence, or as it was related to her at different times during the time of the war, and at several times since. That he, the said Garret Putman who was a Capt. in the war of the Revolution served as an officer therein several terms of 9 months at least, to say as much as 9 months in the year 1778, (1) probably the same in the Indian expedition under Gen'l Sullivan in the year 1779. (2) And a term of 9 months in the year 1780 (3) and a term of 9 months in the year 1781. (4)

That on the 8th day of July 1781 she was married to the said Capt. Garret Putman by the Rev. Mr. Throop at Fort Hunter, and that the said Capt. Garret Putman was at the time of their marriage Captain of a company stationed at fort Hunter to guard the Fort and continued in the service at different places the remainder of the said year, that her husband, the aforesaid Capt. Garret Putman died on the 12th day of April 1826; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed and further says not. (Signed with her mark) Rebecca Putman

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me John Hand a Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York
Montgomery County SS.

On this 27th day of December 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned, a Judge of the County Court for the County aforesaid, Thomas Sammons who being duly sworn doth depose and swear that he has made a diligent search for the record of the marriage of Rebecca Putman to her late husband Garret Putman deceased and that he has been unable to find any except the following which he swears is an exact and true copy of a family record taken and by him copied from the family Bible of Abraham Garrison the Father of Rebecca Putman the present Claimant.

"Garret Putman was born the 22d day of February [sic] 1752. Rebecca Garrison was born the 15th day of March 1764 and they were married in the year 1781 July 8th.

And he further swears that is well acquainted with the said Rebecca Putman and knows her to have been the wife of Garret Putman or that they have cohabited and lived together as man and wife since the above named year 1781 until the time of her death of the said Garret Putman and since which the said Rebecca Putman the present Claimant has ever since remained his widow and he further swears that he was well acquainted with Garret Putman during the revolutionary war and well recollects of seeing him at different times in the service of his country acting as a commissioned officer and furthermore that he has every reason to believe that the services of the said Garret Putman during the war as a commissioned officer amounted to more than two years with a embodied Corps called into service by competent authority and furthermore says not. (Signed) Tho. Sammons

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me John Hand a Judge of the Montgomery County Courts.

Batavia NY Sept 22, 1846
Dear Sir—

I shall feel greatly obliged if you will answer me the following Interrogatories.

1. Has a pension ever been granted to Garret Putman a captain in the Revolutionary War?
2. Is so, when and what arrears were then due?
3. Was the money ever paid, if so how much has been paid, when paid and to whom and on what authority.

I make these enquiries in behalf of William G. Putman a son and sole legatee and devisee of Garret Putman. William G. Putman has been informed that his mother drew a large sum of money as her husband's pension but she is now dead and it can not be ascertained now how much she received it any.

Please also state whether Rebecca Putman widow of Garret Putman ever obtained a pension if so when and how much did she receive.

I am also informed that Garrett Putman never obtained his bounty land. If so can this still be obtained and on what proof? William G. Putman informed me that he can prove the Service of his father by two or three witnesses. Will this be sufficient. Is there not proof of his service in this papers on applying for a pension if so cannot this proof be referred to for the purpose of obtaining his bounty land.

If you will answer this at your earliest convenience you will confer a particular favor [to] William G. Putman.

I am with great respect your Obt Servt, Timothy Fitch.

Letter in the folder dated September 22, 1910, written in response to an inquiry.

In regard to your inquiry of last May, you are advised that while the name Garrett Putnam is not found on the Revolutionary War pension records, a further search has disclosed the following information.

Garrett Putman [typist changed the way he wrote Putman to Putnam and then back again] was born February 22, 1752, and served as a Captain in the New York Troops for nine months in 1778; nine months in 1779, and was in General Sullivan's campaign against the Indians; nine months in 1780 under Colonel John Harper; and nine months in 1781 under Colonel Marinus Willett during which time he was in the "Hall battle" near Johnstown. (5)

He married while in the service at Fort Hunter, on July 8, 1781, Rebecca Garrison born March 15, 1764, daughter of Abraham Garrison.

Soldier died April 12, 1826, and his widow Rebecca Putman was allowed pension on file No. W. 16687 on the application executed December 27, 1836, while a resident of Johnstown, Montgomery County, New York.

In 1846 it was stated that their son William C. [sic] Putman was sole legatee and devisee. No further data relative to family.

Very respectfully, [no name appears on copy] Acting Commissioner.

End Notes—W.16637—Garret Putman

1. In April of 1778 there were to be two companies of Tryon County Rangers to be raised to consist of about 60 men each. They were to be raised from the Tryon County Militia Brigade. Captain Garret Putman and Lieutenant Victor Putman and Benjamin Dickson or Dixon formed one company and the other company officers were Captain John Breadbake and Lieutenants John Adam Frederick Helmer, and John Smith. The two companies were to report to Colonel Morris Graham of the First Regiment of Dutchess County Militia. FROM: The Public Papers of George Clinton, First Governor of New York, Albany, Vol. 3, pp 251-252. So far only muster/pay rolls have been found for Captain Breadbake's Company.
2. In 1779, Brigadier General James Clinton raised an army of continental and militia troops, which formed in the Mohawk Valley, and then later joined the army of Major General John Sullivan. The combined armies marched against the Iroquois villages in western New York. Colonel John Harper of the Fifth Regiment of Tryon County Militia volunteered his services to General Clinton; Harper was appointed the captain of about 135 volunteers including Garret. Putman was then appointed as the second in command. The volunteers were not paid but drew rations. Garret was present at the Battle of Newtown, present day Elmira, NY, on August 29, 1779 but was not an active participant in the battle. Garret was in what is called today the "Groveland Ambush" on September 13, 1779. A scouting part of continental and volunteers under First Lieutenant Thomas Boyd of the First Pennsylvania Continental Regiment were ambushed. Putman and a few others escaped the ambush but the rest were either killed or captured. Garret also served as Captain in Colonel Frederick Visscher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia but when he was appointed is unknown but he probably served in 1778 and 1779.
3. Garret was appointed Captain on May 11, 1780 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of Levies. The company was divided into small groups and garrisoned at different times in Forts Johnstown, Hunter, Windecker, and the Sacandaga Blockhouse. In September, Harper's Levies were sent to Fort Schuyler to replace the First New York Continental Regiment. On November 22, the Fourth New York Continental Regiment arrived at Fort Schuyler to replace Harper's Levies. On November 23, Major James M. Hughes marched from Fort Schuyler to Schenectady where they were discharged on November 30.
4. Garret was appointed captain on April 27, 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. The company was discharged on December 31.
5. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.