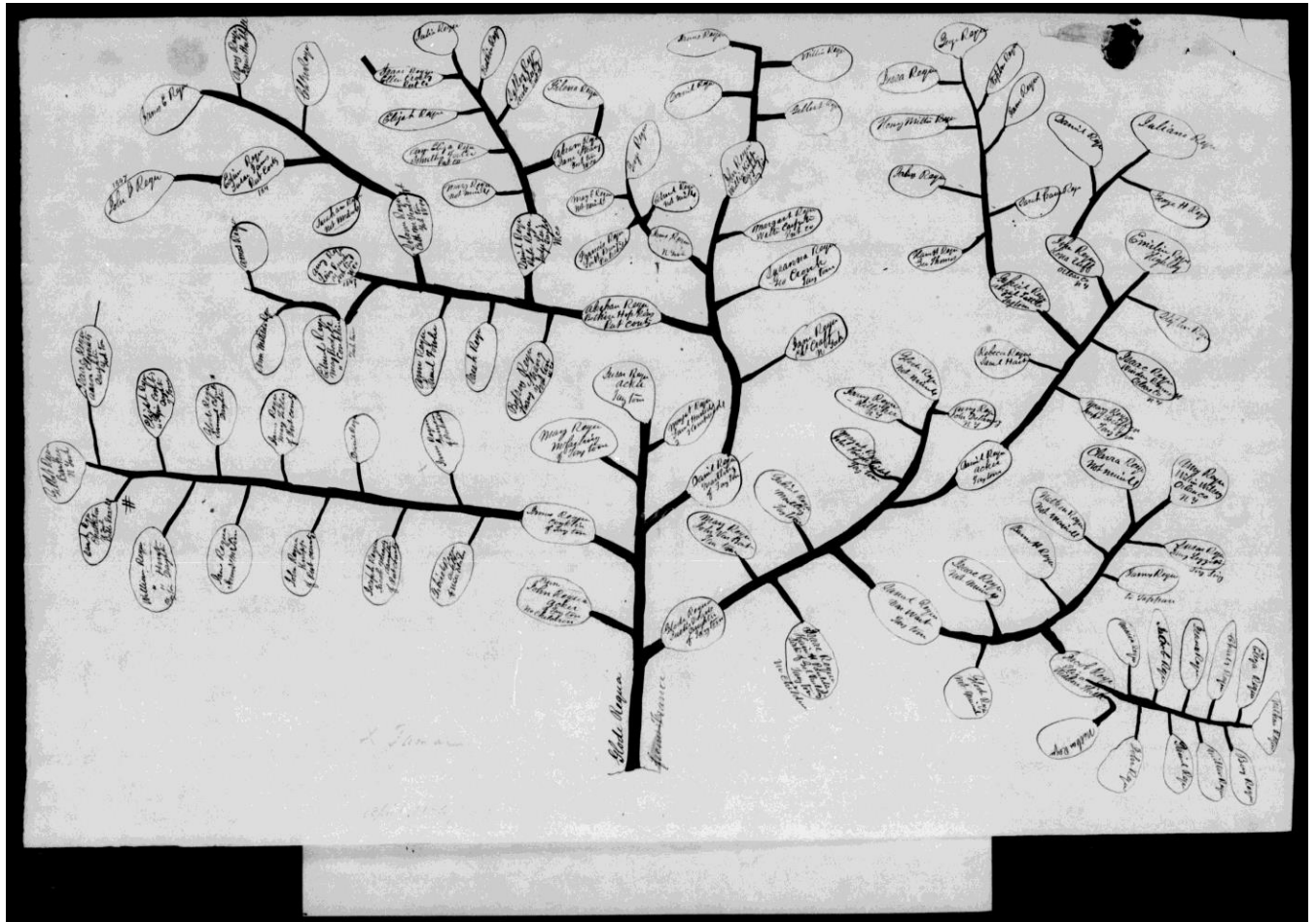


Pension Application for Isaac Requa

W.24733 (Widow: Henrietta) Married the spring of the year succeeding the peace, in the month of May. He died February 1826.



New York, Sept 18, 1847
Sir.

I herewith transmit additional testimony in the case of Mrs. Henrietta Requa, widow of Isaac Requa, which more than meets the requirements of your letter of the 19th Ult. And cannot fail to remove all doubt of the truth and justice of her claim.

No record, or documentary evidence, public or private, can be obtained to prove the date of her marriage. I had satisfactorily ascertained this proof before the former papers were transmitted; but since the receipt of your letter I have made a new and thorough search with the like result.

I found on the church records at Tarrytown the date of the subsequent marriage of her sister, was Catharine Hale, viz: 12th April 1787, but that of Mrs. Requa was not there, and was not to have been expected; as she was married by a Justice during the interval succeeding the revolution when Tarrytown was without a clergyman. The Bible of James Requa, the officiating Justice, alleged by William Requa in his deposition to contain the record is irrevocably lost, as also the Regiment

of his proceedings as Justice which might by probability have contained it. No trace of either can be found. In the absence, therefore of impossible documentary testimony, the evidence of the individuals heretofore offered with that now produced must be conclusive as to the occurrence of the marriage long prior to 1794, which is all that is necessary for the purposes of the application to establish.

Mrs. Hifield testifies that she was present at the marriage; that it occurred some years prior to her own, and that she was married on the 31st December 1789. It appears by the record of births in her family bible, which I have personally inspected, that her first child was born in July 1791.—

The deposition of Mr. William Requa, to which I invite untoward attention, proves incontestably that the marriage took place prior to 1786. This testimony is of the very highest character, and is not to be disregarded, or lightly contemned.

The witness is a man never spoken of but in terms of respect and eulogy for the Sterling rectitude of his character, his uncompromising veracity and his long life of consistent piety. Such a man knows whereof he affirms, and there is not a tribunal in the United States in which his testimony would not be received as conclusive in regard to this marriage having occurred long prior to 1794.

To this testimony before submitted I now add that of Mr. William Paulding and Mrs. Lewis G. Irving, Mr. Paulding is the brother of Mrs. Requa; he was formerly a Member of Congress [?] and Mayor of the City of New York, and is, I presume, personally well known to the Secretary of War. This gentleman testifies, it will be seen, that he was nearly twenty four years of age on the 1st January 1794, the date [anterior?] to which it is required to establish the marriage; that his sister had then been long married and was married when he was a lad. Mrs. Irving is the daughter of the elder sister of Mrs. Requa, who died some 8 or 9 years ago. Her testimony shows that her mother was married 12th April 1787; (a fact verified by the church record); that Mrs. Requa was married before her mother, and that it was the uniform statement of the later that Mrs. Requa was married before she had attained her eighteenth year, and consequently as the record of her birth now produced will shew, before the 9th of October 1784. The claimant herself states that the marriage took place in May 1784. I could multiply testimony in proof of that marriage long prior to 1794, but apparently it cannot be needed.

The evidence now offered would more than suffice in any court of law.

The service of Mr. Requa having been so clearly established by documentary testimony, I regret that the evidence first submitted should have been deemed insufficient to prove his identity with the husband of the claimant. It was so satisfactory to my mind that I purposely refrained from accumulating proof on this point. I could not have anticipated the same time communicating her impression that a pension was not allowed for that description of service. In undeceiving her in this particular, I told her I would look into the matter for her. My inquiries resulted in a feeling of entire certainty as to the truth and justice of her claim, and I then, at her request, and with the sanction of the brother, Mr. Nathaniel Paulding, on whom she has been mainly dependent since the death of her husband—and undertook the

application. In my first draft of the declaration, Mrs. Requea was made to State, in conformity with her original information, that her husband was a Lieutenant and Adjutant, but this I subsequently modified to an assertion that he was "to the best of her knowledge and belief an officer in the war of the revolution"; she, in a spirit of extreme scempenciliness, expressing a wish to have the declaration so general as to guard against all possibility of mistake. I next took the depositions of Mr. William Requa and his Hifield and then wrote to Albany for the record evidence of service, being myself, until its receipt, ignorant of the full and precise extent of service it would shew. When I read the record, and perceived the striking coincidence tween it and the testimony of Mrs. Hitfield as to the dates of her brother's capture and the duration of his imprisonment, I felt that the identity of the husband of the claimant with the Isaac Requa for whose service she claims was so clear that I at once despatched the application. I am persuaded if you could have been present, and gone along with the witness in her unprompted testimony, the comparison would have compelled from you a similar conviction.

In fact the deposition of Mrs. Hifield does not do full justice to her testimony; for it was taken in extreme haste and under constant expectation of the arrival of the steamboat in which I was to return to the city. My visit to her was intended as the time to be limited to me of mere inquiry, but it was her own urgent wish that I should reduce her testimony to writing on the spot. She stated that she was the sole survivor of her father's family, and the only person capable of communicating the facts of her brother's imprisonment, and urged me to make sure of her testimony then, and not run the hazard of her death.

She had no previous knowledge of the intended application, and no information whatever of any documentary testimony with which her own might coincide or conflict. On this point I wish my assertion to be as full and emphatic as truth and honor can make it. To give a portion of her testimony a little more in detail. She stated that a gang of refugees or of refugees and British, attacked her father's house at night, after the family had retired to rest. That they were startled from their sleep by the cry of "Turn out; turn out—you d—d rascals" &c,1 that this (as given in her deposition) was either on the 31st of January or the 1st of February—I say either, said she, only because I cannot be positive whether the attack was before or after midnight, & hence whether it was on the 31st of 1st; if before midnight, it was on the 31st January; if after midnight, on the 1st February—that her father Glode and her brother Gabriel were captured at this time with Isaac. That the first two were promptly exchanged or liberated, but that Isaac remained a prisoner thirteen months and a half. The certificate of the Comptroller shews he was captured on the 31st of January, and remained in captivity thirteen months and ten days. The approximation is certainly close enough; it would be nearly miraculous on any other supposition than the truth of the testimony. To my inquiry, whether she meant that he was shut up in prison for 13 months and a half and then paroled on Long Island. (She having previously stated his parole), the reply was "no—from the time he was taken prisoner to the time he was exchanged was thirteen months and a half in captivity; but when it was read over to

her, she objected pointedly to the cautious qualification—Oh—said she—it was—it was—from the time he was taken prisoner to the time he was set at liberty was thirteen months and a half—I know it. I know it.—I state these facts (for which I must rust to your indulgence), lonely to meet any surmise, or unfavorable prepossession that my on the first examination have depended the weight of her testimony. If the suspicion were indulged of a preconcerted adjustment of the testimony to the record, I can only say that such suspicion does gross wrong to the witness, and assumes a view of my character from which I would scorn to vindicate myself. I press home to you, therefore, the deposition of Mrs. Hifield. I insist upon, because conscious of its entire integrity, and I see not how you can work out from it any other conclusion than the identity of her brother, Isaac with the Lieutenant & Adjutant named in the certificate.

But the testimony does not stop here. The papers herewith submitted leave not a shadow of doubt on the subject. The deposition of Peter VanWormer who knew him while in service and after his marriage to the claimant is decisive on this point. The deposition of his namesake, Isaac Requa, is strikingly in print. This gentleman testifies that he is now 68 years of age, and will be 69 on the 31st of January next (the anniversary of the capture) and that he has often and often heard both his mother and father say that he was born on the very night the claimant's husband was taken prisoner.

The record prior the Comptroller's office shews that the capture took place on the 31st of January 1779; precisely 69 years from the coming 31st of January.

This testimony is strikingly impressive and the more so that it came out incidentally. I had called on the witness with no view of taking his deposition, but simply to inquire whether he could give any information in relation to his father's Bible, presumed to contain the record of Mrs. Requa's marriage. I could not work out, however, the force and hearing of this evidence, when casually mentioned. James Requa, the father of the witness, was the Justice who married the claimant. He lived about three miles from claimant's husband at the time of the capture; was a prominent Whig in Westchester County and a member of the Committee of Safety.

The certificate of Mr. Pauling, though mainly intended to bear upon the marriage, affords presumptive evidence of identity by shearing that the husband of his sister, (the claimant) lived within the limits of Colonel Hammond's Regiment. He also testified, it will be perceived, that he had always understood that the husband of the claimant was at one period of the revolution a Lieutenant in the regular service, or that he was with the regular army; testimony which points to the service in 1780 following his imprisonment when Mr. Requa was a Lieutenant under Colonel Willett at that time commanding the 5th Regiment of New York State troops which was connected with "the grand army" on the Hudson.

But the deposition of Elijah Requa covers the whole ground. In the testimony of this intelligent, well-informed and religiously conscientious man you find the line of the Requas of Westchester County. (the line known to exist in the United States) traced from their common ancestor, a Protestant emigrant from Peekskill in France

and grandfather of the witness), through the children to the grand-children; and enumeration which includes all who were living during the revolution. From this evidence you will perceive but two of the name of Isaac were living in the revolution; the elder of whom was the husband of the claimant, the Lieutenant and Adjutant of the record from the Comptroller's office and the other the younger brother of the deponent; an infant from as he himself testified, on the very night his namesake was taken prisoner. Surely a case of identity could not be more completely made out. There is no record for any other supposition.

I therefore submit this additional testimony in the confident expectation that no further difficulty or delay will be interposed to a claim so manifestly just. Very respectfully your obedient servant. Pierre W. Wing.

J. L. Edwards Esq Commissioner of Pensions. Washington D.C.

Henrietta Requa got a pension of \$406 a year.

William Paulding was born December 14th 1735 at N. York.

Catharine Ogden was born June 27 1742 at Brunswick N. Jersey.

William Paulding and Catherine Ogden wedded July 25th 1762 at N. York.

Catherine the daughter of Wm and Catherine was born Friday June 1st 1764 at NY.

Henrietta daughter of Wm & Catherine was born Thursday October 9th 1766, NY..

Julia daughter of Wm & Catherine was born on Wednesday Augt 10th at Phillips Burgh.

William son of Wm and Catherine was born Saturday March [7 or 17th] at PhillipsBurgh.

Joseph son of Will'm and Catherine was born Friday February 29th 1772 at P. Burgh.

Susannah daughter of Wm & Catherine was born February 20, 1774, on Monday at P Burgh.

Nathaniel son of Wm and Catherine born on Saturday May 18th 1776 at Pl. Burg.

James Rosh Pauling son of Wm and Catherine was born on Saturday Augt 22d at Great Nine Partners.

Euphemia Paulding daughter of Wm and Chatarine p[sic] was born Monday July 9th 1781 at Nine Partners.

Susan took her departer [sic] from New York the 22 day of May in the year of our Lord 1797.