
Pension Application for Jonathan Ruff

W.18843 (Widow: Sarah)

Jonathan Ruff was born in the year of our Lord July the 14, 1760.

Sarah Price his wife was born in the year of our Lord March the 14, 1766.

Married Jan 12, 1784.

Jonathan died May 13, 1804

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this sixth day of August 1840 personally appeared before me the undersigned, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County, Sarah Ruff widow of Jonathan Ruff deceased, a resident of the town of Florida in said County, aged seventy four years, 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 7th 1838, entitled "an act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows".

That her said husband Jonathan Ruff, as she well recollects when she was 13 or 14 years of age & residing at Florida aforesaid, entered the service of the United States in the Regiment commanded by Lt Colonel Marinus Willett (1) & served for three or four months, but she cannot give any further particulars of his service in said Regiment, nor state the names of his officers. That shortly afterwards he entered the regular army & served till the full end & close of the war in 1783, and was on Duty at West Point & other places for a term in the whole of at least three years.

That he was a servant of Baron Steuben, (2) as she has often heard her said husband relate.

That she has seen his discharge in his trunk after her marriage to him, & that it was taken from said trunk by a boy and destroyed.

She further saith, that she understood from her said husband, that he was an artillery man or belonged to a company of Artillery (3) but she cannot be more specific in her statements. That her said husband was a sergeant while in the service aforesaid, & was discharged at West Point.

She further saith, that her maiden name was "Price"—That she was married to said Jonathan Ruff on the twelfth day of January one thousand seven hundred & eighty-four by the Revd Mr. Vrooman of the Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectada.

That said Jonathan Ruff died on the 13th day of May 1804.

That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January one thousand seven hundred & ninety four, to wit on the 12th day of January 1784 as above stated. (Signed) Sarah Ruff

Sworn to & subscribed on the day & year first aforesaid before me: & I certify that said Sarah Ruff is unable to attend court by reason of lameness & bodily infirmity. Jacob Graff one of the Judges of the County Courts of the County of Montgomery.

Letter in folder dated October 19, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to Jonathan Ruff a soldier of the War of the Revolution.

The data furnished herein are obtained from the papers on file in the pension claim, W.18843, based upon the military service of Jonathan Ruff in the War of the Revolution.

Jonathan Ruff was born June or July 14, 1760, (4) place not stated.

He enlisted, September 1, 1781, while residing in Florida, Montgomery County, New York, and served three or four months in Captain Hale's Company in Colonel Marinus Willett's New York regiment, and was in the battle of Johnstown.(5) He enlisted shortly after this service and served as sergeant in Captain Modie's company, Colonel Lamb's Regiment of Artillery until in 1783.

He married, January 12, 1784, in Schenectady, New York, Sarah Price, who was born March 14, 1766. They were married by the Reverend Mr. Vrooman of the Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectady.

Jonathan Ruff died, May 13, 1804, in Florida, New York.

His widow, Sarah, was allowed pension on her application executed, March 10, 1840, at which time she was living in Florida, New York.

The following children (6) were referred to in the claim:

Jesse born January 1, 1785

Daniel Born April 12, 1787.

Anna or Nancy born July 8, 1789.

It was stated in 1840 that Jesse "died many years ago", and in 1840 Anna or Nancy signed "Nancy Cady" and was then a resident of Duanesburg, New York.

In 1859 one B. C. Ruff was referred to as a son of the soldier Jonathan Ruff, (7) there is no further information as to him. (8)

End Notes—W.18843—Jonathan Ruff

1. Marinus Willett was appointed on April 27, 1781 Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies. Jonathan served as a private in Captain Aaron Hale's Company from August to November 30, 1781. Jonathan is listed on Captain Hale's receipt roll for £9. . 8. . 5, which was delivered to William Wilson when paid by October 1785. Jonathan's name appears on Captain Joseph Harrison's receipt roll for 1781. The amount was £4. . 10. . 8, which was written in pencil and appeared not to have been paid. Jonathan either served before August in Captain Harrison's Company or in December of 1781. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Major General Frederick Wilhelm Baron Von Steuben of the Continental Army.
3. Jonathan enlisted in Captain Andrew Moody's Company in Colonel John Lamb's Second Continental Artillery Regiment. Jonathan was a corporal not a sergeant still in 1783 and was still in Captain Moody's Company, There is no enlistment date for Jonathan as muster rolls from mid 1781 until March of 1782 are missing. On the March 1782 muster and payroll Jonathan is listed as a corporal. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, series 246, Roll 119, folder 45, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. Most of the records say July 14, 1760 as Jonathan's date of birth. Included in the pension application is a page torn out of "The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Newly translated out of the Original Greek, And with the former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised, By His Majesty's Special Command. Appointed to be Read in Churches, Edinburgh, Printed by Alexander Kincaid, His Majesty's Printer MDCCLXXII". It had July 14, 1760 as his birth date.
5. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
6. There was a daughter Sarah Ruff who died unmarried in 1829. The following is an abstract of her will. "Sarah Ruff of Florida, Will dated 7/23/1829 probated

10/26/1829, Legatees: Mother; Sarah Ruff, brothers, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas J. Ruff and Jesse Ruff, sister, Nancy Cady and Priscilla Frisbee. Executor: Ebenezer Cady. Witnesses, Nancy Corhan [?], Ruth Patterson, Janet Adair”, abstracts of Wills, Montgomery Co., N.Y. compiled by Mrs. Edith Becker, The New York Genealogical and Biographical record, Vol., 57, 1926, page 275.

7. Jonathan was given lot 95 of 600 acres, in Township 3 (Cato) on July 9, 1790. FROM: The Balloting Book, and Other Documents Relating to Military Bounty Lands, In The State of New York Packard & VanBenthuyssen, Albany, N.Y. 1825, Page 51.
8. As Jonathan turned 16 years of age in 1776 he would have had to serve in the militia. A John Ruff was found serving as a private in Captain Jacob VanAernam's Company in Colonel Philip P. Schuyler's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia.