

Pension Application for Elijah Sprague

W.11523 (Widow: Nancy) Elijah Sprague died Feb. 26, 1841. Nancy died Sept 25, 1877.

B.L.Wt.15416-160-55

State of Wisconsin

Waukesha County SS

On this 14th day of December 1854 personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Waukesha & State of Wisconsin, Nancy Sprague a resident of Palmyra in the County of Jefferson & State aforesaid aged 67 years who first being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed on the 3d February 1853 granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of Elijah Sprague who was a soldier in the Revolutionary Army & in whose favor a pension was granted after his decease of 80 dollars per annum from the 4th day of March 1831 to 26th day of February 1841 being the day of his death which pension was received by declarant as his widow. She further declares that she was married to the said Elijah Sprague at Franklin in the County of Franklin & State of Vermont in the winter of the year 1820 in the month of February on the 16th day.

That her name before he said marriage was Nancy Smith. That her said husband died at Castile in the County of Wyoming & State of New York on the 26th day of February 1841. That she was not married to him prior to the second of January 1800 but at the time above stated by Esq Hibbard a Justice of the Peace. She further declares that she is a widow & has no record of her marriage. (Signed) Nancy Sprague.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year above written. Martin Field, County Judge.

State of New York

County of Genesee SS.

On this eighteenth day of December 1849 personally appeared before me Rufus H. Smith a Judge of Genesee County Courts, Elijah Sprague a resident of Castile in the County Genesee & State of New York aged 80 years & upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he joined the regiment of Militia of New York State commanded by Col. James Gormen, as early as the commencement of the war. The Captain's name was Tyrannus Collins, Ensign's name was Caleb Benedict. The company of Capt. Collins was stationed at Ballstown Albany Co., New York, it being on the frontier & no other troops nearer than Fort Ann. That on the 17th Oct 1779 as he seems to recollect at this distance of time, he, together with a number more belonging to Capt. Collins Co. beside the Captain & Ensign as above & Col. James Gorven was taken prisoner by a party of British & Hessians & led to Montreal in Canada & was retained there a prisoner of war until, as he recollects, Dec 1781, a little more than two years, when he was exchanged, & returned home to Ballstown.

After he arrived home Col. Govren made returns of those who had been taken & obtained certificates of service the declarants' being about 160 dollars.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or (if any) only on that of the Agency of the State of New York.

The reasons why he has not applied for a pension before he declares are: that when the first Act of Congress was affording aid to the destitute soldiers of the Revolution, he was on the ocean; that about the time that farther relief was granted he was in Canada; about fourteen years since he came from Canada to Vermont; while he resided in Vermont he tryed to find out some one to testify for him, who knew what he had done but found none. Since coming to St. Lawrence Co., in the state he has made inquiries & something more than a year since he first heard of Enoch Wood & sent to him but he

refused to testify for him till he had see him lest he might be [?] in the person. In the latter part of last January he came to Enoch Woods & took his statement under oath & had his papers prepared to send to the war department by Mr. Soper of Batavia & where they have gone to he never could learn. By inquiring at the War Office at Washington he understood that they had not been received there. That was some time last summer & as soon as he conveniently could after knowing that his papers had miscarried he went about procuring them anew which was the beginning of last October. (Signed Elijah Sprague

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Rufus H. Smith. A Judge of Genesee County Court.