

Pension Application for William Stuart or Stewart

W.19104 (Widow: Catharine Row) William died March 10, 1788, aged 49 years 8 months and 16 days. They had three children. William was a storekeeper in the town of Northeast. Captain William Stewart's mother died in 1793. Catharine died on Feb 8, 1844.

[This pension folder has 195 pages! There are some interesting looking letters William wrote to his wife in the file, but they are not very legible. These might be added later if Jim Morrison can transcribe them.]

State of New York SS.

On this twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty six, personally appeared before a Court of Chancery of the State of New York, present the Hon'ble Charles H. Ruggles Vice-Chancellor of the Second Circuit, Catharine Stuart a resident of the town of Milan in the County of Dutchess and State of New York, aged eighty three 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 Congress passed July the 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of William Stewart late of the town of Northeast in the County of Dutchess and State of New York deceased. That on the 17th day of October in the year seventeen hundred and seventy five, the said William Stuart then being a resident of the said town of Northeast, in the said County of Dutchess, entered the service of the United States and was appointed adjutant in a Regiment of Militia in said County, commanded by Colonel (afterwards Brigadier General) Petrus TenBroeck—That Morris Graham was Lieutenant Colonel of said Regiment, Simon Westfall first Major, Jonathan Landon Second Major, and Hendrick VanHoevenburgh Quartermaster of said Regiment, as will fully appear by reference to Book 26 of Military Returns for 1775, page 208, kept in the office of the Secretary of the State of New York—That the said William Stuart continued to be the Adjutant of said Regiment by virtue of his said appointment until the re-organization of said Regiment on the 18th day of March 1778, when the said Maurice Graham was appointed Colonel thereof, vice the said Brig. General Petrus Tenbroeck deceased, Jonathan Landon, Lieutenant Colonel thereof vice Morris Graham, William Radclift—first Major vice Jonathan Landon, David Vanness, Second Major and the said William Stuart Adjutant of said Regiment, as will fully appear by reference to Book A. of the proceedings of the Council of appointment—Civil and Military – No. 1 page 38 kept in the office of the Secretary of the State of New York.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Stuart, according to the best of her recollection sometime in the month of February in the year seventeen hundred and seventy two—That her husband the aforesaid William Stuart, died in the town of North East in the County of Dutchess on the tenth day of March in the year seventeen hundred and eighty eight, aged forty nine years, eight months and sixteen days, as appears by an epitaph engraved upon his tombstone, in the church yard where he was buried, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

She further declares that she did not accompany her said husband in any of his military expeditions, and cannot therefore specify the particulars of his service; nor does she recollect in what year he quitted the service—But to the best of her knowledge and belief he served during the greater part if not the whole of the Revolutionary War, and was at all times with his Regiment whenever any military duty was required of the latter, and among those duties she thinks, was that of disarming the tories and suppressing disaffection—She remembers that for several years conspiracy nearly the whole period of the war, he was frequently absent from his family for more than six months at a time; that she but seldom saw him and then only during short and occasional intermissions of his service.

The declarant further saith that she has always understood and believed that her said husband was at the battle of White Plains in the year 1776 and in one or more of the engagements that took place between the British and American troops prior to that event and subsequent to the evacuation of

Long Island. That his last will and testament bearing date the ninth day of September 1776 and recorded in the office of the Surrogate of the County of Dutchess on the 18th day of June 1789, begins with a recital, shewing that her said husband at the period referred to, was not only in actual service, but at the post of danger—The said will and testament, begins as follows, viz: “In the name of God Amen. I William Stuart of Northeast precinct in Dutchess County and State of New York, being providentially called upon to step in to assert and defend by arms the rights privileges and liberties of the United States of North America, sensible of the mortality of man and uncertainty of life, and more especially when called upon to enter the field of battle, do, this ninth day of September in the year of our Lord God 1776, make and publish” &c.

The declarant also refers to a Resolution of the Council of appointment of the State of New York of the 5th of November 1778 and to a Resolution of the same body of the 22^d of April 1779 as shewing that the Regiment of Militia in which the said William Stuart was adjutant, was in the service of the United States at the dates of said Resolutions respectively, which are in the words following to wit: “Resolved that Conrard Lasher be and his is hereby appointed 2^d Lieutenant of Capt. Andrew Hermanse’s Company in Col. Morris Graham’s Regiment in the County of Dutchess, and that Wilhelmus Backer be ensign of the said company in the room of Frederick Bender, removed out of Beat or resigned” (See Book A. of the proceedings of the Council of appointment—Civil and Military—No. 1, page 123)

“Resolved that Titus Mead be Quarter Master of Col. Morris Graham’s Regiment of Militia.” (See Book A. &c page 123.)

“Resolved that Titus Mead be Quarter Master of Col. Morris Graham’s Regiment of Militia.” (See Book A. &c. page 147.)

The declarant further saith that the said William Stuart her said husband, was, as she understood, a native of Scotland. That he came to this country in or about the year seventeen hundred and sixty six—That soon after his arrival, he established himself in mercantile business, in the town then NorthEast in the County of Dutchess, and State of New York, of which town and County he continued to be a resident until his death. That she has always understood and believed that he was an active and useful officer—and from her own knowledge she is convinced that he was zealously attached to the cause in which he was engaged, as she has often heard him declare that he cared not for his private fortunes, so long as he could be instrumental in establishing the independence of the country, or declarations to that effect.

She further saith that her said husband’s military commissions conferring upon him the appointment of adjutant as aforesaid have been lost or destroyed. That she cannot tell what has become of them. (Signed with her mark) Catharine Stuart

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Subscribed by the said Catharine Stuart by making her mark and sworn this 20th day of October 1836 in open court. Alex Forbus, Clerk

In the name of God Amen. I, William Stewart of Northeast precinct in Dutchess County and State of New York being providentially called upon to step in to assert and defend by arms the rights, privileges and liberties of the United States of North America, sensible of the mortality of man and uncertainty of life, and more especially when called upon to enter the field of battle, do this 9th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say first of all, let all my lawful debts be discharged and paid, then my whole estate personal and real lands and tenement goods and chattels whithersoever they may be found. First I will and bequest to my honoured mother Isabela Steward the sum of fifty pounds lawful money of the State of New York, and the rest of my estate to be divided equal among my wife and children, that is to say. First, my beloved wife Catharine Stewart one part, my son John Stewart one part, my son Henry Stewart one part & my daughter Catharina Stewart one part, in all

four parts, which will be equal fourth of all my estate remaining besides the above fifty pounds mentioned to each. Furthermore in case of the death of any of my children or either of them before they come of age, the share or shares of the deceased to devolve on the survivors of my said children equally alike, and also I do allow my wife Catharine to remain in my dwelling house together with my household stuff and have the whole priviledge of it during the time she remains my widow, providing she does not squander or embesal the same, and if in case she should marry then the house and priviledges to devolve on my children, after giving her, her equal part as above. And I make and ordain my well beloved and trusty friends Richard Cantillon and John White Sen'r Executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I the said William Stewart have hereunto set my hand and seal to this my last will and testament the day & year above written. (Signed) William Stewart

Signed, sealed and published in the presence of Roswell Hopkins, James Betts, Reuben Hopkins.

State of New York
Dutchess County SS.

Andrew Frazier a coloured man of the town of Milan in the County of Dutchess, being duly sworn deposes and says that he was born at Mauricena, in the County of West-Chester and State of New York. That he was aged ninety two years last June—That he is well acquainted with the said Catharine Stuart, who has subscribed and sworn to the preceding declaration—That he became acquainted with the said Catharine Stuart before the Revolutionary War. That she was then living in the town of Northeast in the County of Dutchess and was unmarried—That he was also well acquainted with the said William Stuart the husband of the said Catharine for several years before the Revolutionary War—That the said William Stuart when this deponent first knew him, was a single man and kept a store in the said Town of Northeast—That according to the best of this deponent's recollection, the said William Stuart was married to the said Catharine within a year or two years after this deponent first became acquainted with the said William Stuart—That this deponent always understood that the said William Stuart was a native of Scotland, and had come to this country but a few years before deponent knew him.

That in the fall of the year seventeen hundred and seventy five, this deponent then residing in the said town of Northeast in the County of Dutchess, entered the service of the United States as a waggoner in Captain Hugh Rea's Company of Minute Men in a Regiment of Militia of which Colonel TenBroeck was Colonel, and Morris Graham Lieutenant Colonel—That at the time this deponent entered the service as aforesaid, the said William Stuart was an officer in said Regiment—That said Regiment to the best of this deponent' remembrance and belief was first employed in disarming the tories, and that this deponent was employed in transporting a large quantity of wares taken from the tories, to the Continental Store as it was called, under the charge of Stephen Payne, situate eastward of a place called "the City" in the great Nine Partners in Dutchess County;--That after the tories were disarmed, and as deponent thinks, in the year following, the said Regiment marched from Northeast in Dutchess County to the Southern part of the State of New York—That this deponent accompanied said Regiment and had charge of a baggage wagon;--The deponent well remembers being with said regiment at a place called New Rochelle in Westchester County bordering on the Sound, and whilst there that the American troops were fired upon by several British ship of war, and that a British force landed and attacked them and forced them to retreat to a place between East Chester & West Chester in the County of West – Chester. The deponent thinks that the said regiment on that occasion was commanded by Morris Graham.

That some time after this the Battle of White Plains was fought—That the said Regiment of Militia then under the command of Colonel TenBroeck, was engaged in that battle—That this deponent was with said Regiment at that time & had charge of a baggage wagon. That it was a hard fought battle and that the British remained in possession of the battleground. That shortly after the battle of White Plains this deponent was taken sick and became unable to perform the duty of a waggoner; that he was

then employed by Colonel Graham as a write, in which employment he thinks he remained with Colonel Graham about six months, when from loss of health he was obliged to leave the service and was discharge.

That during the time that deponent was with Colonel Graham as a waiter, the colonel was with his said regiment, which during most of that time to the best of deponent's recollection, was stationed at West Point—at which place the deponent was discharged as aforesaid—The deponent further saith that during the whole time that he the deponent remained in the service as aforesaid, including the time that deponent was with Colonel Graham as a waiter, that the said William Stuart was an officer doing duty in said Regiment and deponent thinks that he was the Adjutant of said Regiment.

The deponent well remembers that the said William Stuart was with said Regiment at New Rochelle, at the time of the attack made by the British as above mentioned, also at the Battle of White Plains, that he was with said Regiment in all its marches and countermarches, and subsequently during the time said Regiment was encamped at West Point. That said Stuart was there when the deponent was discharged from the service.—That ever since deponent left the service as aforesaid he has continued to reside in the said town of Northeast—That to the best of his remembrance and belief the said William Stuart remained in the service of the United States, for several years after this deponent left the service, and as deponent thinks during, nearly the whole period of the revolutionary war—That said Stuart's general reputation both among the troops and in the neighborhood where he lived was that of an active and efficient officer. (Signed with his mark) Andrew Frazier

Subscribed by the said Andrew Frazier by making his mark thereto and sworn this 20th day of October 1830 in open court. Alex Forbus, Clerk