

Pension Application for Roswell Whitney

R.11484 (Widow: Phebe Elsworth married Feb 5, 1790.) Roswell died of inflammation of the bladder March 14, 1830.

State of Michigan

Washtenay [Washtenaw] County SS

On this twenty eight day of August Eighteen hundred and fifty personally appeared before me Hiram Aulls a Judge of the County Court of the aforesaid county Widow Phebe Whitney who is unable from bodily infirmity to attend the Court and who is a resident of the Township of Saline County of Washtenaw and State of Michigan who is aged Seventy six years and who is in her sound mind and is a credible witness 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 and pensions to certain Widows:

That she is the Widow of Roswell Whitney who was a private of the Revolution who served at the same place & in the same company with his brother David Whitney who was a pensioner & who served his time of nine months out and came home before his brother David Whitney's time was out and after Roswell Whitney's time of nine months was out and he returned home his brother David Whitney being taken sick and being sent home he Roswell Whitney went back and served his [brother] David Whitney's time out. But how long Roswell served of the time that David [Davis] ought to have served she does not know that her husband was agoing to ask for a pension soon when he died & that his brother David Whitney & his brother Jacob Whitney did draw pensions that the did not serve any with Jacob but that he served with David Whitney that they were stationed at the stone house at Mumhamcus & at Marbletown that when he entered the service he lived in the town of [Potts?] County of Ulster and State of Nw York & she supposes he was drafted or that they went by turns and guarded that port and he went his share of the time. She does not remember any of the officers names that before she married Roswell Whitney her name was Phebe Elsworth & that they both lived in the town of Patts, County of Ulster and State of New York and that when they were married they got a two hose sley [sleigh] and took in David Whitney and James Decker and wife and drove across the North Riber on the ice to the village [village] and town of Poupheapsie [Poughkeepsie] and went to Richard Events house in the village (said Richard Events was a merchant and had previously traded and lived in the town of Potts and I had lived with and marked for him) and we were married at his house by Esqr Matt of Pocips or Poughkeepsie in the presents [presence] of David Whitney James Decker and wife and Richard Everts and wife in the evening of the fifth day of February AD seventeen hundred and Ninty [ninety] I believe there was never any record kept of our marriage either by the Justice of the Peace who married us or in any family bible and every persons present when we were married I believe to be dead.

I never knew that I had any claim to a pension untill Erastus S. Cone esqr told me a few weeks ago or I should have asked before while I could have got proof easier.

Roswell was 25 years old and I lacked 4 months of 16 years old when we were married we went to living and keep house together six months after we were married in the town of Potts and lived there fifteen years and had two sons Jacob and David and four daughters Deborah Sarah Mary Monther and then we moved to the town of Seneca County of Seneca and State of New York where we lived thirty years and had two sons Henry and Roswell and three Daughter Mabel Jane Phebe elven in all (Seven of which are still alive) and then my husband died of the inflammation of the bladder on the fourteenth day of march AD1830 in the same place but the town & County had been divided & when he died it was the town of Benton Yates Cou;nty NY I lived with him every day from the day I married him untill he died and I nursed him in his last sickness and I have never been married since and am still his widow all his children were present at his death except Jacob and Sarah – he never made any application for a pension but his Brothers David and Jacob did draw pensions after his death and had he lived he would have drawn when they did.

I have no documentary evidence of his service in my possession that I know of. I do not know the day or year that he entered the army or when he left it but when the news of peace came they kindled a bonfire and I was at it and took a part in the rejoicing and I believe he Roswell Whitney was there but that he had been home but a few days.

After my husband died I moved to the Town of Willoby in the State of Ohio and stayed there four years and then moved to the Township of Saline County of Wastenaw and State of Michigan where I have lived ever since.

She further declares that she was married to the said Roswell Whitney Fifth day of February in the year Seventeen hundred and Thirty; that she ws not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place—previous to the first of January, Seventeen hundred and ninty [ninety] four, viz at the time above stated. (Signed with her mark) Phebe Whitney

Sworn to and subscribed, on the day and year above written [written] before me. Hiram Alls, second Judge Washtenaw County.

A copy of Family Record of Roswell and Phebe Whitney.

Roswell Whitney born Sept 12th 1764.

Phebe Ellsworth born June 5th 1774.

Married Feby 5th 1788.

Jacob Whitney born August 18th 1791.

Deborah Whitney born June 18th 1796.

David Whitney Born Nov 23d 1798.

Sarah Whitney Born Feb 8th 1801.

Mary Whitney Born March 4th 1804.

Mabel Whitney Born Decem^rb 8th 1806.

Jane Whitney Born Sept 6th 1808.

Martha Whitney Born Feby 29th 1811.

Leroy Whitney Born July 6th 1813.

Roswell Whitney Born Oct 22d 1815.
Phebe Whitney Born Oct 21, 1820