

Pension Application for Thomas Willis

W.1015 (Widow: Huldah or Huldeh) Married November 14, 1802, Thomas died December 8, 1847.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the seventh of June 1832.

State of New York

City & County of New York SS

On this seventeenth day of January AD 1833 personally appeared before the Court of General Sessions of the Peace in and for the City and County of New York, Thomas Willis a resident of the City and County of New York in the State of New York aged seventy one years and 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That in the month of April 1778 this Deponent then being about seventeen years of age and residing at Cornwall in the County of Orange and State of New York, Volunteered as a substitute in a company of the State Troops or Militia of New York raised for a service of eight months of Which Abraham Westfall was the Captain and a Mr. Rose the Lieutenant. That deponent faithfully served out his time of Eight months at or near Minisink in the said County of orange, the Company having been raised and being employed in keeping back the hostile Indians.

That in the month of April 1779 Deponent again enlisted in the same manner and in the same company for a like service of Eight months and served out the said eight months in nearly the same District of Country, and on the same duty as before stated and was discharged; but received no written discharge.

That in the month of April 1780 Deponent enlisted in the same manner as before stated for another term of eight months in the same Company, and served about five months of the time out near Esopus on the Westside of the Hudson River at Beriers Mills; while so engaged on duty, a recruiting officers in the regular service came to our Post, and ten of our men including Deponent enlisted for the residue of the Eight Months and fifteen days or half a month more.

Deponent and the other recruits were marched down to West Point, where they joined the 5th New York Regiment of which Colonel Willett was the Colonel, in the Brigade commanded by General James Clinton, Deponent was attached to a company of which James Stuart was the Captain, Colonel Willett was absent at the time, and the Regiment was commanded by Captain Hamtramack. That deponent during this term of service was marched down with the rest of the troops to some place in New Jersey where they were reviewed by General Washington, and after the review, they marched up again to Orange Town at Tappan. While they remained at the latter place, Major Andre' was hung. Deponent was present at the execution under arms.

After the execution of Major Andre', The Brigade to which Deponent was attached, marched to West Point, and began building huts for winter quarters in which they had made some progress, when an order came to send men down to WestChester to guard the lines—Deponent with others volunteered for the service, and

having marched down and remained about twelve or fifteen days, they were ordered to return to West Point where Deponent remained until about five days before the expiration of his terms of service, when their troops being ordered up to Scoharie [Schoharie], Deponent and several other soldiers who lived in the neighborhood, requested their discharge; Captain Hamtramack assented to it and took deponent and some others in a boat to Fishkill landing—While on the way he gave Deponent a written discharge; and on arriving at Fishkill landing he gave deponent and the other discharged men, and order for three days provisions. Deponent crossed over to Newburg and thence went home to his mother's. He left the discharge which had been given him at his mother's house, and it was subsequently by some accident lost. Deponent has not seen it for Twenty years past.

Deponent further said that he never received any other written discharge; and that he knows of no officer or other person with whom he served being now alive.

That he has no documents of any kind relating to his having been in service during the Revolutionary War.

Deponent further saith, that at the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, his mother who resided at Cornwall in the County of Orange and State of New York was a widow with one daughter and three sons of whom Deponent was one, and all three sons turned out in defence of their Country.

Deponent further said that he hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State. (Signed) Thomas Willis

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid in open court. Richard Hatfield Clerk.

Letter in folder dated December 8, 1924, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in Revolutionary War claim, W.1015, it appears that Thomas Willis was born April 12, 1761.

While a resident of Cornwall, Orange County, New York, he enlisted in April 1778 and served eight months as a private ion Captain Abraham Westfall's New York Company. He enlisted in April 1779 and served eight months in the same Company. He enlisted in April 1780 and served eight and one half months in Captain Abraham Westfall's New York Company and in Captain James Stuart's Company, Colonel Willett's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed January 17, 1833, while a resident of New York City, New York. He died December 7, 1846.

Soldier married November 14, 1802, Huldah ----- who was born August 10, 1773. She was allowed pension on her application executed September 29, 1852, while a resident of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York. She died July 20, 1854.

The following children are mentioned:

James Rathbun born September 22, 1808, died October 22, 1808.

Caleb Orsburn born October 22, 1811, residing in Syracuse, New York in 1852.

Josiah Wyatt born May 22, 1816, died September 28, 1817.