

Pension Application for Jacob Willsey or Wilsie or Woolsey

W.28001 (Abigail Riker) This woman's last husband was also a pensioner. See case of Gerardus Riker, New Jersey and New York S.11293. Abigail Riker, Formerly Widow of Jacob Woolsey was awarded a pension of \$120.00 per annum

State of New York

City and County of New York SS.

On this twenty fifth day of August 1837 before me Richard Riker Recorder of the City of New York and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas personally appeared Abigail Riker a resident of the State of New York and of the City and County of New York aged ninety four years who first being 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 4th 1836 and the act of explanatory of said act passed March 3rd 1837—That she married to Jacob Woolsey, who was a non-commissioned officer in the Revolutionary Army, and who served in the Second Regiment of New York Artillery, Commanded by Colonel Lamb (1), and of which Regiment Stevens (2) was Lieutenant Colonel, Doughty (3) and Boman (4) were Majors and in a company attached to the said Regiment of which Nistle (5) was Captain Fenno (6) was Lieutenant or afterwards Captain, George Leacraft (7) was 1st Lieutenant, Campbell (8) 2nd Lieutenant, that said Woolsey entered the service on or about the commencement of the war, and left the same on or about the 9th of June 1783 on Furlough being sick. The said Joseph Woolsey [sic] was at the Battle of White Plains (9) in the year 1776 and of Yorktown, Virginia in 1781 under Genl Knox (10) at Whiteplains Col. Lamb commanded the Regiment & Mott the company at Yorktown (11)—Col. Stevens commanded the Regiment & Lieut. Fenno the Company, Captain Machin (12) acting as engineer, both under command of Genl Knox, the said Joseph [sic] Woolsey at the time of his entering into his service resided in the town of Tappan in Rockland County in the State of New York and he volunteered his services, entered for the war and as deponent believes received a bounty, and served during the war faithfully—The Regiment during the war was marched from New Windsor in the State of New York to Yorktown Virginia, from Yorktown to Burlington in New Jersey and there had winter quarters, from there to West Point; and deponent saith that the said Joseph [sic] Woolsey (13) never received any pension, and that deponent has no documentary evidence in support of her claim. She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph [sic] Woolsey in the spring of the year 1761 that her husband the aforesaid Joseph [sic] Woolsey died on the 31st day of May 1784 of Measles at his residence in Rockland County aforesaid, and that she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836 And that she was afterwards married to Gerardus Riker (who was also a soldier in the Revolutionary Army) who died on the 4th of October 1833. That she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836 and she remains a widow—as will more particularly appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed—and Deponant further saith that she has no certificate of her marriage to the said Joseph [sic] Woolsey and the Clergyman who married them, and those present at the marriage are all deceased, all which is to the best of the deponants knowledge recollection and belief—and that Deponent has no property except her clothing. (Signed with her mark) Abigail Riker

Subscribed and Sworn to the day and year first above written, before me; the said Abigail Riker being unable from bodily infirmity to attend in court. R. Riker, Recorder of the City of New York and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the said City & County.

New York Nov. 3, 1838

Sir,

The pension certificate of the widow I take came duly to hand, In relation to that of Abigail Riker, you will receive a Document signed by William B. Aitken, sworn to before our Recorder making most beggarly excuse for the man errors committed by him, in drawing up the papers, and which was the means of leading others in error also. In one of the Documents forwarded made by Elizabeth Riker, daughter of said Abigail Riker you will perceive that she discovered the mistake made by Aitken, and mentioned it to him, which he promised to rectify, but which he neglected. In a conversation had with Mrs. Abigail Riker with my father last spring, in relation to the services of her husband, she was consistent in every respect, and also where she was named as well as the name of the clergyman, the place where her children were born, viz at Tappan, that is four of the number which document is at the Department. Your obt servt, Casper C. Childs 80 Neseey Street.

J.S. Edwards Esq, Com of Pensions

State of New York

City and County of New York SS.

I Robert H. Morris, Recorder of the City of New York and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for the City and County of New York, do hereby certify that on the twenty-ninth day of October 1838, before me appeared Elizabeth Riker, who says that Abigail Wilsie and Jacob Wilsie were her father and mother and that he mother is a religious woman and has always borne a good character and has no doubt whatever that she has

stated facts in her affidavit, that her mother had eight children by her father, that she has often heard her mother and acquaintances speak of his services during the Revolution, and also of his having served in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Lamb, that he died at Tappan, with the disease called the measles, in the following year after the war, and I further state that our right name is Wilsie, although some part of the family have been called Woolsey, and she further stated that when the first Document was forwarded to the Department, drawn up by William B. Aitken, she then discovered the many errors made, he promised to rectify them, which he never attended to, and gave his reason for not doing so, which is most inglorious and she further states she was six [probably meant sixty] years of age in February last—and she further says that after the death of her father her mother married the father of deponents husband. (Signed with her mark) Elizabeth Riker.

Rbt H. Morris, Recorder of the City of New York & Judge of the Court of Com. Pleas. Therein.

State of New York
City & County of New York SS.

I Robert H. Morris Recorder of the City of New York and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the City and County of New York do hereby certify that on the twenty ninth day of October 1838, before me appeared, Gerardus Riker, who says that he is the son of Elizabeth Ricker, and grandson of Abigail Wilsie, and he has in possession a remnant of an old deed with the endorsement of John Wilsie, on the back, and in the body the name of John Wilsie, is also mentioned (this deed was given for a piece of land to my father, in Bergen County N.J) said John Wilsie was the eldest son of Jacob and Abigail Wilsie the name of the deed is spelled Willsey nevertheless, it is the same, and in all the transactions, the name has been Wilsie or Willsey, and not Woolsey, as has been incorrectly stated. That he further states, that his grandmother was the mother of eight children, by Wilsie and that from her good character, and the many proofs that he has had, that no doubt rests on his mind, that she may be the lawful wife of Jacob Wilsie, deceased and he further states that his grandmother, was taken unwell some time previous to her application for said pension and at her request he placed in the Family Register, her birth day and the date of her marriage, without thinking it would ever be asked for any other purpose, than it was intended for at the time, a memorandum. (Signed) Gerardus Riker

Rbt. H. Morris, Recorder of the City of New York & Judge of the Court of Com. Pleas. Therein.

Town of Greenburg, Westchester Co.
State of New York, July 24th 1838.

Ann Brown of said village aged eighty seven years and upwards, says that she will state on her oath, all the facts within her knowledge, relative to her half sister Abigail Fosha (maiden name) that she was married to Jacob Wilsie, a soldier of the Revolution on the 7th day of September 1761, agreeable to her statement under oath. I was very young at the time she was married, and recollecting her return to her father's house after the marriage, that soon after Mr. Willsie started on a journey and that during his absence I slept with his wife until he return, that she had eight children by said Wilsie, all of whom, I was well acquainted with namely – John Willsie, Peter Willsie, James Willsie, Samuel Willsie, Jacob Willsie, Elizabeth Willsie, Isaac Willsie, Henry Willsie. My mother had two husbands viz, first Peter Fosha, and the second her White Plains Westchester Col. NY Upon diligent enquiry I find that the records of these early marriages were destroyed, when the British were in possession at White Plains, during the Revolutionary War.

I further state that my sister became religious soon after the death of her first husband, , which happened soon after the Revolutionary war, that she has lived an exemplary life, and that I consider her character without a stain, and that she afterwards married a Mr. Riker, a respectable old gentleman of the City of New York, long since dead. (Signed with her mark) Ann Brown. In presence of J. A. Constant, E. Childs

Sworn before me one of the Judges of the County Courts in & for the County of Westchester State of New York, this twenty fourth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty eight. Joseph A. Constant

End Notes—W.28001—Jacob Wilsey

1. Jacob Willsie enlisted on July 22, 1777 as a matross (private) for 3 years in Captain Gershom Mott's Company in Colonel John Lamb's Second Continental Artillery Regiment. On the March and April 1779 Muster Roll of Captain Mott's Company Jacob is listed as having enlisted for war. On the December 1779 Muster Roll Jacob is listed as one of the Gunner's for Captain Mott's Company. On the February 1782 Muster Roll for Captain Mott's Company, Jacob is listed as a corporal. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 119, Folder 46, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Ebenezer Stevens wasn't appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in Colonel Lamb's Regiment until November 24, 1778. Stevens was originally appointed Lt.-Col. in the Third Continental Artillery Regiment on April 30, 1778. Eleazer Oswald was the Lieutenant-Colonel of Colonel Lamb's Regiment having been appointed on January 1, 1777. He resigned on June 28, 1778.

3. John Doughty was appointed Captain in Colonel Lamb's Regiment on January 1, 1777. He may have acted as a major but he was never commissioned as such in Colonel Lamb's Regiment.
4. Sebastian Bauman was appointed captain on January 1, 1777 in Colonel Lamb's Regiment. He was appointed major of the regiment on September 12, 1778.
5. Peter Nestle was appointed second lieutenant on January 1, 1777 in Colonel Lamb's Regiment. He was appointed First Lieutenant on February 1, 1779. He was appointed Captain Lieutenant on September 20, 1781. When the regiment disbanded on June 17, 1783, Peter retired from the service.
6. Ephraim Fenno was appointed Captain-Lieutenant on January 1, 1777 in Colonel Lamb's Regiment. He was taken prisoner at Fort Clinton on October 6, 1777.
7. George Leacraft (Laycraft, Leaycraft, etc.) was appointed Second Lieutenant on January 1, 1777 in Colonel Lamb's Regiment. He was appointed First Lieutenant on August 21, 1780.
8. For some reason Henry Riker, Recorder continually writes in the pension application Joseph Woolsey. Abigail cannot read or write and therefore is most likely unaware of the mistake. In later depositions by her children it is made clear about there being several mistakes in the previous deposition made by their mother.