

Pension Application for John Wisner

R.11744

(Wife: Sarah)
State of New York
Orange County

On this 5th day of January A.D. 1852, Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Jeffrey Wisner aged Eighty two years a resident of the town of Warwick County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law says on his oath That he was well acquainted with Captain John Wisner during the war of the revolution and thatt he said Captain John Wisner Commanded a Company of Minute men. (1) Deponent recollects that Capt. John Wisner was stationed somewhere along the Hudson River near fort Montgomery and that while there Stationed he came to his Father's house (Colonel Henry (2) Wisner) in the night and that Deponent and his friends felt [rejoiced?] that he had come and relieved their fears about the expected attack by a company of Tory's who were said to be lurking about in or over the mountains not far from them. (Deponent's and friends') residence. Deponent further saith that Captain John Wisner married Sarah Hall and that they lived together for over twenty years and that the said Capt. John Wisner died about the year 1811 and that Sarah his wife survived him and died about ten years ago and that she left her surviving the following children. Ava, Elisa, Henry and has heard of there being one by the name of Robert L. belonging to the family. (Signed) Jeffrey Wisner

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written. Wm. H. Hoyt, Justice of the Peace.

State of New York
Orange County

On this 5th day of January A.D. 1852 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Hannah Vanhouten aged eighty two years a resident of the town of Warwick County and state aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law says on her oath that she is the daughter of Capt. John Wisner by his first wife who died in the year 1788 and that her father the said Capt. John Wisner married Sarah Hall the next year after her mother's death and that they lived together as man and wife up to his death which took place in the year 1811 or 1812 and that he left him surviving the said Sarah Wisner his widow, and that the said Sarah Wisner died on the 24th day of February 1842 and that she left her surviving four children whose names are Asa Wisner, Eliza, the wife of Abram Miller, Henry Wisner and Robert L. Wisner. She further says that she remembers distinctly of her father the said Capt. John Wisner acting and serving as Captain in the war of the revolution and that at one time her Brother Moses (older than herself) went with her father to Newburg to cart his baggage. Deponent understood at the time that her father went into the war at the commencement of said war and did more or less service through out the war. (Signed) Hannah Vanhouten

Subscribed and Sworn to the day and year above written. Wm. H. Hoyt, Justice the Peace.

State of New York
County of Orange SS.

On this fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred and fifty one at a Circuit Court of the State of New York, held and in and for the County of Orange in said State personally appeared before me a Justice of the said Court, Henry Wisner of the town of Warwick in said County, and being by me first duly sworn in open Court do depose and declare that he is the son of John and Sarah Wisner, late of said Town or Warwick deceased—that according to the best of his knowledge, information and belief the said John Wisner was during his life time a Captain (3) in the Regiment of Colonel Hathorn then serving in the war of the Revolution—that he was present and did service as an officer in said Regiment at the battle of White Plains (4) some time during the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six—that he was engaged in actual service, at different periods, during the whole time and duration of the said war—that the said John and Sarah Wisner, the parents of this deponent, were lawfully married on the [blank] day of March 1789 by [Coloni Phiffihero?], then a Justice of the Peace of said town of Warwick—

That the papers hereto annexed marked "A" is the original family record of the family of the said John and Sarah Wisner, and contains a true statement of the names and births of the children of the said John and Sarah Wisner—That the said John Wisner died on or about the first day of March 1811, leaving him surviving his widow the said Sarah Wisner— That the said Sarah Wisner died on the twenty fourth day of February 1842. That the following named children of the said John and Sarah Wisner are all that are now living—Asa Wisner, Eliza, the wife of Abraham Miller—Henry Wisner, the deponent and Robert L. Wisner, all of whom reside in the town of Warwick aforesaid—That the maiden name of the said Sarah Wisner was Sarah Hall—That he has no documentary evidence of the above mentioned services of his father, the said John Wisner—That he makes this declaration for the purpose of procuring the pension due to my mother the said Sarah Wisner, widow and by virtue of an act of Congress passed July seventh one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight. (Signed) Henry Wisner.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 4 day of September 1851. John M. Brown, Justice of the Supreme Court.

Memorandum of the ages of the Children of John Wisner and Sarah Wisner.

John Wisner was born the 13th of November 1792 and died the 25th April 1795.

Fanny Wisner was born the 16th of March 1794 and died the 19th of October.

John Wisner was born the 29th of September 1795 and died the 2d day of September 1796.

Clarissa Wisner was born the second day of September 1797.

Asa Wisner was born the 10th day of March 1799.

Eliza Wisner was born the 15th day of June 1801.

John Wisner was born July 21st 1804.

Henry Wisner was born July 15th 1806.

Charles J. Wisner was born February 14th 1809. Who died March the 27th 1811.

Robert L. Wisner March the 2nd 1811.

State of New York
Orange County SS.

On this nineteenth day of May A.D. 1852, personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Anna Post of the Town of Wantage County of Sussex and State of New Jersey Aged Eighty three years last November who being duly sworn according to law says on her Oath that she is the daughter of John Wisner who was a Captain and Commanded a Company in the War of the Revolution, and that he went into the Service in the early part of the war and continued in active Service in the greater part of the War, she further says that during the time that her father Capt. John Wisner was in Service in said war his family lived in the house with said Captain John Wisner's father at Mount Eve in the town of Warwick County of Orange and State of New York. And while Deponents father was gone from home to Service in the said War, she frequently heard her grandfather relate some of the incidents of the war and at one time stating that her father came near being killed in a Battle in said War.

And she further says that she firmly believes that her father the said Captain John Wisner served served [sic] in said war three years at least. She further says that her father the said Captain John Wisner married Sarah Hall for his second wife previous to 1790. She knows the fact from her own marriage. Deponent further says she distinctly recollects the Battle of Fort Montgomery and that her father was out in Service at that time. Her father was not at that battle but was Stationed Somewhere else at the time. She distinctly recollects that while her father and Major Lucky (5) (who was a near neighbor to her father) were out in Service. Two Indians came to the house of Major Lucky, while his wife was alone and called for something to eat which was given them when the Indians presented a knife and frightened Mrs. Lucky very much but the Indians made some signs by which she understand that they intended to give it to her as pay for the food she gave them. Deponent frequently saw the said knife. The general supposition was at the time that the Indians intended to kill Major Lucky. She further says that an officer in the said war by the name of Finch (6) was a near neighbor of her fathers and remembers when word came to Finch's wife that Mr. Finch was killed by Indians at MontGaup that Mr. Finch went into fits and it was thought she would not live for some days, and that deponents mother was sent for to stay with her during her sickness. (Signed with her mark) Anna Post

Sworn to and Subscribed before me the day and year above written. Wm. H. Hoyt, Justice of the Peace.

Reply to a letter of inquiry dated October 9, 1936.

You are furnished herein the record of John Wisner as found in the papers on file in pension claim, R. 11744, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

The date and place of birth and names of the parents of John Wisner are not given. John Wisner married date not given, ____Thompson, given name not stated, who died in the year 1788. Reference was made to their children, as follow: Moses Wisner, age not given; Anna born in November 1768, and in 1852 living in Wantage, Sussex County, New Jersey, when she signed Anna Post, and Hannah, who in 1852 was aged eighty-two years, residing in Warwick, New York, and signed Hannah Vanhouten. The given names of the husbands of Anna and Hannah were not stated.

John Wisner married in March 1789, in Warwick, Orange County, New York, Sarah Hall; the date and place of her birth and names of parent not shown.

The soldier, John Wisner, died March 1, 1811, in Warwick, New York, and his widow, Sarah, died February 24, 1842.

The following names of children of John Wisner and his wife, Sarah are shown in the claim:

John Wisner, born November 13, 1792; died April 25, 1795.

Fanny Wisner, born March 16, 1794, died October 19, ____ (year not given)

John Wisner, born September 29, 1795; died September 2, 1795

Clarissa Wisner, born September 2, 1797; died sometime prior to 1851.

Asa Wisner, born March 10, 1799

Eliza Wisner, born June 15, 1801, and in 1851 the wife of Abraham Miller.

John Wisner, born July 21, 1804; died prior to 1851.

Henry Wisner, born July 15, 1806; in 1852 living in Warwick, NY.

Charles I. Wisner, born February 14, 1809; died March 27, 1811.

Robert L. Wisner, born March 2, 1811.

September 4, 1851, Henry Wisner, son of John Wisner and his wife, Sarah, while a resident of Warwick, New York, applied for the pension which might have been due his mother on account of the service of his father in the Revolutionary War. He applied in behalf of himself and the other surviving children of the soldier, all of whom were living in Warwick, New York.

It was stated that John Wisner, while living at Mount Eve in Warwick, Orange County, New York, entered the service early in the Revolutionary War, that he served as Captain of a company of minutemen in Colonel John Hathorn's regiment in the New York troops, that he served at different periods throughout the war and that he was in the battles of White Plains and Morrisania (7), length of service not given.

The claim was not allowed as proof of six month's service was not furnished in accordance with the requirements of the pension law.

In 1852, one Jeffrey Wisner, aged eighty-two years, son of Colonel Henry Wisner, was residing in Warwick, New York, and testified that Captain John Wisner came to the home of Colonel Henry Wisner during the war to relieve their fears about an expected attack from the Tories, but he did not state his relationship to him.

In 1852, one James Wood, aged seventy-four years and a resident of Warwick, New York, stated that Captain John Wisner's first wife was a half sister of his (Wood's) father, whose given name he did not state.

In 1852, one William H. Clark, aged sixty years and a resident of said Warwick, New York stated that he was an "own cousin" of Sarah Wisner.

End Notes—John Wisner—R.11744

1. He was appointed on October 13, 1775 in Colonel Isaac Nicholl's Regiment of Orange County Minute Men. The other officers were First Lieutenant George Luckey, Second Lieutenant John Sutton and Ensign David Armstrong.
2. Henry Wisner was the First Major and commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel on February 19, 1778 in Colonel John Hathorn's Regiment of Organe County Militia (Fourth Regiment). Henry was a cousin.
3. On March 6, 1776, John was appointed a captain in Colonel Isaac Nicholl's Regiment of Levies raised from Orange County. According to the weekly returns dated Sepeember 27, 1776, Captain Wisner is listed as "sick present" as were three of his sergeants. October 4, 1776—Titled A List of the Officers in Coll Nicoll's—he is listed as present

under arrest. He was cashiered on or about September 30, 1776. In the November 1776 weekly returns list, First Lieutenant Abraham Dolsen is listed as the captain. From Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 75, folder 132, National Archives, Washington D.C.

In the Public Papers of George Clinton Vol I, a letter from John McKesson to Brigadier General George Clint dated September 29th 1776, pp 365-367, on page 366 we read the following: "I am extremely sorry for Wisner. I tho't him weak & flighty, but I really tho't he would fight." On page 368 a letter dated October 4th day 1776, Fishkill from Henry Wisner to B.G. George Clinton, "After my most hearty respects have only to ask the favour of Being of the Situation and sircumstances of my unhappy Cousin, John Wisner, the near connection and particular Regard I have for his father gives me great pain; the accounts I have are so Broken that I don't know what to Believe or what not, I dare say the accounts are Bad Enough." There is another paragraph which basically states he wants John to petition Brig. Gen. George Clinton to "Recover his Character by fighting without the lines."

Colonel Nicoll's Minute Men and Levies were discharged or disbanded on January 1, 1777.

There is no further record of John Wisner serving in any capacity after October 4, 1776. He does not show up in Colonel Hathorn's Regiment.

4. The Battle of White Plains, NY was fought on October 28, 1776.
5. Sfter Nicoll's Minute Men were disbanded George Luckey appears in 1779 first as a Sergeant Major, then as Quarter Master sergeant and then in 1781 as Adjutant in Colonel John Hathorn's Regiment of Orange County Militia.

At the Battle of Minisink on July 22, 1779 were: Colonel John Hathors; Lt. Col. Henry Wisner; Major John Poppino; Major William Blane; Adjutant Nathaniel Finch; Qr Mr. Jeremiah Curtis Qr Mr. Sergt George Luckey. From Revolutionary War Records 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 74, folder 114, National Archives, Washington D.C.

6. Adjutant Nathaniel Finch was killed at the Battle of Minisink on July 22, 1779.
7. The Battles of Morrisania, NY were fought on August 5, 1779, January 22, 1781 and March 4, 1782. There is no information as to which one of the battles that he participated in.