

Pension Application for Philip Becannon

R.690 (Widow: Jane)
B.L.Wt.83890-40-50. Papers within. War of 1812
French Also War of 1812, N.Y. Mil.
State of New York
City & County of New York

On this nineteenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred & fifty two, personally appeared before a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York— Jane Becannon, a resident of New York City, lagged eighty three years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress, passed July 29th A.D. 1848.

She declares that she is the widow of Philip Becannon, who was a private or orderly sergeant in the brigade or body of troops that came to the United States in the year 1777, with the Marquis de le Fayette, that he served in the revolutionary army from that time till the close of the revolutionary war, & that he took part in the actions at Yorktown which resulted in the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. For proofs of her husband's service as aforesaid; she refers to the records in the office of the pension department at Washington, & the affidavit attached to her application for bounty land, under the Act of 1850, now on file in that office.

She further declares that she was married to the said Philip Becannon, in the spring of the year 1794 or 1795; that her husband the aforesaid Philip Becannon died in the month of March A.D. 1822, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the second of January eighteen hundred, viz, at the time above stated, for proofs of which she refers to the affidavits attached to her said application for bounty land.

She further swears that she is now a widow & that she has never before made any application for a pension. (Signed with her mark) Jane Becannon

33d Congress, 1st Session (Senate) Rep. Com. No. 238

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

April 25, 1854.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Seward made the following REPORT.

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Jane Beccannan, report:

That the petitioner alleges in her petition that she is the widow of Philip Beccannan, who served under the Marquis de Lafayette in the revolutionary war. She applied in 1852 to the Pension Bureau to be placed on the pension rolls, but her application was rejected by the commissioner, on the ground that her husband was a foreign soldier, for whom no provision was made in the general statutes. Upon appeal to the Secretary of the Interior, the decision of the commissioner was confirmed. In the past legislation upon this subject, care has been taken, in express terms, to exclude foreign soldiers serving as our allies in the revolution from the provision of the

pension and bounty-land laws; probably because, being in the employ and pay of a foreign power, they were entitled to all the benefits of the laws of that power providing bounty and pension for its army. For this reason, also, a general bill providing for such is deprecated by the Commissioner; nor do your committee think it would be expedient to provide for special legislation for particular cases. They therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be rejected.