

Application for Pension William Clark

R.8682 (Phebe Reeve, former widow) Married William Clark, Lieutenant. He died at New Haven, Conn in the summer of the year 1779. Then she married Stephen Reeve several years later and he died.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefits of the third section of the Act of 4th July 1836 & of the first section of the Act of 3rd March 1837.

State of New York

County of Suffolk SS.

On this fifteenth day of March 1839 personally appeared before me John M. Williamson, a Judge of the County Courts in and for said County, Phebe Reeve a resident of the town of Brookhaven in the said County of Suffolk and State of New York aged eighty four years and upwards 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 4th 1836, and the act explanatory of said act passed March 3, 1837.

That she was married to William Clark who was a Lieutenant in the War of the Revolution, declarant thinks in the Continental Army and served as such for a period of at least three years.

That her husband the said William Clark at the time of his entering said service was a resident of the town of Brookhaven in said county.

That in the early part of said war, declarant thinks in the month of May, in the year 1776 he entered said service and continued therein until the day of his death.

That he was engaged in the battle of White Plains, but in what other battles or skirmishes he was engaged in she cannot specify.

That this declarant has forgotten under what officers he served, but believes that he served first under one Capt. Strong and afterwards under Capt. Ebenezer Dayton who resided in New Haven, Conn. and at whose house he died when returning home from service and imprisonment.

That in the spring of the year 1779, what month she cannot remember, while he was engaged in service as aforesaid he was taken prisoner by the British and confined in one of the prison ships then lying in the port of New York or Brooklyn N.Y.

That he remained thus confined until the Summer of the year 1779 when he was exchanged and on his way home to his family was taken sick and died at the house of his captain Ebenezer Dayton at New Haven aforesaid, and that his sickness and death was attributed to the fatigue and exposure endured and suffered while thus in imprisonment.

That she does not remember every having seen his commission and presumes that it was lost while in service or imprisonment.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Clark, by, and at the dwelling house of the Rev'd Noah Hammond in the month of March in the year 1774, but does not recollect the day of the month.

That she had two children while the wife of said William Clark whose names are Hannah and William.

That about 15 years after the death of said William Clark as aforesaid, she was again married to Stephen Reeve who died in the month of November of the year 1825 about 13 years ago, and that she was a widow on the 4th July 1836 and still remains a widow as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

And declarant further stated that she was married to the said William Clark as aforesaid in the village of Coram and town of Brookhaven in said county, that she was also afterwards married to said Stephen Reeve in said town, and that she now resides in said town of Brookhaven and has resided there for the period of 84 years and upwards. (Signed with his mark) Phebe Reeve

Sworn and subscribed the day and year first above written before me. John M. Williamson, Judge.

Letter in folder dated December 10, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter of November 20, 1931, relative to William Clark, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow are obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, R.8682, based upon his military service in that war.

William Clark married March 27, 1778, in Coram, Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York, Phebe Davis; they were both of said Brookhaven.

About fifteen years after the death of the soldier, his widow, Phebe, married at Brookhaven, New York, Stephen Reeve, who died November, 1825.

On March 15, 1839, Phebe Reeve, while a resident of Brookhaven, New York, aged eighty-four years, applied for the pension that might have been due on account of the services of her former husband, William Clark. It was stated that, while living in Coram Village, Brookhaven Township, New York, William Clark was elected March 27, 1776, lieutenant of a company of Long Island minutemen, and that he served from the spring of 1776, between six and nine months, as lieutenant in Captain Selah Strong's company, Colonel Josiah Smith's New York regiment, and was in the battle of White Plains; also that while in service in 1779, he was taken prisoner and held on the prison ship "Jersey" until exchanged in the summer of 1779, and died shortly after, in that year, at the house of Ebenezer Dayton in New Haven, Connecticut, while on his way home, exact date of death not shown. It is further stated that he served three years; no other details given.

Her claim was not allowed as she failed to furnish proof of six months service as required by the pension laws.

William Clark and his wife, Phebe, had two children—Hannah and William Clark who were living in Brookhaven, New York in 1839.

In 1846, William Clark, Hannah Woodruff and Matilda Overton stated that they were the surviving children of Phebe Reeve, former widow of William Clark.