

Pension Application for Michael DeGraff

R.2844 (Widow: Jane) Married December 20, 1774 in Poughkeepsie. Michael died January 24, 1807 in the Town of Poland. Jane died in the Town of Newport, Herkimer County 1843.

Declaration

In order to obtain the arrears of pension due widow Jane DeGraff at the time of her death under the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836.

State of New York

Herkimer County SS

On this tenth day of February 1844, personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County now sitting Sarah Allen a resident of the town of Deerfield in said County aged 45 years & upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the pension due her mother, Jane DeGraff at the time of her death under the Act of Congress passed July 4, 1836. That he mother the said Jane DeGraff departed this life at Newport in said County on the sixth day of March eighteen hundred & forty three at the house of this Declarant where she had lived previous to her death.

That previous to her death she made some efforts to obtain said pension & was sworn, but whether any papers were ever sent to Washington this Declarant does not know. E.C. Pinney Esq of Newport aforesaid prepared said papers & gave them to Declarants brother in law Cranston Harvey, but declarant believes that they were not forwarded to Washington the proofs not being complete but whether they were or not her mother the said Jane DeGraff died as aforesaid without pension.

And declarant further saith that her mother the said Jane DeGraff was at the time of her death the widow of Michael DeGraff who died in the town of Poland in said County on or about the 24th day of January eighteen hundred & seven. That said Michael DeGraff was an Ensign & Lieutenant of Militia during the war of the revolution and as declarant has been repeatedly & credibly informed served upon numerous occasions with the militia of Half Moon now Waterford, Saratoga County, NY.

That previous to said was he lived in Dutchess (sic) County in the towns of Po'Keepsie (sic) & Fishkill from whence shortly after the commencement of said war he moved to Half Moon aforesaid and was commissioned in the militia of that vicinity in which he continued to serve until near the close of said war when he removed back again to Dutchess County where he continued to reside until he moved to Herkimer County aforesaid.

And declarant further saith that her father the said Michael DeGraff was a declarant has always been informed & believes duly married to her mother the said Jane DeGraff (whose maiden name was also DeGraff) in said town of Po'Keepsie three or four months previous to the commencement of said war of the revolution.

That this declarant has very often heard her parents mention this fact & that they removed together to Half Moon aforesaid & that while there the said Jane suffered greatly from fear of the Indians & Tories being frequently obliged to pass the night in

the woods to avoid being taken prisoner by them while her husband was on duty in the army.

And declarant further saith that her mother the said Jane DeGraff left four children her surviving who still live & are the only children living to wit: Widow Anna Cooper the oldest who is now a widow & lives in the town of Schuyler in said County, said Anna was born during the war of the revolution. Betsey Harvey wife of Cranston Harvey who lives in Cattaraugus County. Lydia Harvey widow of Solomon Harvey now living in the State of Pennsylvania & this declarant. And this [?] claimant further saith that her mother the said Jane DeGraff never had but one husband to wit, the said Michael DeGraff & that she died his widow to with at the time aforesaid. (Signed) Sarah Allen.

Subscribed & sworn the day & year aforesaid before said court. E. A. Munson, clerk

Letter in folder dated October 8, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.2844, it appears that Michael DeGraff, while residing at Half Moon, Saratoga County, New York, served as ensign and Lieutenant at various times in the New York Militia in Colonel Jacobus VanSchoonhaven's Regiment, was out against Burgoyne at Lake George, at the burning of Cherry Valley, and twice at Fort Edwards.

He died January 24, 1807, in Poland, Herkimer County, New York.

The soldier married December 20, 1774, in Poughkeepsie, New York, Jane DeGraff.

The widow, Jane, died January 6 or March 6, 1843, in Newport, Herkimer County, New York, leaving the following children:

Sarah Allen, residing in Deerfield, New York aged 44 years.

Anna Cooper, widow, residing in Schuyler, New York.

Betsey or Elizabeth residing in Cattaraugus County New York. Wife of Granston Harvey.

Lydia residing in Pennsylvania, widow of Solomon Harvey.

The above named children claimed the pension that might have been due their mother, but the claim was not allowed as they did not furnish satisfactory proof of six month service as required by the pension law.

In 1851, daughter Sarah signed her name Sarah Harrison, no explanation given as to this change in her name.