

Pension Application for Wilhelmus Westfall

W.1511 (Former Widow: Margaret Terry) Married June 1778. Wilhelmus died October 26, 1796.

State of New Jersey

Sussex County

On this sixth day of December eighteen hundred and thirty nine personally appeared before the undersigned a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] in and for the County of Sussex, Margaret Terry a resident of the town of Wantage in the said County and State of New Jersey aged eighty years 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 3d 1837.

That she was married to Willhelemus Westfall who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and belonged to a company of Militia in the town of Goshen County of Orange and State of New York commanded by Captain Moses Kortwright John Van Tuyl first Lieutenant and Martinus Decker second Lieutenant and Ephrim Middaugh Ensign and belonged to the said company for several years after the war and at one time was Captain of the said Company the said company during the war belonged to Col. Allison's Regiment.

She further deposeth and saith that as she has been informed and believes her said husband Willhelemus Westfall in the month of May or June 1776 was out in the militia under Captain Kortwright Lieutenants Van Tuyl and Decker and in Col Allison's Regiment at Fort Montgomery for the term of one month and was discharged at Fort Montgomery at the expiration of the term for which he was called out.

That she has been informed and believes that her said husband Willhelemus Westfall was called out to Fort Montgomery again sometime in the latter part of July under Capt Kortwright and Col. Allison and served one month and was discharged sometime in the month of August of the said year.

That soon after New York was taken and she thinks in the month of October a part of the militia was called out to a place called Rammapoo and Paramus to guard the passes in the mountains and keep back the enemy in this service her said husband was out one month under Captain Kortwright and she thinks under Lieut Col Tusten or Col Kortwright.

That in the month of December of the said year the enemy still holding New York and threatening devastation to the Country a request then of men was made and Col. Allison's Regiment was called out to a place called New City in Orange County and served for the term of six weeks and that her said husband went from home on the west side of the Shawangunk mountain to Goshen and joined his company under Capt Kortwright and and [sic] went with the said company to New City and service along the frontier for the term of six weeks and was discharged some time in January 1777.

That in the spring of 1777 her said husband was again called out to Rammapoo under as she believes Capt Jones and service in the company of Capt. Jones for the

term of fifteen days as a classman but is from old age and loss of memory unable to tell who was the Col.

That he said husband was called out several times during the summer of the year under Capt Jones Wood Little and Sweezy in Col. Allison and Col. Coopers and Hathorns Regiments.

That about the last of August or the first of September of the said year Col, Allisons Regiment was called out to Fort Montgomery and Captain Kortwrights company went from a place now called Carpenter Point on the Delaware River across the mountain to Goshen from Goshen they went by land through what was called the clove to Fort Montgomery on the Hudson River where after the said Regiment under Col. Allison or apart of them had been at the fort one month were discharged with orders to be in readiness at a short warning in this service her said husband Willhelemus Westfall served one month in the company under Capt Kortwright and under Col Allison and was discharged with the rest of the company a few days before Fort Montgomery was taken.

That immediately after the fort was taken those of Col. Allisons Regiment who had been discharged previous to the taking of the fort were again called out to Murders creek or New Windsor to follow the British shipping which had gone up the River. Capt Kortwrights company again Rendezvoused along the Neversink and went to New Windsor and followed the enemy up the River some piece and returned again and she further saith that her said husband was again out in service in Capt. Kortwright's company and went with the said Company under Major John Decker and served in the same company at this time one months and was discharged some time in November of the said year.

She further saith that as she has been informed and believes that in the year 1778 the Indians had become so formidable on the western frontiers of the Counties of Orange and Ulster that instead of drawing away the militia from that place it was necessary to send men to assist in guarding the inhabitants and defend the frontiers of the Delaware from the incursions of the Tories and their allies the Savages and from the spring of 1778 Captain Kortwright's company was ordered to guard along the frontiers the said company was classed into four class to one of which her said husband belonged and that the said company was under the command of Col. Newkirk who had commanded along the western frontiers the said Classes were so assigned that each class was under arms one week in a month during the summer and fall except on alarms and when they were out on scouting parties they served under their own officers who took their turns in commanding the Classes.

This kind of services continued through the years 1779, 1780, 1782, and the beginning of 1783 sometime serving at Major Deckers fort Vanfleets fort Martinus Decker's fort and Van Ettens fort but from the impossibility of stating the particular time she is unable to do it except the following in June 1778 the following in June 1778. The Indians came down upon the frontiers and killed a Mr. Swartwout and two of his sons and Lieutenant Stewart this caused an alarm and Capt Kortwrights

company was called out to Deckers fort and was kept under arms one week this was under Col Newkirk.

That in the service her said husband was out in regular service one week.

That on the thirteenth day of October of the said year an alarm was again made by the appearance of a body of Indians on the frontiers and Capt Kortwright company was again called out and went to Fort Dwitt and served two week[s] and her said husband was out in the service in the said company at Dewitts fort for two weeks under Col Newkirk.

That on the nineteenth day of July 1779. The Indians again made their appearance on the western frontiers of Orange and Ulster and the alarm was given and Captain Kortwrights company was again called out and her said husband was out in the said company six days a guarding along the frontiers.

That in the spring of 1780 the Indians made their appearance again on the frontiers and Capt Kortwrights company was called out and her said husband went with the said company to Martinus Deckers fort and served in the said fort and along the frontier for one week this she thinks was either under Col Pawling of Newkirk.

That in the spring of the year of 1781 in March of April it was rumored that their was spies in the neighborhood and a detachment of fifteen men was ordered out under Lieutenant Martinus Decker to way lay them and if possible catch them and her said husband was one of the company that went with Lieut Decker they went to a place called ten mile River where they way laid an Indian path and cached two of the ships Robert Lana and Edward Hicks out six days.

That in June 1781 her said husband was called out on an alarm under Captain Kortwright's guard along the Delaware [Delaware] River and in this service her said husband was out at least three days.

That in the June 1781 her said husband was called out on an alarm under Captain Kortwright to guard along the Delaware River and in this service her said husband was out at least three days.

That in the month of September 1782 the Indians made a descent on the frontiers and burnt a place called Warwasink in Ulster County. This alarmed the whole frontier and the people were all under arms and Capt Kortwright's company was again out and her said husband was out under Capt Kortwright in this alarm along the Minisink frontier at least two weeks.

That during the years 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, and 1783 her said husband done at least two months service as a soldier in each year.

That in 1779 when the Indians attacked Minisink and burnt the house and barns in that place her husbands house and barn and barrack with all their contents were destroyed they likewise set fire to the grist mill belonging to the family but did not accomplish the design the fire going out before it caught to the combustibles in the mill she further saith that she made her escape and saved her life by running and after travelling about five miles got into Van Vangorders fort.

That in the month of April 1781 she again had to fly for her life and made her escape at the time that three of her husbands cousins were killed by the name of

Joseph Jobs Lewis Westbrook and William Westbrook and she by the help[of some friends she herself having just risen from a bed of sickness was enabled to cross the mountain to a place of safety.

She further declares that she was married to the aforesaid Willhelmus Westfall on Thursday of the first week in June Seventeen Hundred and Seventy Eight in the town of Wantage Sussex County and State of New Jersey by Evi Adams an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the said county and that her said husband Willhelemus Westfall died on the twenty sixth day of October Seventeen Hundred and ninety six.

That she was afterwards married to Noah Terry on the eight day of February Eighteen Hundred and five by Ebenezer Mead in the town of Wantage in Sussex County New Jersey then a acting Justice in and for the said County and that her said husband Noah Terry died on the twelfth day of October Eighteen Hundred and fifteen.

And that she was a widow on the 4th day of July 1836 and still remains a widow as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

And further she saith that she has no documentary evidence of her said husbands services in her possession nor does she know of any and further that she has no record of her marriages nor does she know of any. (Signed with her mark) Margaret Terry

Sworn and subscribed by making her mark on account of old age, the day and year above written. Thomas Teasdale

Letter in folder dated October 31, 1934, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter of October 24, in which you request the record of William Westfall who served as private and captain in the Revolutionary War, and on account of those service, Margaret Haynes Westfall Terry applied for pension as his former widow.

The record of Wilhelmus Westfall (as soldier's name appears in the claim) follows as found in the papers on file in pension claim, W.1511, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

The date and place of soldier's birth and names of his parents are not given.

Wilhelmus Westfall belonged for several years to a company of militia in the Town of Goshen, Orange County, New York, commanded by Captain Moses Kortwright. He enlisted in May or June, 1776, and served at various times until sometime in 1783, on alarms and scouting parties against the Tories and Indians, amounting in all to at least nine months, engaged in guarding the frontiers, the shores of the Delaware River and the valley of the Neversink, under Captains Kortwright, Jones, Wood, Little and Swazy, and Colonels Allison, Cooper, Hathorn, and Newkirk or Pawling, in the New York troops. From May 15, 1782, he served three days as captain.

Wilhelmus Westfall married the first week in June, 1778, in Wantage, Sussex County, New Jersey, Margaret Haynes.

He died October 26, 1796, place not stated.

Soldier's widow, Margaret Westfall, married February 8, 1805, in Wantage, New Jersey, Noah Terry, who died October 12, 1815.

The widow, Margaret Terry, was allowed pension on account of the Revolutionary War service of her former husband, Wilhelmus Westfall, on her application executed December 6, 1839, at which time she was aged eighty years and a resident of Wantage, Sussex County, New Jersey.

In 1839, Huldah Lewis, aged seventy-eight years a sister of soldier's former widow, Margaret Terry, was residing in Wantage, New Jersey.

In the same year, reference was made to three cousins of Wilhelmus Westfall, namely, Joseph Jons, Lewis Westbrook and William Westbrook, who were killed by the Indians in April, 1781.

There are no further family data shown in the claim.