

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Westfall W9883

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act passed 7th July 1838, entitled "an act granting half pay pension to widows."

State of Indiana } S.S.

Knox county }

On this twelfth day of November one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine, personally appeared before the Hon. Geo. R. Gibson Judge of the Court of Probate in and for said county of Knox, in open court, Massy Westfall, relict of Ab'm Westfall Dec'd. late a resident of said county and state, aged sixty nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration to obtain the benefit of the act above mentioned granting half pay pensions to certain widows: That she is the widow of Abraham Westfall who was a sergeant in the army of the United States, and as far as is now within her reach of proof, his services are specified in the evidence hereunto annexed.

She further declares, that she was married to the said Abraham Westfall in the Town of Vincennes, now in the State of Indiana then N. W. Terr'y. [Northwest Territory] by Esqr. Dalton on the 11th day of October 1789; that she was not married to him before he quit the service of the U. States, but it occurred previous to the 1st of Jan'y seventeen hundred and ninety four at the time and place above stated.

Massy herXmark Westfall

Also appeared at same time in open court as aforesaid, Michael Thorn [pension application S16272], an ancient resident of said county and state, now aged seventy six years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath declare, that during the revolutionary war, a short time before the battle of Monmouth [28 June 1778], the year before he thinks, he was sent from the then called frontier in Pennsylvania into Virginia for salt, and on the South Branch of Potomac river he became acquainted with Abel, Cornelius [S36842], and Abraham Westfall, brothers. Abel was a Captain, and Cornelius, his Lieuf't. then recruiting for the American Army; and Abraham was a soldier under them or belonging to some other corps; that Abraham went as a soldier with his brothers he knows, and that he served in the army he believes certain; that this deponent has heard s'd Abraham say, and heard the same from other soldiers now Dec'd., and he verily believes, that said Abraham Westfall, late husband of Massy, now applying for a pension, served a term of two years in the army; that this deponent with many others heard the Late Captain Abel Westfall (an older brother) say so frequently, and in presence of deponent the Late Cornelius Westfall, aforesaid, told his brother Abraham, husband as aforesaid, that he was entitled to a pension, and if an application were made he (Corn's.) would readily establish the services, and said Abraham declined - saying, "he would not beg of the U. States, he could live without." or words of like import. that Deponent was present and witnessed the marriage of said Abraham Westfall to Massy Harbin, the present applicant, in her fathers house in Vincennes, in October of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, the ceremony was performed by Thomas Dalton Esqr Dec'd. and said Abraham and Massy have resided and lived together in the neighbourhood of this deponent in Knox county untill the death of said Abraham

Michael hisXmark Thorn

Also appeared at same time in open court as aforesaid, Sarah Harness, born in and a resident of what was Hampshire county, Virginia, now and during the last forty years a resident of Knox county Indiana, approaching eighty one years of age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, declare, that she was acquainted with and distinctly remembers Abraham Westfall now Dec'd. the husband of Massy Westfall now present, in her youthful days in Virginia, as they then lived on the South branch of Potomac not very distant from each other - that she remembers when Abel Westfall an elder brother of s'd. Ab'm. enlisted a company of men in that neighbourhood to join Gen'l. Washington, and was in the town of Moorfield [sic: Moorefield] (now) on the day they marched from that ground to join the army, which by reason of the birth of a cousin on same day, she believes to have been the 28th day of Feb'y 1776, and Abraham Westfall marched away in said company, with many others of her acquaintances and friends, and

did not return untill after the expiration of two years, when with a portion of the others, as many had died, he came home with Captain Abel Westfall, all in good credit that she, this deponent, always heard and believed, that said Abraham served two years and never heard it questioned or doubted; and living in the vicinity in virginia, and in this state, of the three brothers, and hearing from others, acquaintances who served with them, her convictions are certain and positive. She has resided in this neighborhood, not very far from the late Ab'm aforesaid and Massy his wife, since coming from Virginia [one or two illegible words] not doubt their marriage no more than his services. Sarah herXmark Harness
[William H. Thorn deposed that Abraham Westfall died in Dec 1832 or Jan 1833.]

State of Indiana }
County of Knox } S.S.

On this eleventh day of February one thousand eight hundred & forty, personally appeared in open court before the Hon. G. R. Gibson Judge of Probate, in and for said county, the undersigned Massey Westfall, an aged and respectable resident of said county of Knox, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following amendments to her declaration reported to be on file in the Pension office at Washington city to obtain a widows pension: that she has no record proof in her possession of the services of her deceased husband Abraham Westfall, or of the officers names under whose command they were rendered, nor of the marriage ceremony under which she lived with him upwards of half a century, nor of the exact period of his death, which event left her desolate - that the evidence now on file as aforesaid, duly authenticated, of Mich'l. Thorn, Sarah Harness, and Wm. H. Thorn, all well known residents of said county of Knox affords a precise statement in relation to his services, marriage, and death, as she can possibly furnish, and she believes them to be indisputably true - she further declares that she has no record of the births of seven children four of whom are dead, and only one the youngest son, Abraham H, was living with her at the death of his father, her husband, and he left her soon after that event - this son she believes will be thirty nine years of age in March. Massey herXmark Westfall

NOTE: On 20 Apr 1843 Massey Westfall, 73, applied for a pension under a later act, erroneously stating that Abraham Westfall had served in Abel Westfall's company in the Militia.