Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Eustace W4014 Sinah Lee VA Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Fairfax County }
State of Virginia } Ss

On this 21st day of March [1839] personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Fairfax Mrs. Sinah Lee a resident of Virginia in the County of Fairfax aged Seventy years, who, being 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 July7, 1838, entitled "an Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of Capt. John Eustace, who was a Captain in the Continental line of Virginia who served upwards of three years, and as she has been informed received Land accordingly. And she has remained a widow since 1811 She further declares that she was married to the said John Eustace between the 1st of July 1785 & the 13t of Feby 1786 To wit: On the 18t day of October in the year Seventeen hundred and eighty five; that her husband, the aforesaid John Eustace died on the [blank] of March 1786, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the Service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st of January Seventeen hundred and ninety four, Viz: at the time above stated. [signed] Sinah Lee

NOTE:

The following is from a list of marriages performed between 1 July 1785 and 13 Feb 1786 in Fairfax County by "Spence Grayson R. D. P." (Reformed Dissenting Presbytery).

Thomas Brown & Catharine Davis

Robert Lucas & Betty Speake

William Johnston & Nancy Simpson

Joab Reed & Nancy West

Moses Simpson & Mary Garrett

John Eustace & Sinah Chichester

John Conner & Catharine Lettice Wales McAttee

Thomas Mason & Sarah Chichester

Thomas Cockerell & Million Lucas

George Augustin Washington & Frances Bassett

On 3 Sep 1842 B. Hooe stated that Sinah Lee was the sister of his mother, and that her second husband, Hancock Lee, died about 30 years previously. On 20 Sep 1842 Sinah Lee stated that she married Hancock Lee in December 1787, and he died on 14 May 1811.

On 20 Sep 1842 and on 8 July 1843 Sinah Lee stated that she was the widow of John Eustace, "who was a Captain." On 30 June 1848 Sinah Lee, 79, swore that she was the former widow of "John Eustace who was a Lieutenant and Ensign." On 13 July 1850 she assigned power of attorney to her son-in-law, George W. Wren, to determine why her pension had been stopped. On 21 Aug 1850 George W. Wren of Washington wrote to his attorney requesting that he expedite the claim of Sinah Lee. On 6 Sep 1850 the attorney wrote the Pension Commissioner stating that in 1842 Sinah Lee received the pension as widow of a Lieutenant, and he requested the difference between that and what she should have been allowed as the widow of a Captain. On 15 Jan 1851 Sinah Lee revoked his power of attorney, and on 22 Feb 1851 she revoked another power of attorney. On 14 June 1852 Betty Lee, executor of the estate of Sinah Lee, authorized a different attorney to obtain the increase in pension.

The correspondence indicates confusion about at least three different officers in the Virginia Continental Line named John Eustace:

1) Capt. John Eustace of the present widow's application, who died in March 1786.

- 2) Capt. John Eustace BLWt682-200, who was killed at the Battle of Brandywine on 11 Sep 1777.
- 3) Lt. John Eustace VAS1322 who enlisted in 1780 and was discharged on 1 Jan 1783. He was evidently assumed by the Pension Commissioner to have been the husband of Sinah Lee. Sinah Lee may have been mistaken about the rank of her husband.
- 4) Ensign John Eustace of the 3rd Reg., commissioned on 7 Oct 1780 and served to the end of the war. There was a Capt. John Eustace in the 1st Virginia Continental Regiment in May 1777 who may have been either 1) or 2). (There was also a Major John Skey Eustace who was evidently different from all the above.)

A document in the file states that "Mrs Sinah Lee widow of John Eustace, a Lieut. & Ensign," died in July 1851.