

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Lee W5466

Mary Lee

f51VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/18/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Ohio Clark County: SS

On this 14th day of April A.D. 1840 personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas sitting within and for the County of Clark Mary Lee, a resident of the town of Springfield in the said County of Clark, aged about seventy-three 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 June 7, 1832, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of James Lee who was a Sailor in the Navy of the United States or the State of Virginia during the Revolutionary War. She does not remember, the name of the vessel in which her husband served nor of the officers under whom he served, she has often heard the names of both, but her memory is frail, and she never had any special motive to keep them in her mind. She thinks he never held any other rate than that of a Sailor; She has no means in her power of stating the day of the month or even the year when he entered the service, as she has no documentary evidence in her possession. She knew him well before he entered the service (she having been his first cousin). She also remembers well the commencement of the Revolutionary war. She remembers this the more distinctly because her brother (also named James Lee) left home and entered the Regular military service the same year and remained in the service five years, James Lee, who afterwards became declarant's husband enlisted as a Sailor the same year, and remained in the service seven years or thereabouts. She has often heard him say he was gone seven years, but she cannot be certain whether it was a short period more or less than that length of time, but she knows it was about that long. He left the service about the close of the Revolutionary War. At the close of the war he with the ship's crew to which he belonged were prisoners of war, and were either exchanged or discharged by the restoration of peace, but she thinks he was exchanged. She does not know whether or not he was under more than one engagement but she thinks he was under but one. She is not able as she has before stated, to specify the names and rank of the Officers under whom he served, by reason of the failure of her memory, and from the circumstance that this matter never attracted or her very special attention. At the time he enlisted he resided in King George County Virginia; the nature of his service she has before stated; She cannot name the battles, he was engaged in, though she has heard him relate circumstances which occurred in one, but as they relate to him personally, she does not deem it necessary to repeat them; in truth it is not in her power to detail the particular history of his service, though she knows of his entering the service, his long absence, his return, and the general relation of his services, the sufferings, hardships and dangers which he encountered. As she has stated before she has no documentary evidence to sustain her

claim, nor does she know of one now living by whom she can prove it. Her husband died in Fauquier County Virginia about the year 1806. She cannot state the exact year as her family record has long since been destroyed by fire, but she ascertains the period by the age of her youngest child who was an infant at the time of his death. She migrated to Ohio the year of the occurrence of the earthquake, which she thinks was in 1811 or 1812. She knows of no individual now living with whom she was acquainted in Virginia except her own children, though she supposes, she could find some if she was able to go back and make the inquiry. – She further declares that she was married to the said James Lee about the year ___ of the exact date of the marriage she cannot now make any statement, as she has not in her possession any record of her marriage, and she has not as yet been able to procure any evidence as to its date. The date of his death she has stated above as near as she can remember. She was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794. The exact date whereof she hopes and expects to be able to show. She was never afterwards married.

S/ Mary Lee, X her mark

[p 10: copy of a marriage bond issued in Fauquier County Virginia and dated February 2, 1787 issued to James Lee and Samuel Eliot conditioned upon the marriage of James Lee to Mary Lee.]

[p 19: Letter dated March 12, 1840 from J L Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, stating that the records in his office show that a certificate for £67.15.8 issued June 27, 1783 to James Lee for the balance of his pay as a sailor in the Virginia state Navy.]

[p 3: On July 29, 1844 in Clark County Ohio, Mary Conklin and Lucinda Johnson, both residents of Clark County, gave testimony that their mother Mary Lee departed this life December 14, 1843 leaving the following named children surviving her viz.: Ly [?] Thompson wife of John Thompson, James Lee, Mary Conklin and Lucinda Johnson (the first named heir resides in the State of Missouri, the 2nd named in the state of Illinois, and the 2 last in Clark County Ohio). They both signed their affidavit with their marks.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum for her husband service as a Seaman in the Virginia Navy.]