

ANN REWALT.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 557.]

FEBRUARY 17, 1838.

Mr. MORGAN, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Ann Rewalt, report:

That the memorialist declares that she is the widow of the late John Rewalt, who served in the several grades of private, second and first lieutenant, and captain, during nearly the whole time of the revolutionary war. That he first entered the service as a volunteer, and continued either in the regular service or the militia of Pennsylvania, and was in the battles of Bunker's hill, Brandywine, White Plains, and at the taking of the Hessians at Trenton. She does not remember the name of any of the officers under whom her husband served, except that of the Quartermaster General, Robert Patton. She further alleges that, during the last three years of her husband's service, he was captain or master of a brigade of wagons, and was stationed at Lebanon, in the county of Lancaster, and State of Pennsylvania; that since their marriage, and in discharge of his duties, he was as much as one year and a half from home at one time, and frequently away at shorter intervals; that at one time he received a discharge, and staid at home in Lebanon for two or three months, and at the close of that time he resumed his duties as wagon master, and continued therein until the close of the war; that during this last term of service he was a portion of the time sick, but he continued to draw his regular rations.

She alleges, in relation to the documentary evidences of his services, that he kept all papers which related to his services in the revolutionary war with care, until about the year 1818, when he took a portion of them, one of which was a captain's commission, (which she had often seen, but does not remember by whom it was signed,) and gave them to Aaron Remer, who engaged to act as his agent in procuring him a pension for his said revolutionary services. That the said papers were mislaid or lost by said Remer, and were never forwarded to the Department. That again, in the year 1821, he took from his house another portion of his papers, and placed them in the hands of a Mr. Phelps, to be forwarded to the War Department, as evidence, &c., and soon after he departed this life.

She declares, upon oath, that she was married to the said John Rewalt on or about the 20th of March, in the year 1778, by a Presbyterian clergyman.

Aaron Remer, in whose hands the papers of the said John Rewalt had been placed, swears that he was well acquainted with the said John Rewalt, deceased, that it was generally believed that said Rewalt was a soldier of the revolutionary war, and that the said deponent has no doubt that such was the fact; that said Rewalt was much respected as a man, citizen, and neighbor. That some time in the year 1818, said Rewalt delivered to this deponent certain papers for the pur-
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pose of obtaining a pension ; that said papers had relation to said Rowalt's services as a wagon master, in said revolutionary army ; that among others this deponent recollects particularly several receipts, purporting to have been given to said Rowalt, as wagon master of some brigade, division, or part (and deponent cannot remember particularly what) of the Pennsylvania line of the revolutionary army ; that said papers were never forwarded or acted on, but were mislaid or lost, and deponent has not been able to find them. That deponent was well acquainted with John Rowalt, son of the said John Rowalt, deceased, and that he was universally believed to be the son of the said John Rowalt, deceased ; that, when he lately removed to Illinois, he had the appearance of being about fifty-five or sixty years of age. Said Remer is certified, officially, to be a good witness.

Castle Daines, who is officially certified to be a competent witness, of good character, and fully entitled to credit, swears that he is eighty-eight years of age ; that he was a soldier in the revolutionary war, and now receives a pension as such ; that in the fall of the year 1776, while the American army were stationed at and near New York, he saw, and became acquainted with, John Rowalt who was at that time an officer, and, he thinks, an orderly sergeant, and belonged to the Pennsylvania troops, and he thinks was attached to the " flying camp," under General Mercer ; that said Rowalt was in active service, and was engaged in the battle of White Plains ; that, soon after the engagement at White Plains, the portion of the army to which Rowalt belonged crossed over the North river into New Jersey, and that this deponent saw nothing more of said Rowalt until the year 1780 or 1781, when he saw him in the army in New Jersey, and at that time said Rowalt had charge of a brigade of wagons, as wagon master or captain ; was informed by said Rowalt, at this time, that he had married since he last saw him. Deponent again, after a lapse of twenty or twenty-five years, renewed his acquaintance with the said Rowalt, in Yates county, New York, which continued until said Rowalt's death, in 1822. He further states that the said John Rowalt was the husband of the widow Ann Rowalt.

In addition to the above testimony, there are several affidavits of very respectable persons, who swear to the general belief of the community that the petitioner was the lawful wife of the said John Rowalt, deceased ; and that, from the age of their oldest son, John Rowalt, jr., their marriage must have occurred prior to the termination of the war, and at the time specified by her in her declaration ; and that he was undoubtedly a soldier of the Revolution.

A few of the old papers of the said Rowalt are preserved, and in the file, from which the above extracts are made, viz :

1st. A second lieutenant's commission, dated July 1st, 1777.

2d. A discharge, dated 23d October, 1780.

3d. A printed certificate of the enlistment of William Hidler as a wagoner or team-driver in the army of the United States, and signed by the said Hidler and Rowalt, and dated April 6, 1779.

4th. A letter from " P. Marshall, commanding officer at Lebanon," to " Lieutenant Rowalt," dated May 18, 1779.

5th. A discharge, dated 1st February, 1777, but not signed.

These various proofs of service in the revolutionary war are such as to leave the impression that the said John Rowalt was certainly a soldier and officer of the Revolution, and, taken in connexion with the evidence of her marriage prior to the close of the services of the petitioner's husband, fully justify the committee in recommending that an act may pass for the said petitioner's relief.