

**Sources Excerpted from:** Rees, J. (2021). 'She had gone to the army...to her husband': Judith Lines' unremarked life. *Journal of the American Revolution*. <https://allthingsliberty.com/2021/04/she-had-gone-to-the-army-to-her-husband-judith-liness-unremarked-life/>

#### **Judith Lines Widow Pension Testimony, November 14, 1836**

Judith Lynde or Lines a resident of . . . Brookfield (who being by reason of bodily infirmity unable to attend Court) aged Eighty years the 14th. day of January last . . . She is the widow of John Lynde or Lines a black man who [was] a soldier in the War of the Revolution . . . her . . . husband died at Brookfield . . . in July 1828.

#### **Concerned Judge Regarding Judith Lines' Pension Request, November 28, 1836**

Sir Herewith I forward to the Department the declaration of Judith Lines . . . I have been unable to ascertain by positive proof from records or from witnesses who were present at the marriage the absolute time of the marriage

The testimony of Mr. & Mrs. [Diah and Zeruah] Hebard, [Peres] Tracy and Parish [sic, possibly meant to be Reuben Peck] all go to show that she must have been married before the close of the war—There is no family record and by a letter herewith forwarded I am convinced there is no record in the Town Clerks office in Colchester Con[necticut]. & that there can be no record found made by the Justice who married her

Should the Department require positive or record proof in this case I fear the claimant will fail, although I think there can be no doubt of the fact of her marriage some time previous to the close of the war, such as being in the Army &c. Her own story in short is this She married Jeffords when 17 yrs. Old & lived with him 3 years 11 months when he died, that she was a widow a month or two more than four years when she was married to Lines, that there was no wedding that she & Lines went to the Justice who married them, Lines then belonged to the Army but she thinks his time was about out & he afterwards enlisted for she thinks during the war

I apprehend from enquiry of aged person they were not in those days very particular in the records of marriages of persons of colour Lines was black & his wife a mulatto

I have no doubt but the decision of the Department in this case as in others will be as favourable as the rules will admit for the applicant.

#### **Judith Lines Widow Pension Testimony, March 14, 1837**

I Judith Lines of Brookfield in Orange County & state of Vermont . . . say that I was born in Con. in the town of Windham, and that when I was seventeen years of age I married a man by the name of James Jeffords in the month of April [1773] . . . he died in March [1777] by whom I had three children one son after the decease of . . . Jeffords . . . I lived a widow four years [and four months] . . . & was then married to John Lines in Colchester Con. By one Esqr. Watrous—The first Child I had by my last husband was not born until we had been married about four years—I further . . . say that the next summer after I got married . . . [my husband] sent for me to him I think the place was called the Highlands / at that time my . . . husband was a waiter for Col. Sherman & while at the camp I had the small Pox—I think I staid about 3 or 4 months—I further . . . say that my husband had a certificate of his marriage from Esqr. Watrous but it is probably lost I have not seen it for several years . . . I further testify that my youngest son died of a wound recd. in the last war, his name was Benjamin, the wound was recd. at the Battle of Chippewa.