

Pension Application for James Forbes

S.44847

Montgomery County SS

James Forbes of the Town of Oppenheim in the County of Montgomery and State of New York being sworn doth depose and say that he belonged to the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and served in the Regiment of Colonel John Lamb (1) being the Second Regiment of the New York Artillery for the term of seven years three or four years of which time he served as second Sergeant and the remainder of the time as a private soldier that he entered in the fall of one thousand seven hundred and seventy five in the company of Captain Alexander Hamilton (2) and served one year that in the beginning of the year one thousand seven hundred an seventy seven his reinlisted into the company of Captain John Doughty (3) in Colonel Lamb's Regiment of Artillery being the same Regiment he served in under Captain Alexander Hamilton and continued therein during the war and was honourably discharged in one thousand seven hundred and eighty three at West Point In the State of New York that his discharge and warrant have been lost that part of his officers are dead and he is unable to procure the affidavits of the others not knowing where they live. That he is in indigent circumstances and stands in need of assistance from his country for his support that he has made diligent searches in the town he resides and the adjacent towns and cannot find any of his Fellow soldiers whom he could apply to for their affidavits in support of his application and further this deponent saith not.

(Signed with his mark) James Forbes

Signed and acknowledged this thirteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighteen before me James Hildreth one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for Montgomery County and State of New York.

State of New York

Montgomery County SS

On the 15th day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & twenty personally appeared in open court in the court of common pleas in and for the County of Montgomery, being a court of record proceeding according to the course of the common law and having the power of fine and imprisonment. James Forbes aged sixty five years last October residing in the said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows to vizt. He first enlisted in the City of New York in a company commanded by Capt. Alexander Hamilton and served for one year at the expiration of which he enlisted for during the war in Captain Doughty's company in the second Regiment of Artillery commanded by Colo. John Lamb and served in that corps during the war some part of which time he was sergeant that he made a declaration and was placed on the pension list on the thirteenth day of April 1818 & that the number of his certificate is 1417 And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the eighteenth day of March 1818 and that I have not since said time by gift

sale or in any manner dispose of my property or any part thereof with intent thereof so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed the 18th of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust of me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed & by me subscribed.

That I am by trade a shoemaker but am too infirm to obtain thereby the necessary support of myself & family that my family consists of myself and a wife aged sixty three years who is also considerable infirm and my son George aged sixteen years who is unable to do anything towards supporting myself or wife by reason of being subject to fits & otherwise infirm.

(Signed with his mark) James Forbes

Subscribed & sworn to in open court this 15th day of June 1825.

Jno. McCarthy, Clerk

Schedule of Property to wit:

Real Estate I have none. Personal Estate to wit. An old sett of shoemakers tools, three pots, one tea kettle, one bake pot, one frying pan, five chairs, one bed six knives & forks six plates three shoats. One looking glass, and the necessary clothing for myself & family & some other usable articles of household furniture.

(Signed with his mark) James Forbes.

State of New York

County of St. Lawrence SS.

At a Surrogates Court held in & for the County aforesaid at Potsdam in said county on the tenth day of May AD 1854 before said court personally appeared James Forbes who being duly sworn in open Court deposeth and says that he (the said deponent) resides in the Town of Oswegatchie in said County, that he is Sixty Six years of age and that he is the son and only heir living of James Forbes deceased late of Morristown in said County and of Margaret Forbes deceased late of Morristown aforesaid, who during the lifetime of said James Forbes was the lawful wedded [wedded] wife of said James Forbes and who after the death of James Forbes was & remained his widow until her death. And deponent has been informed & verily believes by his father, the said James Forbes, that he, James Forbes, the Elder was a soldier in the Army of the United States during the war of the revolution & served during the whole of said war as an orderly sergeant.

And deponent knows that his father the said James Forbes, obtained a pension for such services from the United States in or about the year 1818 & continued to draw said pension until & to the time of his death which occurred and took place upon the 20th day of November 1839 which pension was at the rate of ninety six dollars per year, for & during said time & was neither increased or diminished during said time.

That deponents said father at the time he first obtained the said pension resided at Oppenheim afterwards called St. Johnsville, County of Montgomery, State of New York.

And deponent further says that he has been informed by his father & by his mother, the said Margaret Forbes and he has also seen & Examined many times a Family Record, once belonging to said James Forbes which has been in deponents possession until of late years and deponent has diligently looked for the same where he supposed it to be & protracted search for said record, failed in finding the same by which record he also is informed and he has also been informed by this Father that the facts therein stated are correct and deponent believing states that the said Margaret Forbes was married to the said James Forbes on the fifteenth day of November in the year 1783 by the Reverend Mr. Rosegrant of the town & County of Herkimer in said State—and of the children born to none are living except this deponent although besides this deponent there was born to them two sons and one daughter and deponent supposes & believes that they died without issue or heirs except himself.

And deponent further says that there is no record of the marriage of his father & mother and of their death as stated and of the birth of deponent being their son as stated other than a family record which is referred to as aforesaid & which deponent believes to be lost: that this Register or Record was a family register or record in the family of this deponent & that of his father for as long as the memory of this deponent reaches.

That he has been told by his father that the said record or register was written in the handwriting of one George Rhine at the request & by the direction of deponents father said James Forbes the elder, and the said record has been in the possession of this deponent since the death of deponents father the said James Forbes.

And deponent further says that his mother, the said Margaret Forbes died at Morristown aforesaid on the 9th day of January 1842.

And deponent further says that the same James Forbes the father of deponent & Margaret Forbes the mother of this deponent during the life time of said James Forbes & until his death lived together as husband & wife and were accustomed to speak of each other as thus related to each other and in the neighborhood where they resided were generally known and respected as husband & wife.

(Signed) James Forbes

Subscribed and sworn in open court at the date first above mentioned & I certify that I believe the said deponent from his appearance is to be of the age above stated & to be the man he represents himself to be in the foregoing deposition. In witness whereof & have hereunto set my hand and the seal of this court. Benjamin G. Baldwin, Surrogate.

End Notes—S.443847—James Forbes

1. John Lamb was appointed Colonel on January 1, 1777 of the Second Regiment of Continental Artillery.

2. In the Proceedings of the Provincial Congress on DIE JOUIS, 10th HO, A.M. March 14th 1776 “A Certificate of Stephen Badlam, Capt. Of Artillery, was read and filed; he thereby certifies, that he has examined Alexander Hamilton and judges him qualified to command a Company of Artillery.—Ordered, that the said Alexander Hamilton be and he is hereby appointed Captain of the Provincial Company of Artillery of this Colony.” On DIE MARTIS, A.M. April 2d 1776 “Therefore ordered that Capt Hamilton be directed to place & keep a proper Guard of his Company at the Records until further Order.” On MONDAY MORNING MARCH 17th 1777 “Mr. Morris requested the Sense of the House relative to the Artillery Company lately commanded by Captain Hamilton. Thereupon resolved that the said Company be permitted to enlist in the service of the Continent [sic] and Mr. Morris inform Capt. Hamilton thereof.” Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York, ed. Bertold Fernow, Vol. XV, State Archives, Vol I., Weed Parsons and Company, Printers, Albany, N.Y. 1887, pp 84, 92-93 & 147.
3. On March 1, 1777, Captain Alexander Hamilton was appointed Aide-De-Camp to General George Washington and the company being allowed to become part of the Continental Artillery they joined Lamb’s Regiment and Captain John Doughty’s Company. According to Captain Doughty’s muster roll that James enlisted as a sergeant for during war. The company was in the Battles of Brandywine, PA on September 11, 1777 and Germantown, PA on October 4, 1777. James does not mention these battles but the muster rolls for those time periods give casualties for those dates and places. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 118, folder 41, National Archives, Washington, D.C.