

Pension Application for Frederick Lepper or Lapper, Leppard, etc.

W20447 (Widow: Mary)
Montgomery County SS.

On this third day of June 1837 personally appeared before the undersigned Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County aforesaid Mary Lepper a resident of the town of Amsterdam in the County aforesaid aged Eighty five 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 July 4th 1836,—That she is the widow of Frederick Lepper who was a private in the Militia of the State of New York in the Revolutionary War—but that the knowledge she has of her said husband's services in said war is derived from traditionary evidence in some or from the facts and circumstances dictated to her by her husband and other persons serving in said War at the time of such service and since which she believes verily which is that he served & done duty at various times & places in said war all of which times and places she does not now recollect—but he was called out in the service under Captain Win (1) and Colonel Willet's (2) Regiment in the year 1777 and served nine months called out in the year 1778 under Capt Gerrit Putman (3) & the same Colonel and served at that time nine months—called out in the year 1780 under Capt. Victor Putman (4) & served nine months & all the above service was done in the regiment commanded by Colonel Willet. She further states & believes that her said husband was inlisted at the periods above stated—She further states that she was taken prisoner (5) by the Indians & carried to Canada & remained a Prisoner thirteen months but owing to old age, cannot recollect the year she was made a prisoner—She further declares that she was married to the said Frederick Lepper on the 10th day of January 1777—that her said husband the aforesaid Frederick Lepper died on the 16th day of April 1820 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period—as will more fully appear [part of document appears to be missing] (Signed with her mark) Mary Lepper

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year aforesaid written before me. John Hand, a Judge of the Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York
Montgomery County SS.

On this third day of June AD 1837 personally appeared before me John Hand a Judge of the County Courts of this county aforesaid Jacob Lepper of the Town of Amsterdam in the said County, aged Eighty Six years, who being by me duly sworn—and upon his oath doth depose & says—That he was well acquainted with and is a brother to Frederick Lepper deceased who is named in the annexed declaration of his widow, Mary Lepper—and knows that said Frederick has done service at various places and at various times in the war of the Revolution—this deponent has se [sic seen] said Frederick—go from his home in said War at several times--& return home and he said at that time he had been in service in said War—nine months under Captain Putman and nine month under Capt. Winn and nine months under Capt Shaver (6)—this deponent was also a private in said war, but deponent served under Capt. Sever (7) & others- and this deponent has examined a declaration made by said Mary Lepper hereto annexed and believes the statements made in said declaration there—and this deponent further says that he was present when the said Mary Lepper was married to the said Frederick Lepper—on or about the 10th day of January A.D. 1777—and that he was present when her husband the said Frederick Lepper died on the 16th day of April 1820 (8)—and that she the said Mary has remained a widow ever since the day of the said Frederick's death. (Signed with his mark) Jacob Lepper

Sworn to and Subscribed on the day and year above written before me John Hand a Judge of the Montgomery County Courts.

Letter dated April 26, 1932, replying to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to Frederick and Jacob Lepper, soldiers of the Revolutionary War. Their histories follow. Frederick Lepper W.20447

The data furnished herein are obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War claim for pension, W.20447, based upon the military service of Frederick Lepper in that war.

Frederick Lepper, while a resident of Johnstown (9), Canajoharie District, Tryon County (which was later Montgomery County) New York, enlisted in 1777 and served during the years 1777, 1778, 1780, 1781, and 1782, nine months in each year, as a private under Captains John Winn, Bradbick (or Bradbig) (10), Garrett Putnam, Shaver, Abner French and Jacob Diffendorff (11), and Colonels John Harper and Marinus Willett in the New York Troops.

He died April 16, 1820 His age is not stated.

The soldier married in Herkimer County, New York, that part which was later called Warren, Mary, whose maiden name was not stated. They were married in January, 1775, or January 10, 1777, both dates given by the soldier's widow Mary. The soldier's brother, Jacob Lepper, who was present at their marriage, stated that they

were married January 10, 1777. Said Jacob was aged eighty-six years in 1837 and resided in Amsterdam, New York. Statements also appear in the claim that soldier's widow, Mary, was taken prisoner by the Indians during her husband's service, carried to Canada with her second child and held thirteen or fourteen months or three years, a prisoner among the Indians.

Soldier's widow, Mary, was allowed pension on her application executed June 3, 1837, at which time she was aged eighty-five years and resided in Amsterdam, New York. In 1840, it was stated she was aged eighty-six years.

She died March 14 or March 18 (both dates appear in the claim), 1843.

The following children survived her: Jacob Frederick or Jacob F. born May 11, 1777, the oldest child; Hannah, wife of Joseph Lepper; and Mary or Polly, wife of Joshua Stearns, all of Amsterdam, New York; Margaret or Peggy, wife of Lawrence Hoak or Hough, of Springfield, Otsego County, New York; and Catharine, wife of Henry Bolsom or Balsom, of Brutus, Cayuga County, New York. In 1846, Jacob Frederick Lepper was deceased. Frederick Lepper was administrator of the estate of Jacob Frederick Lepper, no relationship of Frederick to Jacob Frederick shown.

End Notes—W.20447—Frederick Lepper

1. Frederick enlisted as a private on August 10, 1776 in Captain John Winn's Company of Tryon County Rangers. The company was discharged on March 27, 1777.
2. Marinus Willett was not associated with the ranger company. Willett was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment on November 21, 1776. The regiment was stationed at the Highlands area until March and April of 1777 when the regiment was ordered to garrison Fort Schuyler (Fort Stanwix).
3. Garret Putman was appointed Captain on May 11, 1780 in Lieutenant Colonel John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies. Frederick's name appears on Captain Putman's pay roll as a private. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 74, folder 112, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. Victor Putman served as a Lieutenant in Captain Isaac Bogart's Company in Harper's Regiment in 1780. In 1781, Victor served as a lieutenant in captain Garret Putman's Company in Lieutenant-Colonel commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. Frederick did not serve in the company or regiment in 1781.
5. Mary was taken prisoner on August 2, 1780 in Captain Joseph Brant's Raid on the Canajoharie District in Tryon County.
6. Lieutenant John C. Shafer of Colonel Willett's Regiment in 1782. Frederick enlisted as a private in Captain Abner French's Company in Willett's in 1782. When captain French retired in November, Lieutenant Jellis A Fonda was appointed Captain in his place.
7. Captain Jacob W. Seeber's Company, Fourth company, in Colonel Ebenezer Cox's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
8. Frederick died in the Town of Amsterdam and is buried in the cemetery on Lepper Road.
9. Johnstown was in the Caughnawaga District and Frederick didn't live in Johnstown.
10. Frederick served as private in Captain John Breadbake's Company of Tryon County Rangers in 1778. The company was under the command of Colonel Morris Graham. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 74, folder 106, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
11. Frederick most likely served in Captain Henry Dieffendorf's Company, Fifth Company in Colonel Cox's Regiment. Captain Dieffendorf was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. A muster roll for this company has not been found. First Lieutenant Jacob Dieffendorf, Henry's brother, appointed Captain in place of Henry and was commissioned as captain on March 4, 1780. Frederick's name appears on a pay roll for Jacob's Company. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 89, National Archives, Washington, D.C.