

Pension Application for John Lepper

W.20433

To the Hon. John C. Calhoun Secretary of the Department of War of the United States.

The petition and declaration of John Lepper of the Town of Minden in the State of New York and a resident citizen of the United States aged fifty five years of age & up wards on oath setteth forth & declares that in the month of December 1778 he entered as a private in Captain Davis (1) Company in Col. Livingston's Regiment of the New York Line of Continental Troops on the Continental Establishment, for during the War of the Revolution that he entered to serve in said Regiment & in Cortlands New York Regiment (2) until the close of the war when he received an honorable discharge at Newburgh in the State of New York on the 6th day of June 1783, his discharge was signed by his Excellency the Commander in Chief & had a merit annexed to it which said discharged is now lost.

That he has never received any pension from Government & that he was at the Siege of Yorktown (3) in Virginia & in several skirmishes, and he furthers says that he is now so poor that he has no property & is in such reduced circumstances that he is absolutely in need of assistance from the country for support, that he is advised that it is in the power of the Secretary of the War Department to place him on the pension list, & he prays that he may be placed there accordingly & is duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed) John Lepper.

Sworn & Subscribed this 3d day of April 1818 before me. James S. Campbell one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Otsego in the State New York.

State of New York

Mont: Com: Pleas SS

On this 15th day of June 1820 personally appeared in open court the said court being a court of record within the contemplation of the Act of Congress proceeding according to the principles of Common Law having the power of fine and imprisonment in said county of Montgomery John Lepper aged fifty nine years on the 22nd day of May last resident in Minden in said county who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare he served in the Revolutionary War as follows. Viz. In Colonel Wysenfeldt (4) and Philip Van Cortland's Regiments Captain Davis company when in Wysenfeld's Regt and Captain Israel Smiths (5) Company when in VanCortlandt and the New York Line and that the date of his original declaration was the 3d day of April 1818 and the number of his pension certificate which he has received is 1467. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I was not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress [?] to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and navel services of the United States in the revolutionary war passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any properties or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

(Signed) John Lepper (6)

Sworn to and declared on the 15th day of June 1820 in open court. [?] J. McCarthy
Clerk

Real Property none either in possession, reversion, remainder or expectancy

Personal Property—I have of an acre of ground on which I have a small block house and Barn for which I pay twelve dollars a year in shoes as long as I am able to make the same. 2 cows \$25.00, 2 pigs 2.50, & 1 sheep 9.00, 3 pots and Kettles 5.50 1 wash tub .37, 1 table 1.50,

1 small stove & pipe 12.00, 4 chairs 1.00, 1 chest .75, 3 cups & 3 saucers .37, 12 plates-.75 3 knives & forks .31, 10 spoons .62 ½, 1 churn .75, 1 small spinning wheel \$1.25, 1 set shoemakers tools 2.00, 12 pewter basins 62 ½, 4 plates .50, Amt carried \$64.81, 1 bowl .6, 1 tumbler .10, 1 Tea pot .31, 1 tea kettle 62 ½, 1 wooden pail, 25, 1 small looking glass 87 1/2 , 2 lambs \$1.00, 1 [pig or keg?] .50, 1 calf 1.00, = \$64.81 amount brot \$69.53

I owe the following persons the following monies to Robert Hale \$40.00, to George Ferguson \$18.50, to John Warner \$18.50, to Wm. Windham 6.00. I am a shoemaker by trade and have there in family a wife who is sixty two years of age and is very feeble and a hired girl nine years of age. I have no other means of subsistence except the pension and being old and troubled with Rheumatism am unable to do much at it as I am almost blind and further saith not. (Signed) John Lepper

State of New York
Montgomery County SS

On this sixteenth day of February 1839 personally appeared before me David F. Sacia a Judge of the County Court of the County of Montgomery aforesaid of the Degree of Counsellor at Law in the Supreme Court of said State Margaret Lepper a resident of the town of Minden in the County and State aforesaid aged seventy eight years on the second day of August last past who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836— That she is the widow of John Lepper who was a Private Soldier in the Revolutionary War and was on the Pension list under the said act at the rate of Ninety six dollars per annum as will appear from the papers on file in the War or Pension office that the certificate of her husband John Lepper was delivered to the agent for paying pensions at Albany and therefore the same is not hereto annexed—She further declares that she was married to the said John Lepper on the first day of April one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight at Palatine in the county aforesaid by the Revd Abraham Rosencrantz; that her husband the aforesaid John Lepper died on the 4th day of December 1836 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed and that previous to her marriage she was Margaret Rotnour.

(Signed with her mark) Margaret Lepper

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me—D.F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts & Counsellor in the Sup. Court.

State of New York
Montgomery County SS

I certify that I am previously acquainted with the above named Margaret Lepper that she is reputable & her declaration is entitled to full credit & that she is unable to attend court to make this declaration by reason of bodily infirmity—that she made her mark to the above declaration because she could not write – Dated 10th February 1839. D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts & Counsellor in said court.

Letter in the pension application folder dated February 28, 1930, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim W. 20433, it appears that John Lepper was born May 21, 1761, place not stated.

He enlisted in December 1778, place not given, and served as a private in Captain Davis' Company, in Colonels Weissenfels' and Livingston's New York Regiments; and in Captain

Israel Smith's Company, in Colonel Philip Van Cortland's New York Regiment, and was in the siege of Yorktown and several skirmishes, and was discharged June 6, 1783.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 2, 1818, at which time he was a resident of Minden, Montgomery County, New York.

He died December 4, 1836.

The soldier married April 1, 1778 at Palatine (which was afterwards called German Flatts) Montgomery County, New York, Margaret Rotnour who was born August 2, 1760 She was allowed pension on her application executed February 16, 1839, at which time she was a resident of Minden, New York.

There are no further data on file relative to family.

Very truly yours,

Karl D. Church, Commissioner.

End Notes—W.20433—John Lepper

1. John enlisted as a private for during war in Captain John Davis' Second Company in Colonel Henry B. Livingston's Fourth New York Continental Regiment on December 6, 1778.
2. On January 1, 1781 the Second New York and Fourth New York were consolidated into a new or commonly called the fourth establishment Second New York. Colonel Philip VanCourtlandt who commanded the Second New York since November 21, 1776 remained in command of the regiment.
3. The Yorktown, Virginia Campaign was from September 28 to October 19, 1781.
4. Frederick Weissenfels was appointed the Lieutenant Colonel of the Second New York on November 21, 1776. He was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant on January 13, 1779 of the Fourth New York as Colonel Livingston had resigned. Weisenfels commanded the Fourth New York until January 1, 1783. In 1781 and 1782, he commanded a regiment of New York State Levies.
5. Israel Smith served as Captain in the Fourth New York. When the two regiments were consolidated Smith was transferred to the Second New York. In 1783, this company was the fifth company. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 69, folder 21, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. John was allotted 600 acres of land on July 7, 1790 in Township 9, 2 lots for his military service. FROM: The Balloting Book and Other Documents Relating to Military Bounty Lands In The State of New York, Albany, Printed by Packard & VanBenthuyzen, 1825, Page 111.