

Pension Application for Alexander McKay or McCay

W.20214 (Former Widow: Eleanor Johnston)

Letter in folder dated August 13, 1934, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to Alexander McKay, who served with the New York Troops, War of the Revolution.

You are furnished herein the histories of two soldiers named Alexander McKay, the only soldiers of that name who served with the New York Troops that are found on the Revolutionary War records of this office; the data given were obtained from the papers on file in the respective claims for pension, W.19848 and W.20214, based upon their military service in the Revolutionary War.

Alexander McKay

W.20214

The date and place of birth and the names of the parents of Alexander McKay (the name also appears as McCay) are not shown in the zappers in the pension claim.

Alexander McKay enlisted, place not shown, served in Captain Moody's Company of Artillery, Colonel Lamb's Regiment; length of service not shown: it was stated that he was at Fort Montgomery in 1777, where he was taken prisoner and held for ten months before being exchanged; also that when there was an Indian uprising on the borders of Ulster County, New York, he was called out in July or August, 1782 and served eight or ten days in Captain Cornelius Masten's company, Colonel Jansen's New York Regiment.

The soldier married May 1, 1782, place not stated, Eleanor Graham.

He died in September, 1794 or 1795 (both dates appear) and his widow, Eleanor, married, date not given, Robert Johnston, who died March 13, 1831.

Eleanor Johnston was allowed pension on account of the services of her former husband, Alexander McKay, on her application executed August 31, 1838, at which time she was aged eighty-two years and resided in Shawangunk, Ulster County, New York.

No reference was made to children.

In 1838, one Phebe McCay was aged forty-four years and resided in Shawangunk, New York; no relationship to the family was shown.

In 1838, one Jane Graham, who was born in January, 1767, resided in New York City and stated that Alexander McKay and Eleanor Graham were married at her father's home, but did not state any relationship and there are no further family data.

Alexander McKay

W.19848

The date and place of birth and the names of the parents of Alexander McKay are not shown in the papers in the pension claim.

[Handwritten note in the margin] *I did not state report because there was another Alexander McKay, who might have rendered part of the service, so used only what witness & widow said.*

Alexander McKay enlisted in New York City, before the occupation of that city by the British, exact date not shown and served to the close of the war, at least two years in all; a part of his service was rendered as a musician in Colonels Philip Van Cortland's and Pawling's New York Regiments.

The soldier married in 1783, exact date not given, Phebe Ann, Mmaiden name not shown. They were married in New York City by the rector of Trinity Church.

Alexander McKay died between 1801 and 1804, in New York City, and his widow married about 1808, Alexander Hmphrey, who died about 1821.

Phebe Ann Humphrey was allowed pension on account of the services of her former husband, Alexander McKay, on her application executed July 15, 1844, while residing in New York City, and aged over eighty-two years.

The widow stated that when her husband, Alexander McKay, died he left her with nine children, all of whom died shortly after the death of their father. She did not give the names of her children and there are no further family data.