

Pension Application for John Newkirk

S.23,333

State of New York
Orange County SS.

On this third day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county now sitting John Newkirk a resident of the town of Montgomery in said county and state aged eighty years who being first according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a Captain in the Militia some time in the year 1776 having a commission as such officer under an appointment of the Committee of Safety which was then in operation and signed either by Patrick Barber or Malcom afterwards Col. Malcom (1) as chairman of said committee and which commission is now lost.—

That under said commission in the latter part of the year 1776 and beginning of the year 1777 he served two months in the Regiment Commanded by Col. McLaughrey (2) at Peramus, Ramapo; English neighbourhood and Hackensack in the State of New Jersey—that Col. Moses Philips was also then in command.—That under said commission in the fall of the year 1777 he served two months at Newburgh and New Windsor on the North River in Orange County aforesaid guarding those places and the Inhabitants under Cols. Newkirk and Phillips and was dismissed when General Winds (3) came with a Regiment from the State of New Jersey.

That in the spring of the year 1778 he served under the Commission as a Captain herein after mentioned two months commencing in April at Warwarsink in the county of Ulster in the State of New York under Col. John Cantine guarding a Military Store and sending out scouting parties.

That he received a Captains Commission signed by George Clinton then Governor of the State of New York dated at Poughkeepsie in the State of New York on the 23d day of March 1778 (4) and which is hereunto annexed and served as a captain under said Commission as last above stated and as is herein after stated.—

That in the summer of 1778 in July or August he served one month of Lackawack in said County of Ulster and State of New York under Col. Cantine (5) building a fort.

Also at another time in said year 1778 one month at Hunk in said county of Ulster guarding the parties under said Col. Cantine and at an other time in said last mentioned year about one month at Surenkil Guarding the parties in said County of Ulster.

That in the Spring of the year 1779 served with about twenty of his company one month at West Point in the County of Orange in the State of New York building a Fort under the command of Henry Wisner acting Inspector of the Militia at that time.

That in the early part of the fall of the year 1779 he served one month at Mamakating in said county of Sullivan in the State of New York under Col. Cantine and late in the fall of the same year about one month under Col. Newkirk at Peenpack in said County aforesaid guarding the frontiers.

That under said commission from the Committee of safety he and about twenty of his company and Capt. Cudeback (6) with about twenty of his company were ordered out by said committee in pursuit of some Tories at Cocheton in the said county of Sullivan and was out Seven days, but in what year cannot state with certainty.

That in the year 1778 as he believes he with about twenty of his company and Captain Blank (7) with about forty of his company was out at Pepacken in the County of Delaware in the State of New York. Eight days engaged in bringing in the frontier settlers but cannot state the time of the year with certainty.

That in the fall of the year 1778 he served one month at Hunk in said County of Ulster in the place of Capt. Watkins (8) and that the Captains and sometimes with the consent of the field officers relieve and serve for each other.

That in July 1778 he served ten days and in October of the same year Six days (but when or what duty he cannot state) according to the copy of a pay roll which is hereunto annexed—that said pay roll is a true paper made out by the applicant in his own hand writing at the time it bears date and for the purpose therein stated the original being sworn to before a magistrate and left with the possession where he received his pay for his services at that time.

That at another times but in what year cannot accurately state he was out with his company and stationed in and about a place called Barker's Land and Barker's Kill in the now county of Sullivan and continued there in service two months—that Col. Newkirk was then in command and his company officers were Lieutenant John English and Ensign Timothy Coleman (9) —that it was in the spring of the year and at the time of planting corn.—

That before Fort Montgomery (10) was taken by the English he was frequently out with his company and several times ordered out in cases of alarms to go to the North River and West Point—that some times he marched there and staid a few days and was to then dismissed and at others was to return before getting to the place of destination and that this kind of service was more than one month.

That he was in no battles except a brief with the Indians at a place called the Chestnut woods in said county of Ulster in the year 1778; when serving for Capt. Watkins at Hunk as above stated in which his Lieutenant John Graham (11) and two of his company were killed.

That in answer to the interrogatories propounded by the war department he states that he was born on the 17 of January 1752 in the town of Montgomery now so called (then Wallkill) in Orange County and State of New York—that he has no record of his age but has seen it in his brothers bible—That when called into service he resided in the town of Mamacating in the now county of Sullivan NY where he continued to reside till about six years last past, during which time he has resided in Orange County N. York and now resides in Montgomery in said county of Orange—that all his services were performed as a captain of the Militia and under commissions as stated

in this Declaration and that the officers with whom he served are stated herein as far as he recollects—that Johannis Miller, Laurence Crest, John Whits & Edward Blake can testify as to his services as a Revolutionary Soldier he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Signed) John Newkirk

Sworn to and Subscribed [rest cut off]

The following is on a separate piece of paper, no idea where it fits in.

That when he marched to Ramapo the troops were expected to be joined by General Lee, (12) but before they annexed them Gen. Lee had taken the Hessians in New Jersey and our troops met some of them who had been engaged with the Hessians returning—That the troops with which he marched staid at the places mentioned for the purpose of guarding the country further just before this time Cap. Hopper & Judge Fell had been taken by the English & carried to N. York, that he returned in the winter probably in February (1777) through a deep snow.

Reply dated October 1, 1930 to a letter of inquiry.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.23333, that John Newkirk was born January 17, 1752, at Montgomery (then Wallkill), New York.

While residing in Mamakating, New York, in 1776, he was commissioned captain of militia, land served at various times under Colonels Malcolm, James McClaughry, John Cantine, Henry Wisner, Newkirk, and Phillips, was in an engagement with the Indians at Chestnut Woods, Ulster County. He served in all seventeen months.

He was allowed pension on his application executed December 3, 1832, while a resident of Montgomery, Orange County, New York.

He died in Orange County, New York, June 2, 1840, leaving a widow, whose name is not stated. She died prior to 1832.

The only surviving children in 1852 were: Henry Newkirk, who was seventy-four years old and living in Sullivan County, New York; and Leah, wife of George Smith, who was also living in Sullivan County, New York.

End Notes—John Newkirk—S.23333

1. William Malcom (Malcolm), Major in the Second Battalion of Independent Companies of New York City in 1776 and by June of 1776 he is listed as a colonel.
2. Colonel James McCloughrey of the Second Regiment of Ulster County Militia. The other officers of the regiment were Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob Newkirk and Major Moses Philips.
3. William Winds, Brigadier General of the New Jersey Militia.
4. John was appointed Second Lieutenant on October 25, 1775 in Captain Mathias Felter's (Felton) Company in the Second Ulster. He is listed as such until the end of March in 1777. The other company officers commissioned on the same date is First Lieutenant Matthew Neely.
5. Colonel John Cantine of the Third Regiment of Ulster County Militia.
6. Captain Abraham Cuddeback of the Second Ulster.
7. I have not found a Captain Blank serving in New York.
8. Captain Samuel Watkins of the Second Ulster. He resigned on February 1, 1780, and it was accepted on March 3, 1780.
9. Lieutenant John English was listed in the June 1778 muster roll as the Second Lieutenant but in the July Muster Roll he was a private. The Ensign in June was Archibald McBride and in July he was a sergeant. Timothy Coleman was the Ensign in Captain Benjamin Veal's Company in the Second Ulster. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 75, Folder 126, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Fort Montgomery was captured on October 6, 1777.
10. Lieutenant John Graham was killed on September 16, 1778.
11. Major General Charles Lee of the Continental Army.