

Pension Application for Henry Cornelius

W.1149 (Margaret) Henry died December 28 or 29, 1846.

B.L.Wt.3773-160-55

Bradford County

State of Pennsylvania SS.

Be it remembered that on the eighteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen before me George Scott one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Bradford in the State of Pennsylvania personally appeared Henry Cornelius of the township of Towanda in the County of Bradford and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a resident Citizen of the United States and after being duly sworn according to law doth declare and say, that (according to the information given him by his parents) he was born the twelfth day of March 1760 in the town of Kinderhook, County of Columbia and State of New York and that he entered into the armies of the United Colonies of America raised for the defence of American Liberty and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof and was duly enlisted a private soldier in the latter part of the winter 1778 under Lieutenant Hoddenbora in the first Regiment of New York Continental Troops or line Commanded by Colonel Vanscaik, for during the war and in the summer of 1778 he with about thirty more soldiers were stationed as a covering party to a Company of hay mowers who were cutting grass for the horses belonging to the army and he together with others were taken prisoners at Fort Stanax [Stanwix] by a part of Indians and his arms were tied behind him by the Indians and kept tied for three weeks and the Indians kept him six months and then delivered him up to the British and the British then put him in Jail at Montreal where he stayed some length of time and then broke out of Jail, but was taken again by the British before he could escape and was again committed to Jail at Montreal and had cuffs put on him, in which situation he lay six months before the hand cuffs were taken off, and he remained in Jail until the latter part of the summer 1783 when he broke Jail again and made his escape and when he returned home the war was about to terminate and he did not join the army again therefore he got no discharge.

He further saith that he hath no pension allowed him by the laws of the United States to his knowledge and if any such exists he doth hereby fully and entirely release the same to the United States and that by reason of his reduced circumstances in life he needs the assistance of his country for support. (Signed with his mark) Henry Cornelius

Sworn and subscribed this eighteenth day of April AD 1818 before me. George Scott.

Letter in folder dated December 28, 1932, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you designate Ambrose Vincent, as the Revolutionary War soldier, whose pension record you desire, and in which you state that he was a pensioner.

A careful search of the records has been made in your behalf and no claim for pension found based upon service in the Revolutionary War of an Ambrose Vincent.

The name of Henry Cornelius has been selected from your former letter as another record in which you are interested, and his history follows.

The data furnished herein were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, W.1149, based upon the Revolutionary War service of Henry Cornelius.

He was born March 12, 1760 at Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York, the names of his parents are not given.

Henry Cornelius enlisted at Schodack, New York, in the winter of 1778 and served as a private under Lieutenant Hardenbergh in Colonel G. VanSchaick's First New York Regiment; he was taken prisoner, the following summer by the Indians at Fort Stanwix, his arms were tied behind him for three weeks and was held captive by the Indians for six months, when turned over to the British, who put him in jail at Montreal, he broke jail but was captured by the British and again placed in Montreal Jail, and

handcuffed and kept in that manner for six months, was in jail until the summer of 1783, when he made his escape and returned home, the war then about over he never returned to the service.

Henry Cornelius was allowed pension on his application executed April 18, 1818, then a resident of Towanda, Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

He stated in 1820 that his wife, Mary, was fifty-eight years of age, there are no further details in regard to her; and in 1820 he also referred to his daughter, Mary, aged seventeen years, and to his step-mother aged eighty years, her name not given.

The soldier, Henry Cornelius, married in June, 1822 or 1834 in Durell Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, at the house of Samuel Vanderpool, Margaret Vincent, the widow of Ambrose Vincent, her former name was Margaret Johnson.

In 1836, the soldier, was residing in Elmira, Chemung County, New York, with a son and his family, and in 1840 he and his son had both moved back to Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

His widow, Margaret, was allowed pension on account of the services of her husband, Henry Cornelius, on her application executed September 16, 1853, then aged about eighty-four years and living in Durell Township, Pennsylvania.

In 1855 she was living in Monroe Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

It is not stated that Henry Cornelius and his wife, Margaret had children.