

Pension Application for Alexander Hamilton

W.13402 (Widow: Elizabeth) Elizabeth Schuyler, daughter of General Philip Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton were married December 14, 1780 in the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the City of Albany. Alexander died July 11, 1804. [History says that Alexander was mortally wounded in a duel with Aaron Burr at Weehawken on the Hudson, and died in New York City the following day, July 12, 1804, this differs from Elizabeth's version of the story.]

B.L.Wt.2279-450

State of New York

City and County of New York

On this twenty seventh day of November 1837 personally appeared before me Samuel Jones Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the State of New York in and for the City and County of New York.

Elizabeth Hamilton a resident of the said City aged 79 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 Third Section of the Act of Congress passed July 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of Alexander Hamilton deceased, who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army of the United States in [virtue?] of a commission from the Congress of the Confederation bearing date, the first day of March 1777.

That her said husband served in the family of General Washington as aid de Camp until the sixteenth day of February 1781, when he resigned his situation as aid, but retained his commission and in August of the same year was appointed to the command of a Corps of Light Infantry – was at the head of the American party which stormed one of the Redoubts at Yorktown and continued in the Army until the third day of November 1783 about which time he received by a Resolution of Congress a Brevet [Brevet refers to a warrant authorizing a man to hold a higher rank temporarily] as Colonel, having served in a military capacity—Since the 14th day of March 1776—on which day he was commissioned a Captain of Artillery.

She further declares that she was married to the said Alexander Hamilton on the 14th of December 1780. That her aforesaid Husband died on the 11th of July 1804, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period was will appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. (Signed) Elizth Hamilton

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before. S. Jones, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the City of New York.

In the Name of God Amen.

I Alexander Hamilton of the City of New York Counsellor at law do make this my last will and Testament as follows. First I appoint John B. Church, Nicholas Fish and Nathaniel Pendleton of the City aforesaid Esquires to be Executors and Trustees of this my will and I desire to them their heirs and assigns as Joint tenants and not as Tenants in common & all my Estate real and personal whatsoever and wheresover upon Trust at their discretion to sell and dispose of the same at such time and times

in such manner and upon; such terms as the survivors and survivor shall think fit and out of the process to pay all the debts which I shall owe at the time of my decease in whole fi the fund shall be sufficient proportionally if it shall be insufficient and the residue if any then shall be, to pay and deliver to my Excellent and dear wife Elizabeth Hamilton.

Though if it shall pleas God to spare my life I m[?y] look for a considerable surplus out of my present property, yet if he should speedily call me to the eternal world, a forced sale as is usual may possibly render it insufficient to satisfy my debts. I pray God that something may & remain for the maintenance and education of my dear wife and children but should it on the contrary happen that & time is not enough for the payment of my debts, I entreat my dear children if they or any of them shall ever be able to make up the deficiency. I without hesitation commit to their delicacy a wish which is dictated by my own.

Though conscious that I have too far sacrificed the Interests of my family to public & avocations & on this account have the less claim to burther [burden] my children, yet I trust in their magnanimity to appreciate as they ought this my request. In so unfavourable an event of things the support of their dear mother with the most respectful and tender attention is a duty all the sacredness of which they will feel. Probably her own patrimonial resources will preserve her from indigence. But in all situations they are to bear inside that she has been to them the most devoted and best of mothers.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my hand the ninth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred four. Alexander Hamilton.

Signed, Sealed, published & declared as and for his last will and testament in our presence who have subscribed the same in his presence the words "John B. Church" being above interlines—Dominick T. Blake, Graham Newell, Theo. B. Valleau.

City and County of New York. SS. Be it remembered that on the sixteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and four personally came and appeared before me Silvanus Miller Surrogate of said County Dominick T. Blake of the City of New York, Esquire and Theodorus B. Valleau of said City Gentleman, who being duly sworn on their oaths declare that they heard Alexander publish and declare an Instrument in writing purporting to be will of the said [missing] ninth day of July instant/ the preceding whereof is a true copy, that at the time thereof he the said Alexander was of sound disposing mind and memory to the best of the knowledge and belief of them the deponents that their names subscribed to the said will as witnesses are of their own proper hands writing respectively which they subscribe as witnesses there to in the presence of Testator. Silvanus Miller

(Private No. 114)

An act for the relief of the Widow and other heirs of Alex'd Hamilton.

Be it enacted &c. That the Secretary of War cause to be issued to Elizabeth Hamilton, Widow, and the other heirs at law of Alexander Hamilton, who was a Lt.

Colonel in the Revolutionary Army, a bounty land Warrant for 450 acres of land, in lieu of a Warrant for a like quantity issued in the name of said Widow and heirs the 30th July 1813, land numbered 622, and which said last mentioned Warrant never has been surrendered to the General Land Office for the purpose of being satisfied, but as represented to have been lost or mislaid. Approved March 3d 1839.