

Pension Application for James Kip

R.5982

Hannibal March 10, 1856.

Hon. A.Z McCarty.

Dr Sir

The Petition I sent you asking for a pension for the services of James Kip, and which you had the goodness to present to the House of Representatives on the 4th Inst. contained the history of his services, and reference to the evidences in the pension office to fully and clearly that I am somewhat at a loss what more I can add by way of explanation.

James Kip in his declaration refers to a number of aged and respectable men who were then living in Johnstown, and who he says could testify as to their opinion of his having been a soldier of the Revolution; several did so testify and among them the Rev. & venerable Abraham Van Horne; and I have never heard of a man who had the least doubt of it, excepting the Court of Pensions.

One of those to whom he refers was Thomas Sammons for several years a member of Congress, land Frederick his brother; a very interesting history of these men is contained in the "Life of Brant"—also in a history written by Mr. Hammond—They were near neighbors of my father and I was well acquainted with them—and also with the others to whom he refers and with the witnesses who testified as to his services, and I know them to be men of the highest respectability—

And all the witnessed whose affidavits have been forwarded are persons of strictest veracity.

In regard to the case of Gen. Steuben, the facts were those the British were about 12 miles from Fishkill over the hills or mountains and Gen. Washington had an Army at Newburgh,—The british Gen. sent a Sergeant and 12 men to Fishkill for the purpose of getting possession of the person of Gen Steuben by stratagun and carrying him a captive to the British army—These men came on horseback one or two at a time but all in about two days and reported themselves to be deserters from the british army.

They all put up at a Public house kept by a widow whose name I have forgotten—Gen. Steuben and James Kip occupied separate rooms in the house of Mr. Swart or Swarthout, whose family also occupied a part of the house. —It was separate from the public house by a small common or open yard, --In the rear of the house was an Orchard in which the aids of Gen. Steuben had a tent in which they lodged, the Gen's guard in the barn and the gen alone in his room with a sentinel in front of the door.

Mr. Kip was the first to penetrate the designs of these men he found they lived high had plenty of money were well mounted and highly equipt—he could see no signs of their being deserters he finally discovered their whole plan which was to have one of their number to get in the Genl. Employ if possible, --who actually went to the Gen. Steward who suspected nothing but said to the man that his services were not wanted. Mr. Kip heard the conversation from these and other facts about it learned

that they intended to enter his room that night while he was asleep and by some contrivance prevent him from making a noise carry him out, and by the aid of their best horses carry him away.

The Gen had retired very early in the evening.—They were to dispose of the sentinel as best they could—

Mr. Kip took with him Mr. T, and went to the Gens room awoke him and gave him the information. The Gen sent for them, they all came and while he was conversing with them, the Gens guard came up suddenly and surrounded the whole group. He then told them that he understood their designs, and said he had a good mind to hang every one of them on that Tree, pointing to a Tree near at hand. He finally ordered the commissary to sell their horses and equipments fast with for what he could get—gave them each a little cash and then said to them that he would let them go on condition that they would separate and that if any two or more of them—after one hours time—should be found together they should be hung on that Tree, forthwith, and when they were released they separated in every direction.

Shortly after this, I think it was the next day Gen Washington came there and after hearing the case excepting the letting of the men go, and said they ought to have been kept as prisoners of war.

After the war Gen. Steuben was in the City of New York and chancing to meet my mother & sister upon the walk nearly opposite the building in which the british imprisoned many of their prisoners, he said if it had not have been for James Kip he Gen Steuben would have been confined in that prison.

It was for this service that Gen Washington gave him a Lieutenants commission;--We can find no record fi this, but the facts are nevertheless so.

Please write me about the matter when convenient,--I will cheerfully communicate any information in my possession. Yours truly, John L. Kip Hon
A.Z. McCarty.

My father lost considerable property in the City of New York by means of the British Army in the Revolution. He also lost a farm in Johnstown worth five or six thousand dollars soon after the War of 1812, by being security for others, about the time the manufacturing speculation, -- and was left destitute in his old age.

Letter in folder dated August 9, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you state that the Jacobus (James) Kip in whom you are interested was born December 20, 1760 in New York City, married March 10, 1774, Cornelius Ryckman, served in the Revolutionary War from New York City or from Dutchess or Orange County, New York, and died November 19, 1834 in Johnstown, New York, and that an application for pension was made about 1853. On account of his Revolutionary War service.

The Revolutionary War records of this office show that James Kip of Montgomery County, New York, made an application for pension under the Act of Congress approved June 7, 1832, at which time he was aged eighty-one years, and that in his application it was stated that when he entered service as a volunteer in

1777, he was a resident of New York City, that he served six years as an artificer at Peekskill and Fishkill, a part of his service being under Colonels Chevers and Radock. It is shown further that his claim for pension was not allowed as the kind of service rendered by him was not provided for in the Act of Congress under which he applied.

In 1854, John L. Kip of Hannibal, Orange County, New York, renewed the claim for pension for service of his father, James Kip, in the Revolutionary War. Only fragments of correspondence in regard to that claim remain on file in this office, as the application papers of James Kip and those of his son, John L. Kip, were removed from the files in 1856, to be used by Congressional Committee in the effort to obtain the pension, which however, was never granted, because of the nature of the service by said James.

In the bits of correspondence left on file, it was stated that James Kip was subjected to many sacrifices and losses during the Revolutionary War. Because of the fears of his wife, whose name is not shown, at the time the British took possession of New York, he fled from his well-furnished home on Braddway, the next block south of the Metropolitan Hotel, and when the British Army evacuated New York City, this house which had been occupied by them, was destitute of furnishings. It was stated further that James Kip was instrumental in intercepting a plan of the British to capture Colonel Steuben at Fishkill, for which service General Washington gave him a lieutenant's commission. It was stated further, that James Kip owned property in Johnstown, New York.

John L. Kip referred to his sister, but did not give her name.

A further search of the records shown that James Kip of Montgomery County, New York, in 1832, made affidavit in that year in support of the claim for pension (S.21462) of a John Ryckman, of Johnstown, Montgomery County, New York. James Kip stated that John Ryckman "in the summer of 1776, came to the armory and worked with him until the next summer of 1778 and was gone about eight months and then returned to the armory where he remained and worked with this deponent (meaning Kip) in the armory in repairing land making implements of war", and that he (Ryckman) "did serve in the armory the space and term of three years".

This office has no further information in regard to James Kip.