

Pension Application for Leonard Kretzer

W.21541

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this 11th day of September 1838 personally appeared before the Hon. Abraham Morell, David F. Sacia, Samuel A. Gilbert, John Hand and Stephen Yates Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County Elizabeth Kretzer a resident of Ephratah in the County of Fulton (associated with the said County of Montgomery for Judicial purpose) and State of New York aged seventy six years who being first duly sworn doth depose and according to law doth on; her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of Leonard Kretzer who was a corporal Boatman and private in the army navy and militia of the United States during the War of the Revolution. That he entered the service of his country as a corporal in the company of Rangers under the command of Captain Christian Getman (1) on the 8th day of August 1776 and served therein until the 27th day of March 1777 when they were discharged. That in the Spring of 1778 he enlisted in the Boat service under Captain John Lefler (2) and served until the first day of Jany following a period of nine months, that in the campaign of 1780 he served a term of nine months in the company of Volunteers under Captain John Cosselman (3) in Coll. Jacob Klocks Regiment of Militia and in 1782 a tour of nine months in Captain Abner French (4), company of State Troops in Colonel Willetts Regiment that he left the Service on the 1st of January 1783—All of which service she has reason to believe will be found satisfactory by reference to records of the War Department and the proof hereto annexed and on which she rests her claim.

She further declares that she was married to the said Leonard Kretzer on the sixth day of January seventeen hundred and Eighty four. That her husband the aforesaid Leonard Kretzer died on the 12 day of April Eighteen hundred twenty eight, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four—(Signed with her mark) Elizabeth Kretzer

Sworn to and Subscribed on the day and year above written in open court. A. J. Comrie, Clerk
State of New York
Montgomery County

On this 29th day September 1838 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County, Henry Kretser who being duly sworn doth depose and swear that he has made diligent search for records in relation to the marriage of Leonard Kretser and Elizabeth Kretser (now his widow) but has not been able to find any of the records of the church where he has reason to believe the entry should have been made show no records of marriage from the year 1782 to 1785 and the said Leonard Kretzer having never learned to write kept no family record. Deponent further swears that he is the son of the said Leonard Kretzer and Elizabeth Kretzer that he is now in the fifty first year of his age and knows of his own knowledge that his father and mother were man and wife previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four and that Elizabeth Kretzer the present applicant for a pension has remained the widow of the said Leonard Kretzer since the time of this death, which was on the 13th day of April Eighteen hundred and twenty eight and further this deponent says not. (Signed with his mark) Henry Kretser

Subscribed & sworn this 29th day of Sept. 1838 before Henry M. Livingston J.P.
Reply to a letter of inquiry dated April 16, 1929

Reference is made to your request for information relative to Elizabeth Kretcher [sic] who received a pension as the widow of a soldier for the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, W.21541, based on the military service of Leonard Kretser.

The date and place of birth of Leonard Kretser and the names of his parents are not shown.

He enlisted August 8, 1776, place not stated, and served until March 27, 1777, as corporal in Captain Christian Getman's New York Company. In the spring of 1778 he enlisted under Captain John Lefler in the bateau service and was discharged January 1, 1779, having served nine months. In 1780 he served nine months in Captain John Casselman's company in Colonel Jacob Klock's New York Regiment. In 1782 he served nine months in Captain Abner French's company in Colonel Willett's New York New York regiment and left the service the first of January, 1783. (5)

He married January 6, 1784, Elizabeth Cool, the daughter of Philip Cool.

Leonard Kretzer died April 12 or 13, 1828.

His widow, Elizabeth, was allowed pension on her application executed September 11, 1838, at which time she was seventy-six years of age and was living at Ephratah ,Fulton County, New York, and she was living there in 1843.

It was stated that they reared a large family of children but the only name given was that of a son, Henry, who stated in 1838 that he was in the fifty-first year of his age.

In 1838 one Hannah Cool stated that she was present at the marriage of Leonard Kretzer and Elizabeth Cool but she did not give her relation to Elizabeth.

The papers in this claim contain no further data relative to the soldier's family.

End Notes—W.21541—Leonard Kretzer or Kretser, or Cretser, etc.

1. Christian Getman was the Captain of the Second Company of Tryon County Rangers. Elizabeth is correct as to Leonard's rank and time of enlistment and discharge. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 74, folder 103, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Leonard enlisted as a private in Captain John Leffler's Company of Bateamen on April 24, 1778. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 122, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. Leonard enlisted as a private in Captain John Casselman's Company of Tryon County Rangers on May 14, 1780. As of August 31, he had served 110 days at £ 3..4..0 per month for a total of £11..14..8. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 75, folder 121, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. Abner French was a captain in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1782. Captain French returned in November and Lieutenant Jellis A. Fonda was promoted to Captain of this company.
5. Leonard also served in the militia in between the other stated services. Leonard served as a private in Captain Christopher W. Fox's Company, the Third Company in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. On September 29, 1780, Captain Fox was commissioned a Major in Colonel Klock's Regiment and First Lieutenant Henry Miller was promoted to captain of the company.