

Pension Application for Thomas Lennington, or Lemington or Lennington

W.20439 (Widow: Sarah) Married 20 Apl 1777, Thomas died 2 April 1829.

1st To the Hon'ble the Legislature of the State of New York.

The petition of Thomas Lennington Humbly Sheweth –

That your petitioner took an early and active part in the late war in the service of this State in the expedition against Canada. That he was appointed an Ensign in Col. Nicholson's Regiment, and was sent with the command of a party on a dangerous excursion, which was to attempt to take a noted character named Ross, and a quantity of stores that he was loading a vessel with for the British, at a place called St. Ann's down the river St. Lawrence.

That after a considerable deal of fatigue and trouble he took the vessel laden with stores of various kinds, and was proceeding up the river towards our Camp, when before he could reach it the camp was removed, in consequence of which he was pursued by the British and unfortunately the vessel was retaken and himself and party made prisoners, and remained in captivity in Quebec and Halifax upwards of fourteen months, and suffered many and severe hardships.

That before he was exchanged the Regiment to which he belonged was disbanded, and he was left out of the arrangement and that what pay he received after his return was in Continental money which was at a great Depreciation.

That after his exchange he performed various kinds of public service and continued so to do until the peace.

That your petitioner is reduced to the necessity of parying your honorable Body to make him such compensation in bounty lands for his sufferings services and disappointments as you in your wisdom may think just. And your petitioner will ever pray. (Signed) Thos. Lenington

New York Dec'r 26, 1792.

2nd This is to certify that the bearer Mr. Thomas Lenington did voluntarily enlist in my Regiment in Capt. Nicholson's Comp'y in the year 1775 and did the duty of a Sergt until the Regt was dismissed in Canada; and by his good behavior he was promoted to an Ensign in Col. Nicholson's Regt—in which station he served faithfully until the 8th of May 1776, at which time he was taken prisoner below Point Levi, when on command and before he was exchanged the said Regiment was disbanded by which means he was left out of the service. Given under my hand the 22d day of March 1780. (Signed) James Clinton B.Gl State of New York, Secretary of State's off. Albany, July 2d 1847.

Letter in folder dated April 19, 1940, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Isaiah Leming (Leaming, Liming, Lemmons) of Monmouth County, New Jersey, Thomas Lenen or Lemmon of Monmouth or Essex County, New Jersey—other than Lieutenant Thomas Leaming from Cape May, whose record was furnished you—and Thomas Lennington, Captain and conductor of Team Brigade, Quartermaster.

A search of the Revolutionary War records of this office has been made and no claim for pension or bounty land found based upon service of Thomas Lenen or Lemmon cited by you nor of any Isaiah Leming; various spellings of the surnames were searched. The record of Thomas Lenington, the name shown Lennington and Lemington, is furnished you herewith as found in pension claim, W.20439, based upon his service in that war.

Thomas Lenington, a resident of Springfield, New Jersey, enlisted in 1775 and served as sergeant in Captain John Nicholson's company, Colonel James Clinton's New York regiment in the expedition to Canada; the next spring while in Canada, he was promoted ensign of Captain Ezekiel Cooper's company, Colonel Nicholson's New York regiment; he was in command of a party which captured a vessel with supplies near St. Anne on the St. Lawrence River but that vessel was retaken by the British May 8, 1776, when he and his party were taken prisoners and were held in Quebec and Halifax for fourteen months. He served also as captain in the Quartermaster Department, had command of a vessel on the North River; he served in various capacities until peace was declared.

He applied December 26, 1792 for the bounty land which was due from the State of New York on account of his service in the Revolutionary War.

Thomas Lenington resided in Albany, New York, between the years 1806 and 1812. He held the office of U. S. Inspector of the Port of Albany under President Madison. He was a director of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Albany. It was stated that he had a son, who was an attorney at law, and a married daughter with children at the time he resided in Albany, but the names of said children were not designated.

This officer died April 2, 1829, survived by his widow, Sarah Lenington.

Sarah Lenington, this widow, was allowed pension on account of his service in the Revolutionary War on her application executed March 6, 1839. He was then a resident of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, aged eighty-three years. She was living there in 1851.

When Sarah Lenington made application for pension in 1839, she gave the date of her marriage to Thomas Lenington as April 20, 1778. However at a later date, she stated that she married Thomas Lenington in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, in the year of the commencement of the war and that shortly after their marriage he went on the expedition to Canada and that he was absent from his family for the greater part of his military service; she stated further that she lived in Bull's Ferry, New Jersey, during the war and that her house was frequently searched by the British and Tories.

In order to establish proof of her marriage to Thomas Lenington and that she was his widow, as required by the pension laws, the following were submitted.

A copy from the baptism records of the First Presbyterian Church of New York city, dated January 28, 1793—"Sarah Lenington, adult; Isaiah Lenington, son of Thomas Lenington and Sarah Sickerton, born February 26, 1779". Also—the following inscription on the tombstone in the Brick Church Yard, Beekman Street, New York—"Sarah Lenington died August 28, 1790, aged four years, eleven months, seven days."

In 1839, Abby (Abbe) Wolf, daughter of Sarah and Thomas Lenington, was a resident of New York City, aged forty-two years upward; she made affidavit in support of her mother's claim for pension. In 1839, John Edmund Thorne, grandson of Thomas Lenington and his wife, Sarah, was a resident of Brooklyn, New York, aged twenty-four years. He stated then that he had frequently seen the family Bible record of the marriage of his grandparents, and that about two years previously (1837) that record had been torn from said Bible by "an heir of his grandfather", and an enemy of his children, from malicious motives", but he did not state the name of that heir. No reverence was made to any other marriage of Thomas Lenington.

In 1839, it was stated that Isaac Lenington, the son of Thomas Lenington and his wife, Sarah, had died in New York City, at the age of forty years.

Sarah Lenington was granted an increase of pension on a new certificate which was issued May 19, 1851, under the Act of July 4, 1836. Her old certificate was forwarded by one S.A. Pugh. She was paid at the New York City Agency.

[NOTE: There are 114 pages in this folder.]