

Pension Application for John Lepper, Lepperd, Llapper, Lepherd, etc.

W.8043

B.L.Wt.26261-160-55

State of Pennsylvania

County of Erie SS

On this 17th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court of the Common Pleas for the County of Erie aforesaid it being a court of Record now sitting—John Lepper a resident of the Township of Greenfield in the County of Erie and State of Pennsylvania—aged sixty six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated. At the time he entered the herein after mentioned service he resided in the town of Johnstown in the county of Tryon (now Montgomery) in the State of New York.

To the best of the deponent's recollection-sometime in the month of August 1780 (1) he entered the service of the United States in a company commanded by Capt. Harrison as a substitute for John Devou—to serve for the remainder of the term of his enlistment which was about two and a half months. We were marched to Forts Herkimer and Plain and employed in keeping guard at these places—also at the frontiers of the Mohawk country. Some Continental troops were at the same time stationed at those forts. The deponent continued in that service on the frontier until the two and a half months had expired when he was discharged and returned home.

In the month of April 1781, he entered a company commanded by Capt. French (2) to serve for the term of nine months. Our company was stationed at the different posts on the Mohawk country performing military duty at them and also at Forts Herkimer Plain and Hunter; there were some Continental troops stationed at these forts the same time. While on this tour of service, we had a battle with the British near Johnstown—Col. Willett commanded the Americans amounting to about four hundred men. Major Ross (3) commanded the British what was supposed amounted to six hundred men. Six men out of our company were killed. We took twenty one prisoners and as they (the British) retreated the same night we pursued them next day at Canada Creek we took them and fired upon them Capt. Butler—a British officer was killed.

Before the expiration of the nine months for which he had enlisted, the deponent enlisted in a company commanded by Capt. James Cannon (4) to serve for a tour of two years service. When the nine months had expired, the deponent was transferred to Capt. Cannon's Company in Col. Willett's Regiment. In this service he was stationed in the before mentioned forts—in the same section of country. Almost every week we had skirmishes with the enemy but of too small consequence to deserve a narration in this deposition. The deponent served fourteen months in this company when peace was declared—the company broke up and he was discharged—which was the month of January 1783. (5) On this tour we did not receive our full allowance of rations and after we were discharged—it was ordered that we should receive money as payment for the rations which had been withheld from us—The deponent sent his discharge to N. York City in order to receive the money due to him for rations which money he received but the discharge was not sent back to him.

In years subsequent Capt. Cannon gave the deponent a discharge as a substitute for the one which he had sent to N. York and had not been returned to him—This last discharge the deponent sent to Albany where it has also been retained.

The deponent has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom to prove his services in the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

In answer to Interrogatories says he was born in 1766 in Tryon County New York—Has no record of his age—Since the war he lived twelve years in Batavia and six years ago he moved from Batavia to his present residence in Erie County.

That Joseph Berry & William Wilson of Greenfield Township, Erie County can prove his good character.

(Signed John Lepper)

Sworn & Subscribed this 17 Oct 1832 in open court. Edwin [blot] Pro.

The court propondered the following interrogatories to the applicant.

1. Where and in what year were you born?
2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?
3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?
4. How were you called into service, where you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?
5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.
6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?
7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

State of Iowa

Clinton County SS

On this 17th day of March AD 1854 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Mary Lepper aged Seventy three years, a resident of the County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the widow of John Lepper who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. That he was honorably discharged. That his discharge was burned by a fire which consumed their house and she further declares that the said John Lepper was a pensioner at the time of his death and that she has not received anything from the government since that time.

She further states that she was married to the said John Lepper in Stone Robby[Stone Arabia] in the State of New York on the 28th day of August AD 1803 by one Crats [Rosencrantz] a Lutheran Preacher, there is not public or private record of her marriage, and that her name before her said marriage was Mary Brame that her said husband died at DeWitt in the County of Clinton in the State of Iowa on the 17th day of August AD 1840 and that she is still a widow. She makes this declaration from the purpose of obtaining the pension money to which she may be entitled under the act of [rest of page is cut off]

This witness is entitled to full faith and credit.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the day and year above written.

Thos. G. Butterfield, Justice of the Peace.

State of Iowa

Clinton County SS

Jacob Lepper of the Town of Center, County & State aforesaid, personally appeared before me the undersigned Aylett R. Cotton, a Notary Public in and for said County duly authorized to administer saith affidavits, who being by me duly sworn in hath says I am of the age of forty three years I was born October 23rd 1810. That I am the oldest male child living of John & Mary Lepper. That I know the foregoing Mary Lepper to be the identical person who executed and signed the foregoing affidavit that she is still living and a widow.—And I further depose and say she lived and cohabited with my said father John Lepper as his lawful wife and continued to do so to the day of his death the 17th day of August 1840. And I further depose and say that I know my said father John Lepper to be a pensioner of the Untied States of America, that I at the request of my said mother Mary Lepper in the month of May 1841 I took the pension papers of my said father and at her request carried and delivered them to George W. Jones at the City of DuBuque in the State of Iowa and drew the pay due him at the time of his death. And I further depose and say that said Jones was a pension agent of the United States at that time or acted in that capacity and I further depose and say that I have no personal interest on the application of my said mother Mary Lepper aforesaid.

(Signed) Jacob Lepper

Attest W.S. Chandler, George W. Blodget

I certify the foregoing affidavit was subscribed & sworn to before me, this 29th day of July 1854. And that said Jacob Lepper is a Justice of the Peace of his township in said County & State and is a man whose veracity is beyond question and that he is fully entitled to credit.

I further certify that I have no interest in this application. Aylett R. Cotton, Notary Public of the State of Iowa in & for Clinton County.

State of Iowa

Clinton County SS

On this 5th day of April A.D. 1855 personally appeared before me A Notary Public in and for said County and State (duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes Mary Lepper, aged 74 years a resident of the town of Center in the County of Clinton State of Iowa who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the widow of John Lepper a private in the War of the Revolution and that her name is inscribed on the Pension List of the United States and that she now has the certificate of Pension from the Department of the Interior bearing date the 20th day November AD 1854 Recorded in the Pension Office on the Roll of Pensioners, under act of February 3d, 1853. Page 240, Vol. A. To the proof on file with the Department in that case as also [for crossed out] to the record of said certificate, she begs leave to refer for proof of her marriage with the said John Lepper of his service in the War of the Revolution of his death and the widowhood of claimant at the time of issuing her said certificate of Pension as aforesaid, and she further declares that she is now a widow and is now unmarried.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the “Act of Congress approved March 3d 1855.

(Signed with her mark) Mary Lepper

Attest

Isa N. Lepper

Edwin Morey

Geo. G. Blodget

We Isa N. Lepper and Edward Morey, Residents of Clinton County in the state of Iowa upon our oaths declare that the foregoing declaration was signed and acknowledged in our

presence by Mary Lepper widow of John Lepper that she is now a widow and unmarried and that we believe from appearances and statements of the applicant that she is the identical person she represents herself to be.

Isa N. Letter, Edwin Morey

Letter in pension application folder

June 29, 1939

The Quartermaster General

Memorial Branch

War Department

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your request for the Revolutionary War record of John Lepper, who died August 17, 1840, in Clinton County, Iowa.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in claim for pension, W. 8043, based upon service of John Lepper, in the War of the Revolution.

John Lepper was born in the year 1766, in Tryon County, New York. The names of his parents are not given.

While a resident of Johnstown, Tryon County (which was later Montgomery County) New York, John Lepper enlisted sometime in August, 1780, served two and one half months as private in Captain Harrison's New York company. He enlisted about April 1, 1781, served nine months as private in Captain French's New York Company, was in the battles of Johnstown and Canada Creek, was transferred to Captain James Cannon's company, Colonel Marinus Willett's New York regiment, and continued in this service until discharged sometime in January, 1783.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 17, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Greenfield Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania, to which place he had moved from Batavia, New York.

John Lepper had moved in 1840 to Iowa, to be with his children, most of whom were living in Iowa.

He died August 17, 1840, in DeWitt, Clinton County, Iowa.

The application for headstone for John Lepper is returned herewith, as is, also, a copy of the application for pension of John Lepper, October 17, 1832.

Very truly yours,

A.D. Hiller, Executive Assistant to the Administrator

End Notes—W.8043—John Lepper

1. A John Devoe, Devoo, Defoe etc. has not been found as serving in Captain Joseph Harrison's Company or any other company in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1781. As John Lepper was born in 1766 he would not have been eligible to serve until 1782. Lepper's name does not appear in Captain Harrison's Company in 1781.
2. Abner French was appointed captain in Willett's Regiment in April of 1782. He retired on November 1, 1782 and Jellis A. Fonda was appointed captain in his place. Captain French on January 1, 1781 retired from the Second New York Continental Regiment and returned to his home in Warren's Bush, Tryon County. He appears to not have been serving in any regiment in 1781. Some pensioners claim to have arrived at Johnstown under French after the battle or the next day.

3. Major John Ross and Captain Walter Butler burned several settlements along the Mohawk River and arrived in Johnstown on October 25, 1781. John most likely marched to Johnstown under Captain Abraham Veeder of Colonel Frederick Visscher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781 and the Skirmish at West Canada Creek was fought on October 30, 1781.
4. John enlisted in Captain French's Company in 1782. Captain James Cannon also was in Colonel Willett's Regiment of 1782. On November 1, 1782, Captain French retired and Adjutant Jellis A. Fonda was appointed Captain of French's Company. According to Colonel Willett's Descriptive Book No. 4, No. 11105, Special Collections and Manuscripts, New York State Library, Albany, NY, the following is written on John Lepper: "Enlisted September 14, 1782 by P. F. Cortenious for 2 years 3 months and 18 days. Born at Stone Arabia. Age 16, Size 5 ft. 5 in, Complexion, Dark, Hair Brown, Eyes Brown, Occupation Labourer, Remarks Pock marked" [it appears that he had the small pox and was scarred.]
5. It is possible that he served as part of a detachment under Captain Cannon but he never was part of his company. John also was not discharged on January 1, 1783 but he was discharged on January 1, 1784. John appears on Captain Fonda's Payroll for 1783 as having served ten months and had been paid £26. . 60 of his wages and was owed £40. Captain Fonda retired from the service on November 1, 1783 and John was transferred to Captain Edward Conner's Company in Willett's Regiment. On Captain Conner's Payroll for 1783, John is listed as transferred from Fonda's Company and served 2 months. He was owed £13. . 30 in wages. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.