

Pension Application for Alexander Mackey

W.17091 (Widow: Elizabeth)

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress of the 7th July 1838 entitled an act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows & the acts & resolutions passed subsequent [?] amendatory & explanatory of said act.

State of New York

County of Albany SS.

On this 22d day of January 1844 personally appeared before me, Robert W. Murphy Esqr one of the Judges of Albany County Courts Elizabeth Mackey a resident of the Town of Renselaerville in the County of Albany aged seventy four years, who first being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows" and the several acts and resolutions of Congress amendatory & explanatory thereto & thereof. That she is the widow of Alexander Mackey who was a soldier in the army of the revolution, and for his services as such soldier was granted & received a pension under the act of June 7th 1832 which was afterwards reduced, and a new pension certificate granted for the sum of twenty two dollars per annum dated June 22d 1840 that this deponent has no documentary or other evidence of his services as such soldier but respectfully refers for evidence of such services to the record & proof on file in the Office of the Secretary of War, in the pension department of the City of Washington. She further declares that she was married to said Alexander Mackey on the twenty fifth day of December in the year 1785—at the Town of New Windsor in the County of Orange & State of New York, by the Reverend Nathaniel Close—a minister of the Gospel. Her maiden name before such marriage being Elizabeth Woolsey. And this deponent further says that she does not know, as there is any person living who was present at her marriage excepting Polly Kilbourn the sister of said Alexander Mackey & whose affidavit is hereunto annexed and this declarant further says that no parish record of said marriage was ever kept to the knowledge of this deponent that she has no record evidence of such marriage except the family record kept by said Alexander Mackey deceased, in the family bible, the leaf from which said Bible is herewith sent attached to the affidavit of Silas Mackey son of this declarant, & hereunto annexed—that the entry upon said leaf were made by Willet Mackey son of this declarant by the direction of said Alexander Mackey about 14 or 15 years ago, & the entry of such marriage & most of the other entries were then taken or transcribed from entries previously made in an old small family bible, then much worn & injured by long use, & which has since been worn out or lost from the possession of this declarant. And this declarant further says that her said Husband Alexander Mackey died at the Town of Renselaerville in the county of Albany & State of New York on the fifth day of October 1843—that she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1796, to wit at the time above stated, and that since the death of her said husband as aforesaid she has remained unmarried and his widow at Renselaerville aforesaid & further says not.

(Signed) Elizabeth Mackey

On this 22d day of January 1844 personally appeared before me Robert W. Murphy one of the Judges of Albany County Courts Elizabeth Mackey to me known & being by me duly sworn subscribed made solemn oath that the aforesaid declaration so subscribed by her & all the facts & matters therein set forth are true & correct & I further certify that said declarant is a person of credibility & good character & that her statements are entitled to full credit & belief and I further certify that from old age & bodily infirmity is not able to attend in open court to make her declaration. R. W. Murphy, Judge of Albany County Courts.

State of New York

Albany County SS.

On this 19th day of July 1832 personally appeared before me Joseph B. Moore a Judge of the County Courts of the County of Albany in the state aforesaid, Alexander Mackey a resident of the town of Rensselaerville in the County of Albany and State of New York aged 68 years and upwards; who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That he entered the said service in the Town of New Windsor in the county of Orange in the State of New York where he then resided in the months of April or May 1776 as a Fifer in Capt. John Nickols (1) company of Militia or Levies, and immediately marched to Peekskill on the Hudson River where the said company were first engaged in building Fort Independence and continued at that place until the fall of the same year, when he went up with the said company to a place near New Windsor, where the said company worked at the Cheval de frise's and he staid at this place until in the month of November of the same year when he was dismissed and then returned home.

In the month of April or May in the next year, he again entered the said service and enlisted as a Fifer in a company (the names of the officers he does now [sic, not] recollect) at New Windsor aforesaid and immediately marched in the said company to Fort Clinton where he joined a regiment which he thinks was commanded by a Colonel by the name of Paulding, (2) he continued at Fort Clinton doing the duty of a Fifer in the said company until a short time before Fort Montgomery (3) was taken, or at least four months when he was dismissed, and then returned home—the same fall he moved with his family to New Paltz in the (now) county of Ulster in the said State of New York.

That in the course of the next year he thinks in the spring/summer of 1779 he again entered the said service as a substitute for one Jonas Kelsey who belonged to a class and had to go for his class—that he went under the command of Lieut Scutt as a private to Haversink, Miniskink, and other places and was part of the time stationed at Lunenkill, thinks he served over two weeks at this time & perhaps a month & then returned home to New Paltz aforesaid.

In the fall of the year 1780 he again entered the said service as a substitute for his brother William Mackey and joined Capt. Vandenburg's (4) Company in Colonel Willet's regiment as a private at a place back of West Point where he and the said company were engaged in building huts and a blockhouse for the colonel; that they staid until snow fell, and was then ordered to march up the river to Albany, where he staid a short time, then went back to West Point where they were again directed to return back to Albany, and on the way to Albany & after landing at Newburgh he was discharged and then returned home, he was out in this campaign at least three months. In the month of April 1781 he again entered the said service at Poughkeepsie in the State of New York in Capt. Livingston's (5) Company and Colonel Paulding's regiment as a private and was immediately marched to Fishkill, and there went on board of a vessel and came up to Esopus in Ulster County, and then marched by land from Esopus to a place near the Catskill Mountains at the house of one Wnykoop where he and the said company built a fort, where he staid until the latter part of the season when he was exchanged and went to Poughkeepsie and joined Governor Clinton's Guards—and continued at Poughkeepsie at the guard house until he was discharged, after having served at this time at least nine months.

After he served his brother's time out as a substitute he received a written discharge, which is lost, that he has no documentary evidence to prove his service nor does he know of any person he can procure to testify to his services—except Jonas Kelsey and Josiah Baker who have made affidavits hereto annexed—That he resides 30 miles from the City of Albany where the Courts of Record for the County of Albany are held, that he has a very lame foot and is otherwise infirm, and is wholly unable to travel that distance to attend the court—He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, or any annuity, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State. (Signed) Alexander Mackey

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. J.B. Moore Judge of Albany County Courts.

Letter dated December 14, 1837, written in reply to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to Alexander Mackey, Senior and Junior, who enlisted in the State of New York. You state that the wife of Alexander Mackey Jr., was Elizabeth Woolsey.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in pension claim, W.17091, based upon the service of Alexander Mackey, in the Revolutionary War.

Alexander Mackey was born January 20, 1764 in New Paltz, Ulster County, New York. The names of his parents were not given, his father was living during the Revolution.

While a resident of New Windsor, Orange County, New York, Alexander Mackey enlisted sometime in April, or May, 1776, and served five months as fifer in Captain John Nichols' New York Company. He enlisted sometime in April or May, 1777, served four months as fifer in Colonels Pawling's and McClaghry's New York Regiment.

He moved in the fall of 1777, with his father's family (no names given) to New Paltz, New York, and served in the spring or summer of 1779, about one month as private under Lieutenant Scutt or Scott. He served as substitute for his brother, William Mackey, from sometime in October, 1780, three months as private in Captain Vanderburgh's company, Colonel Willett's New York Regiment. He enlisted sometime in April 1781, and was a private in Captain Gilbert Livingston's company, Colonel Pawling's regiment, after a service of six months, he joined Governor Clinton's Guard, in which he served three months. He later served in Captain Peleg Ransom's (6) Company, dates of this service not shown.

The soldier, Alexander Mackey, was allowed pension on his application executed July 19, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York where he had lived forty-six years. He died there October 5, 1843.

Alexander Mackey married December 25, 1785 in New Windsor, New York, Elizabeth Woolsey. She was born July 22, 1769, place not stated, nor were the names of her parents given.

The widow, Elizabeth Mackey, was allowed pension on her application executed January 22, 1844, then a resident of Rensselaerville, New York. She died September 14, 1849.

The children of Alexander Mackey and his wife, Elizabeth:

Nancy born January 24, 1789

Silas born July 13, 1791

Alexander born December 16, 1793

Daniel A. born April 12, 1796

Polly born October 2, 1798

Celicia born January 31, 1801

Willet L. born June 29, 1803

Eliza born February 15, 1806

Hannah born January 20, 1810

The following data relative to the marriage of the children are shown:

Nancy married June 16, 1805, Bethuel Reeve

Silas married January 5, 1811, Betsy Lee

Alexander married January 8, 1817 Claricy Eliot

Daniel A. married May 16, 1819 or 1823, Mary Wicks

Polly married May 4, 1817, William Lawrence

Eliza married January 16, 1823, Orin Wicks

Celicia married April 30, 1825, Elisha Lounsbury

Willet L. married March 14, 1827, Elizabeth Dean.

The following children were living in 1852—Nancy Reeve, Alexander Mackey, Daniel A. Mackey, Celicia Lounsbury, Willet L. Mackey, all residing in Rensselaerville, New York, Polly Lawrence residing in Yates County, New York and Silas Mackey residing in the State of Ohio.

Alexander Mackey, son of Willet L. Mackey, was living in 1877 in Rensselaerville, New York

Polly Kilbourn, sister of the soldier, Alexander Mackey, was living in 1844 in Rensselaerville, New York.

End Notes—W.17091—Alexander Mackey

1. John Nicoll was Captain of the Second Company, New Windsor Precinct in Colonel James McLaughrey's Second Regiment of Ulster County Militia. Alexander was about 12 years of age in 1776. Young boys who were musicians such as drummers or fifers could serve in the military with the father's permission. Sometimes they would be as young as eight years old and when they turned 16, they would serve as a private soldier carrying a musket.
2. Levi Pawling was the Colonel of the third Regiment of Ulster County Militia.
3. Fort Montgomery, New York was captured by the British on October 6, 1777.
4. William Mackey enlisted as a private on May 6, 1780 and he was discharged on December 15, 1780 from Captain Henry Vanderburgh's Company in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Fifth New York Continental Regiment. Unfortunately there is no indication on Vanderburgh's Muster Rolls that Alexander served at any time for William. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 70, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. Alexander's name appears in Captain Henry Pawling's Company in 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Albert Pawling's Regiment of New York State Levies. Captains Pawling and Gilbert J. Livingston were appointed on April 27, 1781. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 75, folder 134, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. Peleg Ransom Captain of the East District of New Paltz Company in Colonel John Cantine's Third Regiment of Ulster County Militia. On February 21, 1778, Cantine was commissioned Colonel of this regiment as Levi Pawling had been appointed First Judge of the Common Pleas Court.