

Pension Application for Duncan McEwen, McCown, McGowen, McGown, McEuen

W.17117 (Widow: Martha)

State of New York

Orange County SS.

On this 26 day of December 1839 personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County, Martha McEwen a resident of the Town of Wallkill Orange County and state aforesaid aged seventy five years who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits 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 Duncan McEwen who was a soldier in the war of the revolution that as she has been informed and believes to be true. Her husband the said Duncan M'Ewen entered the service of the United States in 1776 in a company commanded by Capt. Hasbrook (1) Col. Paulding Regt and served six months and in 1777 he served under Capt. John A. Hardenbergh (2) four months as a sergeant and in 1778 (3) he was in the Battle at Monmouth in the State of New Jersey and 1779 he was on the Frontiers against the Indians and in 1780 and 1781 he served on the frontiers under Capt. Burnet. (4) But this deponent is unable to name all the different tours of services or the officers names under whom her said husband served. And that she no documentary evidence in her possession of her said husbands service and must rely upon the records and such living witnesses as she may be able to find. She further declares that she was married to her husband the said Duncan M'Ewen on the 28 day of May 1783 by the Reverend Andrew King Minister of the Presbyterian Church in the Town of Montgomery then Ulster County but now Orange County and State aforesaid, that her name before marriage was Martha Dickerson and that her husband the said Duncan M'Ewen died on the 11th day of April 1808 and that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her husband the said Duncan M'Ewen that the marriage did not take place previous to his leaving the service but the marriage took place prior to the first of January 1794 viz at the time above stated. (Signed with her mark) Martha M'Ewen

Sworn & subscribed the day & year above written by making her mark she being unable to write before me. H. W. Elliott, Judge of Orange Com Pleas.

Letter dated April 24, 1934 written in reply for an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of Duncan McEwen, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, who died April 11, 1808.

The record of the above noted soldier is given herein as shown in the papers on file in pension claim, W.17117, based upon his service in that war.

Duncan McEwen was a Scotchman by birth, the date and place of his birth and names of his parents not shown, nor his residence at the time he enlisted in the war.

He enlisted and served in the New York troops as follow[s]: in 1776, five or six months as private in Captain Hasbrook's company, Colonel Pawling's regiment; in 1777 four months as sergeant in Captain John A. Hardenburgh's company; after that, he wintered at Valley Forge and was in the battle of Monmouth in June, 1778, under Colonels VanCortland (5) and Livingston; in 1779 and 1780, in defending the frontiers against the Indians under Captain Barnet and Colonel Lewis DuBois, in all about three months and three days.

The soldier married on May 28, 1783, in Montgomery, Ulster (later Orange) County, New York, Martha Dickerson; the wedding ceremony was performed by a Presbyterian minister.

Duncan McEwen died April 11, 1808, in Orange County, New York. It was stated that he was a tailor by trade.

Martha McEwen, soldier's widow, was allowed pension on her application executed December 26, 1839, at which time she resided in Wallkill, Orange County, New York. Martha McEwen was then aged seventy-five years, the date and place of her birth and names of her parents not shown. She died prior to May 8, 1841, the date now shown.

The names of the children of Duncan McEwen and his wife, Martha, are shown as follow[s]:

James McEwen born May 8, 1784.
Clara McEwen born December 9, 1785.
Nancy McEwen born December 30, 1787.
John McEwen born December 28, 1789.
William McEwen born January 24, 1792.
Martha McEwen born March 9, 1794.
Deborah McEwen born April 9, 1797.
Jane & Andrew McEwen born October 30, 1799.
Thomas C. McEwen born January 25, 1802.
Jesse McEwen born March 28, 1804.
Milton McEwen born May 11, 1807.

In December 1839, when the widow, Martha McEwen, applied for pension, John McEwen, aged fifty, was a resident of Wallkill, New York, but it was not stated that he was the son, John listed above. The son, Thomas C. McEwen was then a resident of Mamakating, Sullivan County, New York; in 1840, his address was Wurtsboro, in said Sullivan County.

The names of the children who survived their mother in May 1841, are shown as, James McEwen, Deborah H. Little, Jane T. Hultslander, and Thomas C. McEwen. Reference was made to other heirs, no names shown.

In December 1839, one David Dickerson was a resident of Mamakating, Sullivan County, New York, aged then eighty-three years; he stated that he had lived a near neighbor to Duncan McEwen from the time after the Revolutionary War until his death, but he did not state any relationship to Martha, the soldier's widow.

End Notes—W.17117—Duncan McEwen

1. Captain Jacob Hasbrouck Jun's Second New Paltz Company in Colonel Levi Pawling's Third Regiment of Ulster County Militia.
2. Captain John A. Hardenbergh's First New Paltz Company in Colonel Pawling's Regiment.
3. Duncan McGowen is listed as enlisting on May 5, 1778 for nine months in Captain Israel Smith's Fourth Company in Colonel Henry B. Livingston's Fourth New York Continental Regiment. McGowen was discharged on February 5, 1779. The Fourth New York was at Valley Forge and fought in the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey on June 28, 1778. Richard Allison enlisted on the same day; he was badly wounded and taken prisoner at Monmouth.
4. Duncan McCown is listed as a private in Captain John Burnett's Company in Colonel Lewis DuBois' Regiment of New York State Levies in 1780. In 1781, John Burnet was appointed on April 27, 1781 in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Albert Pawling's Regiment of Levies. Duncan's name is not on the muster roll, nor does his name appear on any other company muster rolls for this regiment.
5. Colonel Philip VanCortlandt commanded the Second Continental Regiment of New York. The Second New York was also at the Battle of Monmouth. Colonel VanCortlandt did not participate in the battle as he had been assigned to command a defensive position at or near the hospital.