

Pension Application for Henry K. Van Rensselaer

W.2199 (Widow: Nancy G.) Colonel VanRensselaer died in 1816. He was twice married, seven children in the first marriage and five in the second. Nancy was born 1775, 22 October. Nancy and Henry married in the year 1796.

B.L.Wt.31743-160-55

This is page 10 & 11 out of 192 pages in the pension. The handwriting is exquisite, suitable for any historic document.

To the Honourable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled.

The Petition of Nancy G. Van Rensselaer Widow of General Henry K. Van Rensselaer, late of the City of ;Albany Deceased respectfully represents:

That her husband the said Henry K. VanRensselaer was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army of the United States and rendered important services to his Country in the Revolutionary War.

That in the month of July in the Year One thousand Seven hundred and seventy seven he was Ordered by General Schuyler to take the command of about Four hundred men and proceed to a place a short distance North of Fort Ann, for the purpose of holding the enemy in check, who was then advancing from the North under General Burgoyne towards Albany. That he accordingly proceeded to the place indicated, being a narrow defile between Wood Creek on the East and a ledge of Rocks on the West, and there awaited the approach of the Enemy. He was soon attacked by a body of British Troops, Greatly superior in numbers to his own and after a severe action repulsed them, and prevented their further advance.

He then in pursuance of his Orders, made good his retreat and brought off with him several prisoners, among whom was a Captain Montgomery, a British officer and a nephew of our General Montgomery.

That in the said action your Petitioner's husband was severely wounded in the thigh, on account of which wound he was paced upon the pension list as an invalid pensioner; and in consequence of said wound he became a cripple and suffered much during the remainder of his life as will more fully appear from the detailed statements and testimony hereto annexed.

That the result of the said action with the Army was to delay their advance Southward several weeks, and thereby to enable the American Troops stationed at fort [Fort] George and in that Vicinity, to retire in safety to the main army under General Schuyler, with their military stores.

Your Petitioner further represents that her said husband notwithstanding his wound performed garrison duty from the third of May One thousand seven hundred and seventy nine until the first of January one thousand seven hundred and eighty as well appear from an authenticated copy of a certificate of Governor George Clinton hereto annexed.

Your Petitioner further represents that she was married to the said Henry K van Rensselaer (being; his second wife) in the month of April One thousand Seven hundred

and ninety six, and that her case is not provided for by the act of Congress of July fourth One thousand eight hundred and thirty six nor by that of July seventh One thousand Eight hundred and thirty eight granting pensions to the widows of Revolutionary Officers and Soldiers.

Your Petitioner further represents that her said husband died in the month of September One thousand Eight hundred and sixteen leaving her a widow with five young children.

That for some years before his decease he was in embarrassed circumstances and at the time of his death left her without any means for the maintenance and education of her children, and her own support, except the remnant of her patrimonial Estate the greater part of which had been expended subsequent to her marriage. That during the greater part of the time after their marriage her husband was so disabled by the wound received by him as above mentioned that he was incapable of attending in person to his pecuniary and domestic affairs (which was a principal cause of his embarrassments) and the care of the family devolved almost entirely upon your Petitioner and your petitioner in addition to the ordinary cares of her family was obliged in consequence of said wound ulcerating and breaking out, as stated in the testimony hereto annexed, to devote much time and attention in waiting upon her husband, especially during the latter part of his life, when she was deprived of the assistance of Servants owing to their strighted pecuniary circumstances.

Your Petitionary further presents that since the decease of her husband, she has been enabled by her own exertions and by the exercise of great scouring, to bring up and educate in a decent manner her children above referred to..

But that in consequence of increasing age and infirmities she is now unable to provide for herself and is in a great measure dependent upon her children for support none of whom are in affluent circumstances.

She therefore respectfully presents her case in connection with her late husband important and patriotic services at a most critical period of the Revolutionary War, as well as his subsequent services and sufferings, to the consideration of your Honourable Body, and respectfully prays that such pension may be granted to her, as the nature of the case may appear to your Honourable Body to warrant, and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

Dated Albany December 1838. Nancy G. Van Rensselaer.

Letter in folder dated February 1, 1925?, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to Nancy C. Van Rensselaer, second wife of General Henry Killian Van Rensselaer, who served in the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, W.2199, based upon the military service of Henry K. Van Rensselaer in that war.

The date and place of birth and the names of the parents of Henry K. Van Rensselaer are not shown.

On July 21, 1772, Henry K. VanRensselaer was commissioned major of the 2nd Battalion of the regiment of militia for the manor of Rensselawewyck, of which Abraham Ten Broeck was colonel.

Early in the spring of 1776, Henry K. Van Renssealer was commissioned lieutenant colonel in the New York Troops and took command of a post opposite West Point, called Fort Independence; a little later, date not given, he joined General Washington's army at White Plains, served during the campaign of 1776, and was wounded on the head by a spent bullet at Brunswick, New Jersey; he was then returned to the northern army upon the request of General Schuyler and served as lieutenant colonel in Colonel Stephen J. Schuyler's New York Regiment in the engagement near Fort Ann, in July 1766, he was seriously wounded by a ball which entered his thigh, shattered the bone and lodged so near the socket of the hip that amputation was impossible nor were the surgeons able to extract the ball (it was taken out after his death), he was carried by his men to Fort Edward and then removed to Albany, where he was placed in a hospital and lay ill for a year, having recovered somewhat, he re-entered the service and served from May ? 1779 to January 1, 1780, as lieutenant colonel of a regiment raised for the defense of the frontiers and was stationed at a fort. He continued to serve until the close of the war.

On October 4, 1786, Henry K. Van Rensselaer was commissioned Brigadier general of a militia brigade for the County of Albany, his commission signed by George Clinton, Governor.

He was allowed pension from October 26, 1786, under the Act of April 22, 1786, on account of disability resulting from the above noted wound, which had rendered him a cripple for life.

In 1815, he was residing in Albany, New York and was then aged forty-one years. He died in Albany, September 9, 1816.

The soldier was twice married. There are no data concerning his first wife. He married the second time in April, 1794, Miss Nancy (or Anna) G. Semon. The marriage took place at Greenbush, Rensselaer County, New York, and was recorded on the records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of said Greenwich. She was born October 22, 1775. The names of her parents are not shown.

In 1838, Nancy G. Van Renssealer was residing in Albany, New York. In 1949, she had moved to Randolph, Cattaraugus County, New York, where she was still living in 1862.

Nancy G. Van Rensselaer was allowed pension of \$700 per annum on Certificate No. 279, issued April 6, 1869 to commence September 30, 1865. This was her last rate of payment of pension and was made under the act of July 23 [1846?].

The widow died December 30, 1876.

Henry K. Van Rensselaer had seven children by his first wife, as follows:

Henry K. (?) Van Rensselaer born June 20, 1765.

William born F?ebruary 17, 1769.

Catharine born May 23, 1772.

Solomon born August 6, 1774.

Philip born May 5, 1777.

John born August 28, 1779.

Nicholas born September 4, 1781.

David S. Born September 21, 1798.

Killian born September 8, 1801.

Martha born November 10, 1803. Martha die February 12, 1822.

Henry born July 28, 1806.

Stephen born June 10, 1811.

E.K. Van Rensselaer, a grandson of the soldier and his wife, Nancy, lived in Randolph, New York, in 1857. He referred to his father as a physician living in said Randolph but did not give the Christian name of his father.

Soldier's brother, Killian K. Van Rensselaer, lived in Albany, New York, in 1832, and was then in the seventy-sixth year of his age. In same year, Nancy Gansevoort, widow of Leonard Gansvoort, and a sister of the soldier, resided in Albany, New York, and was then in the seventy-eighth year of her age. Another brother was Philip Van Rensselaer. His place of residence and age are not stated.

One Sanders Van Rensselaer, lived in Albany, New York, in 1849, and his youngest daughter, Arietta, aged thirteen years, died in that year. He referred to Mrs. Nancy G. Van Rensselaer as his aunt.

There are no further family data.