

Pension Application for James Van Rensselaer

R.--- (Widow: Elsie) This woman was pensioned as the former widow of Nicholas N. Bogart or Bogert, R.I., W.6372

Letter in folder dated August 1, 1932, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your request for the record of James Van Rensselaer who served in the Revolution.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, R---- based upon the military service of James Van Rensselaer.

He was born January 20, 1747, place not given.

In July 1775 he was commissioned aide-de-camp (the commission was signed by John Hancock, President of Congress) with the rank of captain and was attached to the military family of Major General Philip Schuyler. He obtained from Major General Philip Schuyler leave to accompany the army to Canada under command of General Montgomery and subsequently served under Generals Wooster and Arnold. He was at the siege and surrender of Saint Johns and at the siege of Quebec. His entire service during the Revolution amounted to about five or six years but no further details were given.

He married October 10, 1782, Catharine Van Cortlandt who was born September 30, 1754, and was the daughter of John van Cortlandt of New York. He (the soldier) married June 3, 1789, Elsie Harmanus Schuyler who was born February 5, 1760, and was the daughter of Harmanus and Christina Schuyler and at the time of her marriage in 1789 she was the widow of Dr. Nicholas Bogart. The date of death of the soldier's former wife, Catharine, was not given.

James Van Rensselaer (the soldier) died February 1, 1827, in Albany County, New York, and was survived by his widow, Elsie, and four children, namely: John, resident of Belleville, New Jersey, in 1837; James; and Philip Schuyler. The soldier's widow, Elsie, died November 20, 1838, leaving the following children: Nicholas Catharine van Rensselaer (a daughter by her marriage with Dr. Nicholas Bogart) born April 16, 1784, baptized at Stillwater, married October 1801, to Robert S. VanRensselaer and in 1828 was a widow living in Bethlehem, Albany County, New York; Philip Schuyler Van Rensselaer, resident of Albany, New York; and James J. Van Rensselaer, resident of Bethlehem, New York.

On April 16, 1839, the soldier's son Philip Schuyler Van Rensselaer, made application in behalf of himself and Nicholas Catharine Van Rensselaer and James J. Van Rensselaer (the surviving children of the widow, Elsie) under the Act of 1838, for pension which may have been due their mother, Elsie, on account of the Revolutionary War service of James Van Rensselaer. The claim was not allowed as the widow, Elsie, had received a pension under the Act of 1836 on account of the Revolutionary War service of her former husband, Nicholas Bogart, and was not entitled to pension under both acts.

In 1837 one Nicholas Van Rensselaer who stated that he was "eighty-two years and upwards" was living in Greenbush, Rensselaer County New York, but it was not stated that he was related to the soldier.

In 1828 one Stephen Van Cortlandt, born in August, 1750 was living in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey, but he did not state that he was related to the soldier's wife, Catharine.

One Nicholas Schuyler was at one time Clerk of Court in Rensselaer County, New York, and in 1839 it was stated that he had been dead twelve or fifteen years but it was not stated that he was related to the soldier's widow, Elsie.

The following data appears on pages referred to as the family record:

Johannis Van Rensselaer, my first son, was born on the 9th, September, 1783.

Angelica was born the 5th November 1784.

April 18th 1790, was born our son, Philip Schuyler, baptized by Domini Gibhart, his godfather and godmother my brother and sister, Philip and Catharine Schuyler; died 8th December 1793, at 6 o'clock P.M. aged three years, seven months and twenty days.

August 10, 1791, was born our daughter, Christina Schuyler, baptized by Domini Gibhart, her godfather and godmother, Harmanus and Christian Schuyler.

21st June 1793, was born our daughter, Margaret Schuyler, baptized by Mr. Ellison, Sponsors, Stephen Van Rensselaer and Margaret his wife, and died 4th September 1796.

17, November 1794, was born our daughter, Cornelia Maria, baptized by Mr. Ellison, godfather and godmother, Cornelia Linch Schuyler and the "Patroon son Stephen—obit on Monday 12th September 1796".

November 28th 1797, born Philip Schuyler, baptized by Mr. Page at Stillwater, Godfather and godmother Philip and ;my sister, Catherine, August 24, 1799, was born Harmanus Nicholas Schuyler, godfather and godmother, N. Schuyler and wife.

June 17, 1801, was born our son, James, baptized by Rev. Baset. John Van Rensselaer was married to Eliza Ban Cortland, daughter of Stephen Van Cortland of Belleville, New Jersey, on 13th day of April, 1809.

Philip S. Van Rensselaer was married to Henrietta Ann Schuyler, daughter of John H. Schuyler, September 27th 1826, by Rev. Mr. Lacey of Albany.