

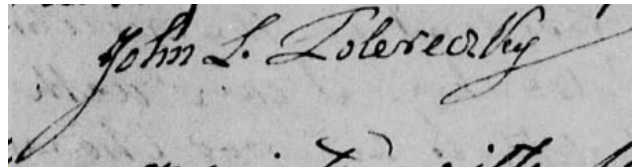
Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John L Polereczky W10915 Nancy Polereczky France
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 Sep 2015.

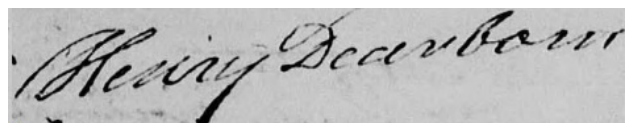
To the Hon. Senate & House of Representatives in Congress Assembled.

The Petition of John L. Polereczky, residing in Dresden in the County of Lincoln, & State of Maine, respectfully sheweth that he is now seventy seven years old: was born in France, and came to America in the year 1780, as an officer, with the five thousand men who landed at Newport under the command of Gen. Count Rochambeau [10 Jun 1780], & held the commission of Major in Le duc de Lauzun's regiment. That he served with the French Troops in the war of the American Revolution, untill the close of the war in 1783 and then resigned. That during the war he was in much active service; was at Kingsbridge [see endnote], when the American army fought the British, and in an attack on Col. Tarlton's dragoons [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, probably near Gloucester VA, 3 Oct 1781], had the command of his Col's light horse, had his horse for which he paid \$250 killed under him. At the close of the war he lived about a year in Boston, and then moved to Dresden, where he has lived ever since. In 1788 he was duly naturalized. Your petitioner was entitled to & received a pension from the French King of 100 Louis d'ores a year untill it was stopped by Buonaparte [Napoleon Bonaparte], in consequence of his not returning to France, pursuant to his proclamation. Your petitioner thought not right to go & leave his family, after having been naturalized, and had taken the Oath of Allegiance to the Government of the U.S. The refusal of your Petitioner to return to France, agreeably to the aforesaid proclamation, produced the confiscation of his property, to the amount of 44,000 livres. Since he was naturalized he has been appointed by Gen. Dearborn [Gen. Henry Dearborn, pension application S46354] Deputy Marshal for the District of Maine; also to assist in taking a census. His pecuniary resources are reduced very low. He is too old to labour much: and after all, this is his only support for himself & family. Your petitioner owes about \$300, which remains as an incumbrance on his real estate, & which, it is out of his power to pay. The substance of the foregoing petition was regularly forwarded to the Hon. the Secretary of War, with a view to obtain a pension under the law of the United States of the 18th of March 1818: but he has rec'd. for answer that "the law embraces those only who were paid, clothed, armed, subsisted & raised under the authority of the Continental Congress: and that his claim was inadmissible under that law."

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays that, as the law aforesaid does not embrace his case, & as he served long & faithfully in the war of the Revolution; and as he is now old & destitute, your Honours would take his case into consideration; and grant him such reasonable compensation for the loss of said horse & such other relief as your Honours, in your wisdom, may think right, just & equitable – and as in duty bound will cons[tantly] pray

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John L. Polereczky". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

Having been long acquainted with Maj'r John L. Polereczky, I am satisfied with the correctness of the foregoing statement – he has uniformly been an industrious sober frugal man and has maintained his family principally by his constant labour, on his small farm.
Boston Novem'r 7th 1825

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Henry Dearborn". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

As a brave & meritorious officer of the revolution Maj. Poleraskey is entitled to great consideration, while his uniform good conduct since, has secured the respect of his fellow citizens. He is now also poor. The republic will not be ungrateful.

Nov. 15 1825

[signed] H'y Dearborn [Henry A. S. Dearborn]

[Translated from a copy in French.]

I acknowledge that Monsieur le Comte de Poleresky has resigned voluntarily and of his own free will from his post as Major of the Corps of Foreign Volunteers of my name.

Philadelphia 1 October 1783.

The Duc de Lauzun Col. and Inspector of For. Vol. &c

NOTE:

“Kingsbridge, when the American army fought the British” may refer to the failed attack by Lauzun’s troops on the British post at Morrisania, about 5 mi S of Kings Bridge, on 3 July 1781.

The file includes Polereczky’s commission from the King of France dated 1 Aug 1780.

On 2 Oct 1830 Polereczky was issued a certificate for a pension of \$20 per month.

The file includes a copy of the Massachusetts law dated 21 Nov 1788 by which Polereczky and others became naturalized citizens. Also in the file is his appointment as census enumerator on 1 July 1790 and as Deputy Marshall on 16 Aug 1790, both signed by Henry Dearborn.

In the file is of Polereczky’s baptismal certificate translated in part from the Latin as follows: “This day the fifth of September in the year one thousand seven hundred forty-eight, by me, Antonio Critsch, pastor in Molsheim [in Alsace about 10 mi W of Strasbourg], was baptized Joannes Ladislaus, son of Lord Andrea Count of Polereczky of the Polereka Cavalry Legion... and Lady Maria Francisea Margaretha neé Hasselt...” See also <http://www.pitt.edu/~votruba/qsonhist/celebrities/polereczkyj.html>

In the file is a copy of the record of the marriage of “John De Poleresky Esqr” to Nancy Pochard, both of Pownalborough in Lincoln County ME, on 22 June 1785. There is also a record of his death in Dresden ME on 8 June 1830.

On 26 June 1844 Nancy Polereczky, 77, applied for a widow’s pension stating that she had already been awarded a pension by act of Congress. On 18 Dec 1856 John Polereczky, aged 62 of Pittston ME, applied for any pension that may still have been due for the service of Maj. John Polereczky.