

Pension Application for Peter Warren Cain or Kane

W.16525 (Widow: Angelica)
State of New York
County of Schenectady SS.

On this twelfth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county now sitting Peter Warren Cain, a resident of the town of Glenville in said county & State aged upwards of eighty three years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He was born in the village of Warrensbush in the then County of Tryon now Montgomery in the state of New York on the second or third day of March 1750. He has no record of his age except that contained in his family Bible.

When he was called into the service of the United States in the army of the revolution he was living in a place called Westina included within said town of Glenville, and since the Revolutionary War he has lived in the same place.

He now lives in the town of Glenville aforesaid.

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

In the spring of the year 1775, he was enrolled in Captain John Van Patten's (1) company of militia & served therein about one month when (he thinks in the month of may) he enlisted in Captain (afterwards Colonel) Cornelius VanDyck's (2) Company of the line of New York on the Continental establishment. His other Company and Field officers whom he recollects were Cornelius Van Slyck first Lieutenant--Guy Young Second Lieutenant--Goosen VanSchaick Colonel. He enlisted for, and served out the full term of nine months in said Company--while in this engagement he marched to Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and mounted guard at those posts. He also marched to the Isle de Aux Nox and his company formed part of the detachment that reduced Chamblee, fought at the siege of St. John's and aided in its reduction. The place of rendezvous of the troops to which he belonged was at St. John's Point.

In the beginning of the year 1776, he volunteered with the detachment of Militia from Schenectady in said Captain Van Patten's Company and proceeded to Johnstown on which occasion Sir John Johnson surrendered himself a prisoner of war & his tenants & dependants were disarmed. On his return he kept guard at Tunis Swart's (3) picket fort in Westina aforesaid--went out with several scouting parties. In which service and in mounting guard at said fort, and in said expedition to Johnstown, he performed military duty during the year 1776 for a term in the whole exceeding two months.

In the year 1777 in the fall thereof he was on duty with the northern army in the retreat of General Schuyler (4) in said Company of Captain Van Patten whose beat extended to that part of the township of Schenectady called Westina aforesaid in which he resided as aforesaid. He was in this expedition for the term of twenty-five days & longer--Previous to this expedition and subsequent thereto - during the year last named, he volunteered in the bateaux service under Myndert Wemple, he served under Myndert Wemple aforesaid for the term of nine months during said year, and was employed in transporting provisions and military stores for the use of the American troops in the Hudson & Mohawk rivers.--

In the year 1776, he served under (Col.) Peter Gaansevoort (5) at Sacondaga for a term exceeding ten days and aided the militia there in erecting works of defence. He was in the battle of Johnstown (6) in October 1781, and marched with the American forces in pursuit of the enemy as far as West Canada Creek (7) where & when Walter Butler was killed by an Indian. In this last expedition he was on duty more than fourteen days.

The inhabitants of Tryon and Albany Counties being threatened with incursions from the enemy at every point, the militia were called out on numerous occasions, and received scarcely any aid from the regular forces to defend their frontiers. He the claimant was out with the scouts of the Militia & Indians on very many occasions, the particular periods of which it is impossible for him to specify. Westina had a fort Called Tunis Swart's fort where the claimant mounted guard almost every day, when not called away to aid in the defence of some post in more immediate danger of attack, or in some expedition for the benefit of his country.

He was three times at Fort Hunter--He made several tours to Ballston, Palmertown, and round Saratoga Lake in search of Tories who carried intelligence to the enemy--also to Norman's Kille, Heldebergh & to Bennington under Major Scott & Colonel Lynde (8)--in Captain John Price's (9) Company he thinks in February 1777 & also in 1778. He was at Tappan in the year 1778 and (he believes in the year 1780) assisted the American troops in making a road from Kingsberry to Pompton. In these different tours of service in the revolution he was engaged for a term in the whole exceeding seven months and in addition hereto (every season) for about six months every year in succession after the year 1777, he engaged in the business of boating provisions & Military stores in the Hudson & Mohawk rivers.

Besides the battle above stated he was in no other battles or skirmishes except during the period he served in the aforesaid Company of Captain Van Patten; he discharged the duties of orderly sergeant therein.

From the foregoing statement it will appear that the claimant hereby declares that the period he was engaged in actual duty during said war, exclusive of more than thirty-two months service as a Batteauman exceeds twenty months.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew, or who were with the troops, where he served, and such continental and militia regiments or companies with which he served, or as he can recollect, viz:--Mc Tepen [or Mc Tessen], General Arnold, Gen'l St. Clair, General Wooster, General Montgomery, (10) General Schuyler.

He never received any written discharge from the service.

He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except those whose depositions are hereto annexed.

The following are the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, to wit: John Sanders and John Van Eps.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever, to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Signed with his mark) Peter Warren Cain

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year first aforesaid. John L. Vrooman, Clerk

Reply to a letter requesting information dated July 21, 1931.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.16525, that Peter Warren Cain or Kane was born March 1, 2 or 3, 1750 in WarrenBush, Tryon (later Montgomery) County, New York.

While residing at Westina (later Glenville), Schenectady County, New York, he served with the New York troops, as follows:

In the spring of 1775, one month in Captain John Van Petten's Company, Colonel Abraham Wemple's regiment; from May, 1775, nine months as private in captain Cornelius Van Dyck's company, Colonel Goose Van Schaick's regiment, and was at the siege of St. John's' in 1776, about two months in Captain John Van Petten's company, Colonel Abraham Wemple's regiment and marched to Johnstown, at which time Sir John Johnson surrendered himself a prisoner of war, was afterwards in several scouting parties, a part of the time under Colonel Peter Gansevoort; in 1777, nine months in the bateau service under Captain Myndert R. Wemple, transporting provisions and military stores on the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers; in the fall of 1777, twenty-five days in captain John VanPetten's Company, Colonel Abraham Wemple's regiment; in 1780, four months under Captain William James and assisted in making a road from Kingston to Pompton; in October 1781 he was in the battle of Johnstown. He was out many times against the Indians in protecting the frontiers under Captains Joseph Peck or Peek, John Price and Colonels Lynde and Beekman (11) and he served until the close of the war.

He stated that he served twenty months in the military service, a part of the time as orderly sergeant, and thirty-two months in the bateau service.

He was allowed pension on his application executed January 28, 1832, at which time he was living in Glenville, Schenectady County, New York.

He died July 10, 1833.

The soldier married January 22, 1777 in Schenectady, New York, Angelica, her maiden name not given.

She was allowed pension on her applications executed October 24, 1836, at which time she was living in Glenville, New York, and was aged ninety-four years.

Their son Peter was baptized June 14, 1878 (sic—1778) in the Reformed Dutch Church at Schenectady, New York. There is no further reference to children.

The above noted Peter Cain (all spellings of that name were searched) is the only soldier of that name found on the Revolutionary War records of this bureau.

End Notes—W.16525—Peter Warren Cain

1. John VanPatten was Captain of the Third Company in Colonel Abraham Wemple's Secodn Regiment of Albany County Militia.
2. Cornelius VanDyck was commissioned Captain of the Second Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Second New York Continental Regiment on June 28, 1775. So far only one muster roll has been found for the company and Peter's name is not on it. It was published in the New York Genealogical & Biographical Record, Vol 48, pp 156-157, April 1917. Peter has the names of the lieutenants correct and what the Second New York's part was in the Canadian Campaign.
3. Teunis Swart was the First Lieutenant in Captain VanPatten's Company.
4. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army.

5. This happened in April and May of 1779. Peter Gansevoort was the Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment.
6. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
7. Captain Walter Butter was killed at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.
8. Major Scott and Colonel Lynde are unknown at this time.
9. John Price served as a Lieutenant, Captain and Major in Colonel Jacob Lansing, Jr's First Regiment of Albany County Militia.
10. Major General Benedict Arnold, Major General Arthur St. Clair, Brigadier General David Wooster and Major General Richard Montgomery.
11. Lieutenant Colonel John H. Beekman of Colonel Kilian VanRensselaer's Fourth Regiment of Albany County Militia.