

Pension Application for John Casten

S.12677

Declaration of a Revolutionary Soldier who served in the MILITIA, to obtain a Pension under the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

Erie county SS.

On this 8th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Common Pleas, now sitting at Buffalo, in said County, John Casten a resident of Buffalo in the County of Erie and State of New York aforesaid, aged 76 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

He was born in the City of New York in August 1757. He has a record of his age at home. When he enlisted he was living in the City of New York & enlisted in Colonel Richmond's Regiment in the City of New York for the Term of Six months and served the time out as herein after stated in which McDugal was General, the regiment was called General McDugal's "Hairy Caps", under Captain Forbish, about the 4th first of March 1776, continued in the Barracks until the weather became warm & then encamped near the Jew's Burying Ground", or Bull's Head" and laid there until the British forces came up as far as Staten Island, he was employed working on the Forts Standing Guard &c (and thinks the last of August or first of September), soon after the Americans were defeated on Long Island removed out as far as [Corlea's?] Hook & continued there with the regiment until the morning the British landed on York Island, when he got permission of the officers to go to the City to get his clothes, and was unable to return on account of the British having landed.

He has lived since the Revolutionary War in New York, Philadelphia, and then in Baltimore, and then again in Philadelphia, and then again in the City of New York & then removed to Dutchess County in N.Y. State and continued nearly 40 years & then removed to Buffalo aforesaid where he now resides.

He enlisted as a volunteer in the New York State Troops (he thinks) and got a bounty of five dollars a rifle frocks, & Hairy Caps.

He did not receive any discharge, except permission to get his clothes as above stated. His time had expired for which he enlisted and during the British coming and taking possession as aforesaid and he being unable to return to the army he returned home without his discharge.

He does not know of any one that he can prove his services by. He does not remember any of the Continental regiments that were stationed near him during his service, but recollects seeing Generals Washington and Putnam very often. Saw General Putnam while he was at work on Bunkerhill Fort at New York. And he states that he served the full term of six months as above stated. And he further says that Abra Brown, Sylvanius Russell and Dr. Cyrinus Chapin are persons with whom he is acquainted in his neighbourhood and who he offers as witnesses to his character for truth and veracity and as to their belief of his being a soldier of the Revolution.

And this deponent further states that he cannot procure the attendance at Court of Clergyman to testify as to his character without great inconvenience and trouble.

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) John Casten

Sworn and subscribed this 8th day of December 1832, Noah P. Sprague, Clerk of Erie Common Pleas.

Letter in folder dated April 24, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.12677, that John Casten or Causten was born in 1757 in New York City.

While residing there, he enlisted in March 1776 and served under Captain Forbish in Colonel Ritzema's New York regiment called General McDougall's New York regiment called General McDougall's "Hairy Caps". He was in the battle of Long Island, after which, he was taken prisoner and held six or seven months in the Old Dutch Church in New York City. It was found that he was a tailor and was then employed as such for four or five years, when he made his escape.

He was allowed pension for six months service on his application executed December 8, 1832, at which time he was living in Buffalo, Erie Country, New York.

On December 12, 1838, he applied for increase of pension, and upon reexamination of his claim in 1839 he was required to furnish more specific proof of his service and more explicit explanation of his detention in New York City, for such a length of time, which he failed to do, and was dropped from the pension rolls.

In 1839 he stated that he lost his oldest son (name not given) in service "in the last war". He also stated that after the Revolution he lived in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, again in Philadelphia, again in New York City, in Dutchess County, New York and in Buffalo, New York.

In 1849 his widow, Jerusha, referred to his death but did not give the date of death, nor any data as to their marriage.

She referred to her son, Hiram, in 1849. There are no further data as to family.

A letter dated October 1, 1935, requesting the Pension Record for John Casten states he was born in New York City in 1757 and died in Collins, New York in 1843.