

### Pension Application for John Stufflebean

R.10,283 ½ (Widow: Elsee) Elsee was the widow of Joseph Ketchum, deceased, her maiden name was Elsee Larrison. Married in 1792 or 1793 in Bourbon County Kentucky, they had 10 children together. Elsee was 85 in April 30, 1840 when she applied for John's pension in Randolph Illinois. She stated John served as a private and was taken a prisoner by the Indians. She said that John drew a pension from March 1833 until he died on 16 January 1844 near the town of Kaskaskia in the County of Randolph, Illinois at the age of 110 years and 11 months and one day. [He was about 90 when he died.]

State of Kentucky

Estill County SS.

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before Jas. McGuire, Samuel Tipton, & Hampson Watters Justices of the County Court in & for the County of Estill aforesaid, now sitting, John Stufflebean a resident of the County of Estill aforesaid aged about 80 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<sup>th</sup> 1832—

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated—That he was born on the East side of the Hudson River not far below Albany in the State of New York—That in 177[blank] he was living on a small river or creek that empties into the Delaware River he thinks it was called Navasenc or Navasing—he is no scholar & cannot tell how it was spelt; he lived in the State of New York not more than 8 or 10 miles from the Delaware River—not far from the Pennsylvania line & also the Jersey line—

That he then enlisted in 1775 or 6 or about that time in the service of the United States under Capt. Jacob Dewit—he was capt. of a company of Rangers or spies to guard the frontiers. He recollects being stationed a while at Hackensack—at Sopus – New Windsor, Paramus & other small towns—he recollects receiving ten pounds on the Drum head as bounty money when he enlisted—about two years after he enlisted he went by direction of his capt. With other of the company to spy & guard in the neighbourhood of the Delaware in New York State against the Indians—while out he was surprised at the house of our Captain near the Delaware & taken prisoner by the Indians & Tories—Brant commanded the Indians—Brant was an Indian—part of full blood—was called Colo Brant—was said to be commissioned by the King—that he with others, who were taken prisoner, were taken by the Indians over the Delaware after going up it some distance on logs or rafts afterwards crossed the Susquehannah River in some way—we were taken to the Mohawk Settlement of Indians where he the applicant, with others were compelled to run the gauntlet—he continued a prisoner with the Indians about nine months—was then about 18 miles below the falls of Niagara sold; by the Indians to Colo Butler the British commander there—He was then taken to Detroit & remained there about two years, he thinks maybe a little more—Altogether he with five others on the 26 April but what year he cannot recollect, run away from Detroit, went down the lake by water one hundred miles or more—then I think through the wild[?] & came down the Muskingman River to the Ohio, we then fell in with James Gernard coming to Kentucky—he joined his company & came to Kentucky where he has resided ever since—he has no documentary evidence in his possession to prove his services & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to establish this except his brother Michael Stufflebean who if living resides some where in Illinois—In 1823 he went to Illinois & took his brother's affidavit with a view to make application for a pension but never made application or did any thing more in the business—he herewith [?] his brother's affidavit—He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) John Stufflebean

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. James McGuire. J. P. G.C., Samuel Tipton. J.P.C.  
Sampson Walters J. P. E. C.

State of Kentucky Estill County SS

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Estill County Court, now sitting John Stufflebean a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration supplementary to his declaration made in this court on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

He stated that when he made his original declaration he supposed that his brother Michael Stufflebean was living somewhere in the State of Illinois—that he had obtained his affidavit in 1823 which he forwarded—that since his declaration was returned, he has ascertained that his brother aforesaid died about 18 months ago that he believes he is dead and his affidavit now become the best testimony, certified as it is which he can procure—He knows of no other person, whose testimony he can procure to prove his services—He states that his great age & infirmities & poverty forbid his making an effort to go to Illinois himself to enquire after his brother, that he got David Bruck Esqr to write a letter to the Postmaster in the county where he resided where the applicant last heard from him—that an answer was returned giving information of his death, which is herewith forwarded.

He states that he was born in the State of New York on the East side of the Hudson River not far below Albany—the name of the place or county he does not recollect—nor does he know the year, in which he was born. He knows he was about twenty years of age when the tea was destroyed at Boston, which he well recollects—[December 16, 1773] He never had any record of his age. He states that Sam'l Kelly a clergyman & William McGuire a Just of Estill County Courts have been his neighbours & have testified concerning his character & their belief of his services. (Signed with his mark) John Stufflebean

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid. Sampson Walters, Nicholas Merrill, Patters B. Clark

Letter in file dated February 20, 1940, written in reply to an inquiry.

The data which follow in regard to John Stufflebean were obtained from the papers in pension claim under File No. R.10283 ½, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

John Stufflebean was born on the East side of the Hudson River not far below Albany, New York. The date of his birth and names of his parents were not given.

While living in New York State near the Pennsylvania and New Jersey line, John Stufflebean enlisted about 1775 or 1776 and served about two years as private in captain Jacob Dewitt's New York company of rangers; after this, he was taken prisoner by the Indians and British and held near Niagara Falls and at Detroit about two years nine months, when he, with five others, made his escape and went to Kentucky.

John Stufflebean was allowed pension on his application executed August 20, 1832, while a resident of Estill County, Kentucky, aged about eighty years. He died January 16, 1844, near Kaskaskia, Randolph County, Illinois.

The soldier married in the fall of 1792 or 1793 in or near Paris, in Bourbon County, Kentucky, Elsee Ketchum, the widow of Joseph Ketchum. Her maiden name was Elsee Larrison.

John and Elsee Stufflebean had ten children, but the only name given was that of Jacob Stufflebean, who in 1842 was aged forty-one years and a resident of Kaskaskia, Illinois. The soldier and his wife Elsee, moved from Kentucky about that year to live with their son, Jacob. In 1845, Elsee was aged eighty-three years and living in Randolph County, Illinois.

In 1825, soldier's brother, Mike or Michael Stufflebean, was living in Lawrence County, Illinois; about 1829, he moved to Vermillion County, same state, and died about 1830. Sons of Michael Stufflebean were referred to but no names given.

There are no further family data shown in the claim.