

**Pension Application for Hercules Wessels**

S.43274

Continental

New York

New York Marine Court

In the Marine Court of the City of New York held at the City Hall of the City of New York in and for said City before the Justices of the same Court on the day of February in the year aforesaid one thousand eight hundred and twenty two.

Present the Honorable Robert Swanton one of the Justices of the said Court.

City of New York. Be it remembered that on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty two personally appeared in the Marine Court of the City of New York in open Court the said Court being a Court of record for the City of New York according to the laws of the State of New York Hercules Wesses aged sixty six years resident in the City of New York in the State of New York who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows that he enlisted on the fifteenth day of February one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven for the term of the War only (as his discharge states) in the State of New York in the company commanded by Samuel Lockwood in the regiment commanded by Colonel Lamb in the line of the State of New York on the New York Continental establishment.

That he continued to serve in the said corps until the next day o June 1783 when he was honorably discharged at West Point in the State of New York by his Excellency George Washington which discharge was countersigned by I. Trumbull Junr Secretary and Registered in the Books of the Regiment by James Bradford Adjutant—that shortly after he enlisted he was promoted to the office so a Corporal and about two years after he enlisted Captain William Stevens took command of his Corps under whom he served until he was discharged that he was in the battles of White Plains Cumpo Flatbush—hill and at the taking of Lord Cornwallis –and that his original declaration is dated the second day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighteen and that his pension certificate numbers 3080.

And I do solemnly swear that I Hercules Wessels was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent hereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of ;an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen and that I have not nor has any persons in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed to wit.

Real Estate None

Personal Estate (necessary bedding and Clothing for self and family excepted).

1 tub	\$0.50	One table (very old)	\$.25
1 Pail	0.25	Teakettle leaks had it 30 years	0.25
6 knives & forks	0.25	6 chairs (old)	1.00

6 Tea Cups & Saucers	0.12	2 spoons	0.12 ½
Tea Pot & 4 plates 1/60	0.31	2 dishes	0.12 1/2
2 Trowels ½	0.25	1 Chest (old)	0.50
4 Bowls	0.12	Shovel & Tongs & And Irons	2.00
1 pot & Kettle	1.00	One saw	5.00
1 Gridle [griddle]	0.2 ½		
\$2.93			\$9.25
			2.93
The whole value of Declarants estate is			\$12.18

Declarant is a Chair maker by trade but is unable to do anything at his trade except matting he has a wife Elisabeth Wessels aged sixty eight years, who is through age and its concomitants [constraints?] infirmities able to do but little he has a grand daughter residing with him named Catharine Gidney aged about thirteen years who assists declarants wife at her house work the principal part of which she does and is unable to do anything else he has a boy residing with him named Abraham Vanorsdol aged about thirteen years who is about young to a trade declarant expects he will have him early in the spring.

Declarant saith that he can get but very little work to do at which even if he could get enough to do he could earn but little being unable to work all his time in consequence of being afflicted very much with Rheumatic pains—he with he is through age and infirmity and the scarcity of work in such indigent circumstances as to be totally unable to support himself without the assistance of his Country that is to say without the aid of the General Government except by private or public charity. (Signed) Hercules Wessles.

Sworn in open Court this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 1822. Fred Jenkins Clerk Marine Court.

Letter in folder dated February 8, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Hercules Wessels of New York.

The data contained herein were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, S.43274, based upon the service of Hercules Wessels in the War of the Revolution.

The date and place of birth of this soldier are not given, nor are the names of his parents stated.

Hercules Wessels enlisted at West Point, New York, sometime in the year 1776, served as a private and was in the battles of Flatbush and White Plains. He enlisted February 15, 1777, served as a corporal in Captains Samuel Lockwood's and William Stevens' Companies, Colonel John Lamb's Continental Regiment, was in the battles of "Crompoes' Bridge" and at the surrender of Cornwallis, was discharged June 9, 1783 at West Point, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 2, 1818, at which time he was aged about sixty-two years and a resident of New York City.

In 1822 he was still living in New York City, his wife, Elizabeth, was sixty-eight years old at that time, and he referred to the following, as members of his family

“residing with him”—a granddaughter, Catharine Gidney, aged about thirteen years, and to a boy, Abraham Vanorsdol, also aged about thirteen years.

The soldier, Hercules Wessels, died November 10, 1833, and his widow died February 17, 1838, leaving children, names not stated. The papers in this claim contain no further reference to family.