

## Pension Application for John Casterer

S.12423

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

State of New York

County of Oswego SS.

On this fourteenth day of September 1832 personally appeared before me John Reynolds one of the Judges of the court of Common Please [sic] of the County of Oswego and State of New York, John Casterer, resident of the town of Redfield in said county aged 84 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 and served as herein stated.

That he volunteered as a private in a Regiment of Militia commanded by Colonel Jacob Ford in a company commanded by Captain Jonah Graves, the Lieutenants name was Hatch, that he volunteered in the Spring of 1777 and marched immediately to Fort George to oppose Burgoyne march through the County that he went from Fort George to a place called Bloody Pond half way between Ft. George and Ft. Edward where he was stationed some time that from Bloody Pond he went down to Ft Edward where he was stationed two or three weeks and then crossed the river over to the west side where the army was attacked by the British Army, that he fought on the retreat down to a place called Snooks Hill against Ft. Miller that at Snookshill the American army made a stand and fought a hard battle and drove the British back, and then the Americans retreated to Saratoga where General Gates and Arnold met them and took the command and fell back towards Stillwater and made a stand and was attacked by the British that here they remained a number of days skirmishing until the militia collected in such numbers that Burgoyne finally surrendered that after Burgoyne surrendered he was marched to Albany where he remained about a week, and then he was discharged and went home as he believes the fore part of November that he cannot recollect exactly what time he left home in the spring but is confident he left before people commenced spring work believes he was in the service in that campaign at least seven months.

That in May 1778 he again volunteered under Colonel Alden and Lieutenant Colonel White that the Captains name was Hatch, cannot recollect the Lieutenant's name (he being a stranger and being gone a great part of the time) that he volunteered as an orderly sergeant and marched directly to Albany from Albany he marched up the Mohawk River to Major Fondays where the company drew provisions that from Fondays he marched to Cherryvalley where he was stationed all summer skirmishing with the Indians and Torys. That the latter part of this [Summer?] Cherryvalley was burned by the British, Indians and Tories and many of the inhabitants massacred or taken prisoners that in the fall there came in recruits and he was discharged does not recollect what month he was discharged but recollects well that it was very cold wither [weather] then he was going home so much so that it was very difficult to keep from freezing that while he was in the Fort at Cherryvalley they had a number of skirmishes, partys of Indians and Tories and that Colonel Alden was inhumanly massacred and Lieutenant Colonel White narrowly escaped at the same time that he verily believes he was in the service that season about seven months.

That early in the summer of 1779 he again volunteered under General Robert Van Ranslear and Colonel John McKinsten does not recollect the Major's name the Capt. name was Hatch, the Lieutenants name was Mills or Miller, that he volunteered as an Ensign and held a commission signed by Governor George Clinton that he first marched to Albany from Albany to Warrensbush between Schenectady and Fort Hunter form Warrensbush he marched to Ft. Hunter on the south side of the Mohawk River that Johnson with his Indians and tories was just before them on the other side of the river, burning and destroying every thing that fell in their way, that the Americans followed them up to Stone Robby that

at Fort Plain they crossed over the river and pursued the enemy to Schuyler's Mills near which they came up with them and had an engagement with them that a part of Americans was sent up the river above the enemy to cut off their retreat that when they thought the enemy nearly on quite in their power, General VanRensselaer ordered his army to retreat back to the church near Schuyler's Mills and left the enemy to make their escape that the Americans took a few prisoners and a [howitzer?] and a field piece from the enemy in this engagement that the next morning the army followed the enemy up the river and crossed at the same place the enemy did the night before and pursued them up to Tripeshill where VanRensselaer abandoned the pursuit and marched to the Germanflats where the army encamped for the night that the next day Governor Clinton arrived and came into the room where the officers were dining and sharply reprimanded General VanRensselaer for his conduct and ordered the officers to form the line and march immediately through the woods to Schuyler's Lake and cattle were drove through the woods after them for provision but when the army arrived there the enemy had crossed the lake and made their escape that he was then ordered back to Albany and was there discharged that he does not recollect what month he was discharged but thinks it was the latter part of the summer or forepart of the fall think he must have been out between 3 and 4 months at this time.

Late in June or July of 1780 he volunteered to go to Livingston Manor [Manor] to subdue the Tories that Colonel Stephen Hogeboom commanded on this expedition that Captain Hawley commanded the company to which he was attached that he was ordered to march immediately to Adjutant [Heth's] in Nobletown adjoining Livingston's Manor that while the regiment lay at Nobletown some of the scouting parties took one of the Tories and compelled him to tell where the main body of the Tories were that they then pursued and routed them in Livingston's Manor that they had a sharp battle with them and killed some and took 30 or 40 prisoners and sent them to Springfield and then returned home, that he was out on this expedition about ten or twelve days.

That he was in the service at two different times in the year 1776 that he volunteered both times and went both time to Albany and Greenbush to oppose Johnson and his Indians & Tories in their depredations that he was out at each time about 2 weeks and was under Captain Bartholomew Barnett and Lieutenant Daniel Barnes and Abner Kellogg as ensign.

That he has no record of his age except a traditional one taken from his mother that his father did before he was born.

That according to that record he was born in the town of New London in the State of Connecticut on the 16 day of July (New Style [style]) in the year 1748 that he resided there until he was 25 years old when he removed to the then town of Spencertown now Columbia County and State of New York where he resided when he entered the service and until 1808 when he removed to the town of Redfield then County of Oneida now County of Oswego and where he has ever since resided.

That there is no clergyman residing in the town of Redfield now nearer than 10 miles of his place of residence that he has no documentary evidence except a part of his commission under which he served.

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 any agency of any state. (Signed) John Castener

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. John Reynolds a Judge of Oswego Common Please

Letter in folder dated October 13, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of John Castor, Caster, Casterer, etc., who served with the New York troops, and that of John, Michael, Jacob, Martin, and William Tester, Treaster, Tresler, or Truster, of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania.

There is no claim for pension on file based upon service in the Revolutionary War of the John Treaster, described by you, nor of any Michael, Jacob, Martin, nor William Treaster, under any spelling

of that surname. You are furnished herein the record of John Casterer, as found in pension claim, S.12423, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

John Casterer was born July 16, 1748 (new style) in New London, Connecticut, his father died before his birth. Names of his parents are not shown. He resided in New London, Connecticut until he was twenty-five years old.

While a resident of Spencertown, Columbia County, New York, John Casterer volunteered in 1776, served four weeks as private in Captain Bartholomew Barriett's New York Company; volunteered in the spring of 1777, served as private seven months in Captain Johan Graves' company, Colonel Jacob Ford's New York regiment, was in several skirmishes, in a battle at "Snookskill", in the battle of Stillwater, and at the surrender of Burgoyne; volunteered in May 1778, served seven months as orderly sergeant in Captain Hatch's company, Colonel Alden's New York regiment, was in the battle of Cherry Valley; volunteered early in the summer of 1779, served as ensign three or four months in Captain Hatch's company, Colonel John McKinstry's New York regiment, and was in an engagement at Schuyler's Mills; volunteered in June or July, 1780, served ten or twelve days in Captain Hawley's company, Colonel Stephen Hogeboom's New York regiment, was was in a battle at Livingston's Manor.

John Casterer was allowed pension on his application executed September 14, 1832, while a resident of Redfield, Oswego County, New York. he moved to that place in 1803.

In 1832, reference was made to his wife, her name not stated. No further family data are shown.