

Pension Application for John Castle

W.23834 (Widow: Lydia)
State of New York
County of Columbia SS.

On the 22 day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Honorable Medad Butler one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Columbia John Castle a resident in the town of Canaan, County of Columbia and State of New York aged Eighty six 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.

In the month of July 1777 about the first he was drafted and organized at New Concord, so called under Capt. Ebenezer Benjamin, Lieut Jonathan Ford, 2 Lieut John Muncey, Orderly Sergeant Abel Ford, Colo. William Whiting L. Colo., Asa Waterman. (1) Thence he marched to Albany thence to Fort Edward commanded at the time by General Schuyler (2) was on Guard and various scouts, and performed duty in moving ammunition and provisions from Fort George to Fort Edward, he retreated with the American army before Burgoyne to Moses' Creek and thence to Snutes Kill, [Snookskill] where his Lieut John Muncey (3) was mortally wounded on a scout. Thence retreated to Stillwater, and from thence to Sarratoga, he here was permitted to return home to attend to some farming business about the middle of August he served in this tour as he verily believes 1½ month. In 1778 in the fore part of June as he thinks was detached or ordered out to form a guard at the Execution of seven men, refugees and spies, that were to be executed at Albany [went?] under Major Martin Beebe, saw men hanged and formed the guard, as was expected, but after this he was with others was classed and marched to Johnstown and to Sacondaga, and there was in scouts and guard till some time the fore part of July was then [?] to come home the time of this service was as he believes, 1 month.

In 1779 the fore part of June he was drafted and under Captain Ebenezer Benjamin, (5) went to Albany, thence to Schenectada was billeted out at that place for about one week, thence went to Johnstown, here Capt. John Salisbury (6) was permitted to detach from other companies a company of men for scouts and he this applicant, was one detached, and was in scouts almost every day and freed from the duties of guard whilst in Camp, was at this place about 2 weeks. Thence went too Sacondaga, said a few days, thence back to Johnstown staid about one week, thence went to Fort Ann, and to Fort Miller, between Fort Ann and Fort Miller saw a painted Indian at a distance & recollects the words he uttered, which were "Chop on Chop on", and instantly darted into a swamp or marshy piece of timber land and was seen no more by him or any of the party, he returned from this service about the middle of July making as he believes one and a half month service (1½ month)

In 1780 in the fore part of September was drafted under Capt. William Warner (7) after organization went to Albany thence to Schoharie and was on scouts and guard in different places in that there woody country and returned home about the first of Nov. He served in this tour as he verily believes 2 months.

In 1781 about the first of October was ordered out under Capt. John Davis—Orderly Sergeant Stephen Morse, went to Stillwater, and joined Colo. Asa Watermans Regiment thence went to Sarratoga went on guard and so forth till the finding no enemy to encounter was discharged to return home some time the last of Oct. This tour of service was as he verily believes 1 month.

In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the war department:

1. He was born in the town of Kent Litchfield County Connecticut 30 day of March 1746 os. Stile.
2. He has no other record of his age than that transmitted to him by his parents.
3. He resided in Kings district County of Albany and Colony of New York (now town of Canaan County of Columbia and State of New York" where he has for the most part of the time resided since the war and where he now lives.
4. He was drafted in all the tours of service.
5. He recollects seeing General Schuyler, General Arnold & General Gates, (8) Colo Waterman. Colo. Whiting the latter were militia officers.
6. He did not receive a written discharge but was dismissed as he believes the militia generally were.
7. He is known to David Ford and William Lee who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

And further he has made and used due diligence in procuring testimony to prove his services and has not been able to procure any other than what is hereunto attached, and knows of none and has no documentary evidence to prove his services, and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except, the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency of any state. (Signed) John Castle

Sworn to, and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me, Medad Butler

End Notes—John Castle—W.23834

1. Captain Benjamin's Company (Fifth Company) was in the Seventeenth Regiment of Albany County Militia commanded by Colonel William B. Whiting. Asa Waterman was the Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment. The only company officer not mentioned was Ensign Asa Doty.
2. Major General Philip Schuyler. The American Army was retreating before the British Army commanded by General Burgoyne.
3. Lieutenant Muncey (Munsey) was killed on August 2, 1777.
4. Martin Beele was commissioned First Major on June 16, 1778 in the Seventeenth Albany.

5. John is in error on Captain Benjamin as he had resigned. On June 16, 1778 the following were commissioned officers: John Davis, Captain; Nathaniel Rowley, First Lieutenant, William Caswell, Second Lieutenant and Elisha Cady, Ensign.
6. Captain Salisbury was also in the Seventeenth Albany.
7. William Warner, Junr was the First Lieutenant in Captain Andrew Kelley's (Kellogg) Company (Second Company) in the Seventeenth Albany. Major Generals Benedict Arnold and Horatio Gates.