

Pension Application for John Cockley

S.43382

State of New York

Onondaga County SS.

I Sylvenus Tonsley one [of] the Judges of the Court of common Pleas of said county to the Honorable, the Secretary of War do certify that on this third day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighteen personally came before me John Cockley and being duly sworn declared that in the forepart of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighteen personally came before me John Cockley and being duly sworn declared that in the forepart of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, he enlisted into the service of the United States, in the first New York Regiment commanded by Colonel VanSchaick to serve during the war, in the company commanded by McKeen.

That he continued to serve in said regiment till the year 1781 when (being one of the guard of General Schuyler) he was taken prisoner from his house near Albany by a party of tories and carried to Canada where he remained till the month of December 1782 when he returned to General Schuyler & obtained a furlough.

He further declares that he did not receive his discharge until about three years after his return from Canada when he received his regular discharge from Colonel VanSchaick and Adjutant Wendel, and delivered the same to one _____ Struyer to whom he assisted his right for bounty lands and has never since seen the discharge, and that he cannot recollect its date.

That his name was not inserted in the muster rolls of said first regiment at the close of the war in consequence of his absence as a prisoner as above stated; but that the Legislature of New York did by an act passed the 22d of March 1791 section 8th [?] the commissioners of the land officer to grant to him the said John Cockley late a soldier in the first New York Regiment the portion land he would have been entitled to by any farmer law of the State if his name had been inserted in the muster roll of the Regiment aforesaid out of the lands not part for the troops of the line of this State lately serving in the army of the United States.

He further declares that he is now old, infirm & has no means of support whatever and is by reason of his reduced circumstances in life in need of assistance from his country for support.

From all which and from the testimony of [blank] herewith transmitted it appears to my satisfaction that the said John Cockley served the Revolutionary War as aforesaid against the common enemy and is by reason of his reduced circumstances in life in need of assistance from his country for support.

I[t] further appearing from the declaration of said Cockley upon oath as aforesaid and that he now receives no pension from the United States done in pursuance of the act of Congress of the United States entitled "An act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United states in the Revolutionary War approved 18th march 1818"

Sylvenus Tonsley

Letter in folder dated October 11, 1919, written in response to an inquiry.

In response to your letter dated the twenty-seventh ultimo, you are advised that the papers in the claim of John Cockley, S. File No., 43,382 Rev. War, show that he was allowed pension on his application executed April 3, 1818, at which time he was a resident of Onondaga County, New York.

He stated that he served from July 1775 to June 1783, under Captains Hicks and Robert McKean, first in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's regiment of New York troops and afterwards in Colonel Nicholson's regiment; that in 1781, while one of General Schuyler's guard, near Albany, he was taken prisoner by a party of Tories and carried to Canada, where he remained until December 1782, when he returned to General Schuyler.

The place of his enlistment is not stated.

In 1820, he was sixty-four years of age, resided at Manlius, Onondaga County, New York, and referred to his son Cornelius.

In 1843, soldier moved from Charlotte, Chautauqua County, New York, to Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania to reside with his son-in-law Albert Bennett; and in 1844, soldier removed to Middleport, Niagara County, New York.

The date of his death is not shown.

In 1889, soldier's daughter, Mrs. O.M. Atwell, aged seventy-six years, was a resident of Waterville, Oneida County, New York, and stated that she was the only daughter living of John Coakley dec'd. There is no further family data on file.