

Pension Application for John I. Mersellus or Marcellus

R.6897

Declaration

State of New York

Oswego County SS.

On this eleventh day of February personally appeared before me one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Oswego John I. Merseles a resident of the town of Constantina in the County of Oswego and State of New York aged seventy one 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 services of the United States as a volunteer in the Spring of 1778—under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he first entered said service by enlistment for three years at Schenectady in the State of New York in Colo. VanDyke's (sometimes then called Van Schaick's) Regiment in the Company commanded by Capt. VanNess that the name of the Lieutenant in said company was Hardenberg and that the name of the name of the Ensign was Wendell, that at the time of his said enlistment he lived in the town of Schenectady in the County of Schenectady and State of New York and that he enlisted as a private.

That after his said enlistment he marched from Schenectady to Rome, Ft. Stanwix through Herkimer to Fort Schuyler and thence to said Rome Oneida and was in no battles except what took place while in the Fort at Rome Oneida Co. We lay there till close of the war and that he served as a private under the above named officers for the whole period of his said enlistment bring three years—

And he was then honourably discharged and had a written discharge thinks was signed by Col. Vandyke in the Spring of 1781 which discharge is lost.

And that on receiving his discharge he was offered the post of Ensign in said Company if he would enlist again and that accordingly he again enlisted in said company and received an Ensign's Warrant or Commission which was three days after said discharge and at Rome (then Fort Stanwix) that the said warrant was signed by some of the officers that at the Fort and given to him & that he has lost the warrant & can not find it that he saw it & had it fourteen years ago but can not find it now that it has been lost by accident in removing from his old residence to this or some other way.

And that he served in said Company as Ensign for the term of three months—and until the close of the Revolutionary War when he was discharged.

That while he served as Ensign in said Company he marched from Fort Stanwix (the place where he entered the said company) to Albany—through Oriskany to fort Schuyler Herkimer Schenectady and was in no battles and was dismissed at Albany & then went home.

That he was born in the town of Schenectady in the County of Schenectady and State of New York and that he knows of a record of his age in the Old Dutch Church

Records at Schenectady—and that he was living when called into service the first time as aforesaid, in the town of Schenectady in the County of Schenectady and State of New York that he was born in the year 1763 or 4 and that since the Revolutionary War he lived in the town of Schenectady aforesaid thence he moved to Providence in the County of Saratoga N. York.

--And that he continued to reside there until three years past when he removed to Constantia in the County of Oswego in the State of New York where he now resides and has resided there for the space of three years past that in the month of August last he commenced a search for witnesses to said above stated service in order to procure their affidavits thereto but that he is satisfied that there [is] none living or that if any are still living he is unable to hear from them or discover them.

That he is well known to Samuel W. Leonard a clergyman residing in the same society with this deponent and to John Mersellus Jun. residing in the present neighborhood with the said deponent who can testify to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is on the pension Roll of any agency of any state territory or district and that he is unable to appear in open court from the loss of the use of his legs and bodily infirmity. (Signed with his mark) John Mersellus

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me Lovwell Johnson, a Judge of Oswego County Courts.

Letter in folder dated September 25, 1923, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.6897, it appears that John I., oldest son of John I. and Anayter Marcellus or Mersellus, was born July 16, 1781, 1763 or 1764 in Schenectady, New York; he alleged that while residing there, he served three weeks at Stone Arabia under Captain Fonda, and in the year 1778 or 1779, he enlisted and served three years as a private in Captain VanNess' company, Colonel VanSchaick's New York Regiment, and was in an eight day skirmish at fort Stanwix.

He applied for pension February 11, 1833, while living at Constantia, Oswego County, New York, but his claim was not allowed, as satisfactory proof of his service as required by the pension laws, was not furnished.

Son, John, was a resident of Oswego County, New York in 1838. Soldier was dead in 1853.

There is no further family data on file.