

Pension Application for John Chesley

W.4922 (Widow Magdalena) John died January 30, 1852, town of VanBuren, Onondaga County.

B.L.Wt.14962-160-55

State of New York

County of Herkimer.

On this tenth day of Oct. 1832, personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Herkimer in the state of New York now sitting John Chesley a resident of the town of West Brunswick in the County of Herkimer and State of New York aged seventy years, who first being 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 in the service of the United States, under the following named officers and served as here in stated.

That he was born in the town of Kinderhook in the (now) county of Columbia on the 13 day of January 1762. Was living in the town of Claverack in said county at the time he entered in the service of the United States and the Militia of the said town of Kinderhook made arrangements among themselves to procure or hire a certain number of men to go into the service, and in pursuance of said arrangement this deponent was hired as a substitute in this manner for Frederick Moot and continued under Capt. Houck early in the spring of the year 1778 in the militia of the State of New York [?] Osterhout, (does not know the Ensign) marched to Johnstown and served one month and was dismissed had not written discharge, this was in Col. VanAlstine's Regiment—and again he enlisted at Kinderhook as a substitute for William Pike under Capt. Tisdell marched to Cherry Valley was stationed there one month and was attached Col. Alden's Regiment served out his time and was dismissed.

And in November the same year he enlisted the third time at Kinderhook as a substitute for John Kittle under said Capt Gershom Truesdale of New Concord, marched to Schoharry and was stationed there one month and was dismissed, no written discharge.

And the said John Chesley further declares that he again enlisted as a substitute (but does not know the name for who we went one [?] Hovenbarga he then took them to Albany—then marched to Fort Plank and at Cooper Town, Kinderhook under Capt. Fowler in the Light Infantry in Col. Wessenfelts Regiment for nine months, and marched to Tioga Point in Gen. James Clinton's Brigade, mett and fought the enemy at Newtown near the Chemung River the enemy consisted of Indians and Tories commanded by Col. Brandt (Indian) and Col. Butler a Tory—then the Americans this deponent being one marched went as far as Genesee River, some skirmishes took place, Lieut Boyd was killed by the Indians, and then marched back to Wyoming and staid there a short time and then marched to East town in Pensylvania [Pennsylvania], and then marched to Dellaware [Delaware] River remained there a short time and then marched to Morristown in New Jersey and there went in to Winter Quarters, and remained there until the expiration of his term of nine months and was then discharged had a written discharge signed by [cut off] which said discharge has a long time been lost or out of his possession; and cannot now give any account of it.

And the said John Chesley declares that he lived in Kinderhook after the war about thirty years, then moved to the town of Nasau [Nassau] in the county of Ransslear [Rensselaer]lived there three or four years, then moved to Middlefield Otsego County then

moved to Paris in the County of Oneida, and lived there two years, then moved to Noblesborough (now West Brunswick) in the County of Herkimer and has lived there ever since it being about sixteen years. Has no record of his age except in the records in Columbia County, he having been baptized there. And the said deponent says he has no documentary evidence.

That he knows no documentary evidence that he knows of no person whose testimony he can prove who can testify to his service.

But he thinks, David Thorp and John J. Hemstreet of West Brunswick will vouch for his reputation as a soldier.

And this deponent further declares that in or about the year 1819 he made application for a pension under the then existing pension laws then made out and sent to the war department by Judge Westel Willoughby may now be found in the department; the witnesses then sworn and since dead—and he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory. (Signed) John Chesley

Sworn in open court Oct 13th 1832. Julius C. Nelson

Letter in folder dated February 17, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.4922, that John Chesley was born January 13, 1762, in Kinderhook, New York.

While residing in Claverack, Columbia County, New York, he enlisted early in the spring of 1778, and served three tours of one month each, the third enlistment being in November of that year, as a private under Captains Huyck and Gershom Turesdel and Colonel VanAlstine in the New York Troops.

He enlisted in the year 1779, exact date not given, served as a private in Captain Fowler's Company, Colonel VanCortland's New York Regiment, was in the battle of Newtown, and in several skirmishes, and was discharged in January 1780, length of service nine months.

He afterward enlisted and served as a private in Captain Fowler's Company, Colonel VanCortland's New York Regiment, length of this service three years, no details given.

After the Revolution, he lived in Kinderhook, New York, for about thirty years, then moved to Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York, where he lived for three or four years; then moved to Middlefield, Otsego County; then to Paris, Oneida County, where he lived for two years; and then to Noblesboro (later West Brunswick), Herkimer County, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 13, 1832, while residing in West Brunswick, New York. In 1837, he was residing in Paris, New York, and in 1849, in VanBuren, Onondaga County, New York.

He died January 30, 1852, in VanBuren, New York. In 1840, it was stated that he had been blind for six years.

The soldier married November 11, 1788, in Claverack, New York, Magdalena Laud. Their marriage was recorded on the records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Claverack.

She was allowed pension on her application executed August 2, 1853, at which time she was aged eighty-two years and resided in Minden, Montgomery County, New York. In 1855, she was still living and resided in said Minden.

There is no reference to children.

In 1853, Lydia Delano, then aged sixty-five years, and David Delano, aged sixty-seven years, were residents of VanBuren, New York, no relationship to soldier shown.