

Pension Application for Martin Cuykendall

S.12649 Martin died December 14, 1843. His widow, Anne Cuykendall, died February 1, 1844. Surviving children John Cuykendall, Solomon Cuykendall, Elias Cuykendall, Catharine Cuykendall, Leah van Fleet, Peter Cuykendall.

State of New York

Cayuga County SS.

On this 24th day of September A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Cayuga and State of New York, now setting, Martin Cuykendall a resident of Owasco in the County of Cayuga and State of New York, aged 68 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 7th 1832:

That he entered the service under the following named officers, and served as herein stated:

That in the year 1776 at the commencement of the Revolutionary War he resided in the town of Goshen in the County of Orange & State of New York. That at the time, Independence was declared he was aged twelve years. That in the year 1776 when the Indians and Torys commenced their depredations at a place called Coshighton in Ulster County, and the inhabitants fled from said place he procured a gun and equipped himself for defence & continued to serve until the close of the war in the manner hereinafter stated.

That from the time that he was twelve years old until he was sixteen he was frequently engaged in said service as a guard and in building Piquot [picket] forts along the frontiers in Orange County. That during said term the inhabitants on said frontier were accustomed to collect together at night five or six families in one house, and appoint some of the men to guard the women and children in said house whilst they slept.

That when he arrived at the age of sixteen years he was enrolled in the company of militia commanded by Capt. Wilhelmus Westfall in the Regiment commanded by Col. Hatfield and continued to serve in scouting partys and as an Indian spy until the year 1781. That he lived upon the frontiers and was frequently called into said service—

That the whole frontier from the opening of the spring in each year until the winter following was kept in a constant state of alarm from the frequent incursions of the Indians and Torys—so much so that all business was suspended except so far as to provide for the actual necessaries of life, that after said Piquet forts were built along said frontier, the people living near were accustomed to collect in them for safety from the enemy—and were accustomed to send out small parties to range the woods, and act as spy to give notice of the approach of the enemy—

That he was frequently engaged in said parties until the fall of the year 1781 when he entered said service in the company of men commanded by Captain Abraham Westfall for a term of six weeks.

That the company to which he belonged when at home was divided into classes, each of which classes was required to furnish one man to serve six weeks and that he entered said service for one of said classes.

That the company of Captain Abraham Westfall was a company of nine months men in the regiment commanded by Col. Albert Paulding—That said Regiment was divided into small parties and stationed at different places along said frontier a distance of about fifty miles as a guard to protect the inhabitants.

That he continued to serve during said term of six weeks when he was discharged.

He further declares that in the month of April 1782 he again entered said service as a substitute for one - - - Thompson in the company of Captain Abraham Westfall in Col. Wisenvelts Regiment for a term of nine months—that he was stationed on the frontier at Minisink during said term, and was engaged most of the time as a Scouter during the summer that he continued to serve during the whole of said term of nine months when he was discharged.

He further says that his actual service during said war was two years and a half or more—that he never received a written discharge from said service, & has no documentary proof thereof.

He herby relinquishes all claim to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state or territory.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Martin Cuykendall. Asahel Fitch, Judge.

Letter in folder dated August 20, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.12649, it appears that Martin Cuykendall was born in 1764 in Goshen, Orange County, New York.

While residing in said Goshen, he served from early in the Revolution at various times as an Indian Spy and doing guard duty in Captains Wilhelmus Westfall's and Abraham Westfall's Companies, Colonels Thurston, Moses Hatfield and Albert Pawling's New York Regiments until in 1781.

He enlisted in April 1782 and served 8 months as private in Captain Abraham Westfall's Company, Colonel Weisenfel's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 24, 1832, while a resident of Owasco14, 1843, leaving a widow Anne (her maiden name is not stated nor are there any details on file as to their marriage). She died February 1, 1844, leaving the following children, all over twenty-one years of age., Cayuga County, New York, and he died there December 14, 1843, leaving a widow Anne (her maiden name is not stated nor are there any details on file as to their marriage). She died February 1, 1844, leaving the following children, all over twenty-one years of age.

John, Solomon, Elias, and Catharine all of Cayuga County, New York; Leah VanFleet of Seneca County, Ohio; and Peter, of Livingston County, New York.