

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Casey W29604

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Sct.

At a Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery held for Kanawha County the 15th day of January 1833 Present Lewis Summers Esqr. one of the Judges of the General Court, and Judge of the 19 Circuit in the 10th Judicial District

On this 15th day of January 1833 personally appeared before the Judge of the circuit superior court of Law and Chancery for Kanawha County, state of Virginia, John Casey a resident of the County of Kanawha and Commonwealth of Virginia aged 69 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted for during the war in the line of the Virginia State troops in the month of October 1779, (being then under sixteen years of age) as a light horseman. At the time of his enlistment, he was a resident of Amelia County, Virginia, but enrolled himself at a place on the Chesapeak [sic: Chesapeake] bay then known as Ragged, or Raglands Islands [Ragged Island in Isle of Wight County].

He enlisted under Capt. Armaugh [probably Capt. Martin Armand Vogleson or Vogluson] in a squadron or regiment commanded by Major John Nelson. His other and immediate officers as recollected, were Lieutenant Dudley Diggs [sic: Dudley Digges, pension application S8328] and Cornet, William Graves. The deponent served under these officers, except Major Nelson who resigned sometime before his own discharge, until he was regularly discharged at the termination of the war. The troop in which the deponent enlisted, a short time before consisted of three divisions, called first, second & third troops, but they had been so much reduced in numbers about the time he enlisted that they found it expedient to unite and form but two troops. The squadron consisted of two troops when the deponent enlisted - viz. the troop to which he was attached commanded by Capt Armaugh, & Lieutenant Dudley Diggs and Cornet William Graves, and the troop commanded by Capt John Armistead [more likely Thomas Armistead] and Lieutenant Nathaniel Savage, Cornet not recollected.

The deponent was, at no time during his service, engaged in any battles, though the nature of his service brought him frequently in the presence of the enemy and concerned in the capture of small parties of straglers, in beating up the quarters of the enemy and other services peculiarly the duty of the light horse at that period.

His principal service was in the Eastern Counties of Virginia, and he was stationed at different times near Portsmouth, Suffolk Old Town, Williamsburg, Old JamesTown and Hampton. His troop was stationed in the neighbourhood of Petersburg when that place was entered by the British [20 May 1781] then in pursuit of the American troops commanded by General LaFayette. At the time [19 Oct 1781] Yorktown was surrendered to the combined force of France and America & thus terminated the war of the revolution, this deponent was confined with sickness in the hospital at Hanover on the Pamunkey [sic: Pamunkey] river; but after his recovery he accompanied his troop from Hanover to Winchester, Frederick County, where the prisoners taken at Yorktown were stationed in quarters. From Winchester he was marched down to Yorktown where he received his discharge in March 1782 having served two years and a half.

The deponents discharge was in writing signed by Dudley Diggs his Lieutenant in the absence of his Capt. This discharge was returned by him to the auditors or commissioners office in Richmond there kept as he thinks by a Mr John Stacks, from whom he received a printed certificate of his service and discharge. This certificate has been mislaid and can not now be produced. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

John hisXmark Casey

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners in present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. Singleton wrote "Fraud" on Casey's report.]

John Casey - Pensioner - receives \$80—

I the undersigned John Casey in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my age & Revolutionary Services to Wit. I was 71 yrs. old the 9th of September last - I am a Native of Rockingham county. In my 15th year of age (I cant tell what year that was) I Enlisted in a troop of Horse at a place called Ragged Island under Capt. Vaugholason, for during the war, was in actual service for two years and a half part of this time I was on a recruiting station - I was all the time in the South Eastern part of Virginia, was never in any engagement, nor was my company ever attached to the main army. we were a while attached to Genl. Muhlenburgs [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's] Regt. of Rifle Men, - except on this occasion my company was all the time [illegible word] - when Cornwallis was taken I was sick in an Hospital. I introduced no evidence of my services - Mr. Walters[?] wrote my Declaration - told him same in substance I now tell he charged me nothing - Dudley Diggs was Lt. of my company and William graves Cornet — In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name Jan 5, 1835

Witness Thomas J Ballard[?]

John hisXmark Casey

Joseph Thomas (born in 1759) says he has known & lived a neighbor to John Casey since 1798, has often conversed with him about the Revo. War, never heard Casey pretend that he was a soldier in that war until subsequently to the passage of the Pension Law, that Casey is several years younger than himself, but how many cant tell —

William Bayly [sic: William Bailey, pension application W5777] age 77 yrs. a Pensioner, has known Casey for forty odd yrs. has heard him in days past say he was a soldier in troop of horse during the war of the Revo.- that his captain ran away [see note below] - and the company dispersed & returned home - that Casey has often repeated this fact in his presence —

Samuel Bayley says he has often heard Casey say that he was in service during the Revo. War as a trooper for about six months only - A Copy W. G Singleton Jan 1835

Note - this mans statement is wholly unsatisfactory - I cant resist the belief, that he is an imposter - if he was in the regular Service as he states - his name I presume can be found on the Roll, nothing short of this or possitive proof by credible witness would satisfy me of his service - I would judge from his appearance that he cant exceed sixty four years old — W. G Singleton

NOTES:

I could find no evidence that Casey's Capt. Armand Vogleson "ran away." He transferred to a different troop in 1782. The assertion apparently resulted from Capt. Charles Fierer having absented himself without leave in 1781 and been replaced by Thomas Armistead.

On 21 July 1878 Mary "Caisey," 68, of Fayette County OH applied for a pension as the widow of John Casey. She stated that he had been born at Albemarle VA and at the time of his enlistment he was about 20 years old, a farmer, and about 5' 8" with sandy hair, blue eyes, and light complexion. She stated that as Mary Cox she married John Casey at Jackson in Jackson County OH, that this was her first marriage, but that Casey had previously been married to Jane Bailey and Lucinda Morton, both of whom had died. She stated that John Casey died in Mason County VA, and that she had not married again. On 27 Feb 1880 Mary Casey supplemented her application, stating that she was then 78 and a resident of Washington in Fayette County OH, and that the following had been messmates of her late husband: Isham Bailey [pension application S12965], William Bailey, Benjamin Hensley, John Jones, and a man named Miller. She also stated that her marriage to Casey occurred on 26 May 1831. "Emanuel Lookado" certified her respectability and credibility. In another document she stated that John Casey died in Oct 1845.

On 26 Mar 1885 in Fayette County Mary Casey, 75, applied again for a pension and for the pension owed to her late husband, declaring as follows: "She is the Widow of John Casey who was a pensioner of the United States resideing in Kanawa County Virginia now West Va. on February 21st A.D. 1833 and drawed back from March 4th A.D. 1831 that his Annual allowance to the best of her knowledge was Eighty dollars that he was paid on his first payment the sum of two hundred dollars. That he obtained a Land Warrant for two hundred Acres of Land which was given to one William Lytle to be located somewhere in the State of Ohio. That some time after her said Husband received his first payment Two Young men came to their House a few minutes after her said Husband had Had an Epileptic fit to which he was subject and told him

that he had too young a wife to have a pension and that they wanted his pension Certificate and as he was feeble and nervous and frightened he gave up his pension Certificate to them and they also went to the House of a man by the name of Hanover and took his pension Certificate from him and that the said Hanover Went to Washington City and made known the facts and tot another Certificate but that her said Husband was afraid those men would return and kill him if he made an effort to have his pension restored. and this is the reason that he did not continue to draw his pension regularly to the date of his death." I could find no pensioner named Hanover. A pension certificate would have been useless except to the person authorized to collect the pension, and a stolen certificate could easily be replaced by mail. Casey's pension was probably stopped because of Singleton's allegation that it had been obtained by fraud.

The complete file includes 210 pages mostly relating to allegations in the following note: "Since admission of claim an item appeared in newspaper charging pensioner with 'adulterous cohabitation' with a negro named 'Luckado. Special Examiner Nichols forwarded newspaper article with letter stating that the article (as he was informed) is true. Suspension of payment was ordered, but the accrued pension (about \$984) had already been paid. Further payment is now suspended. Case was sent out for investigation, but recalled by wire Oct 31 87." On 14 Nov 1887 Jordan Luckadoo stated to an investigator that he had "secured his free papers" in Albemarle County VA on 4 Aug 1834 at age 21, that he had married Mary Casey in Jackson County, and they had had three sons. Soldiers' former widows were not entitled to pensions while they were married, but mixed marriages were illegal in Ohio until shortly before Mary Casey applied for a pension. The Pension Office appears to have initially decided that when Ohio repealed the law against mixed marriages, Mary Casey immediately became the wife of Jordan Luckadoo and therefore ineligible for a pension.

The 1870 federal census for Jackson Township in Pike County OH lists the following:

Lucado, Jordan	60	M[ulatto]	Farmer	born in	VA
Mary	57	w[hite]	Keeping house		OH
Isaia	18	M	Farm Laborer		OH idiotic
Mathew	17	M	Farm Laborer		OH
Manuel	16	M	Farm Laborer		OH

The file includes two news clippings about Mary Casey Luckdoo, one of which is transcribed here and the other shown below:

REVOLUTIONARY WAR WIDOW

Mrs. Mary Casey, on Sunny Side, is the Widow of a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, and Yet She Draws no Pension.

Mrs. Abigail S. Tilton [former widow of Benjamin Stevens, pension application W27780], of North Woodbridge, Rockingham county, N. H., is the last pensioner on the list of the Revolutionary War, her husband having been a soldier in that war. This old lady who is over one hundred years of age receives annually from the State of New Hampshire \$104, and \$194 annually from the United States Government, making a total of \$298 per year.

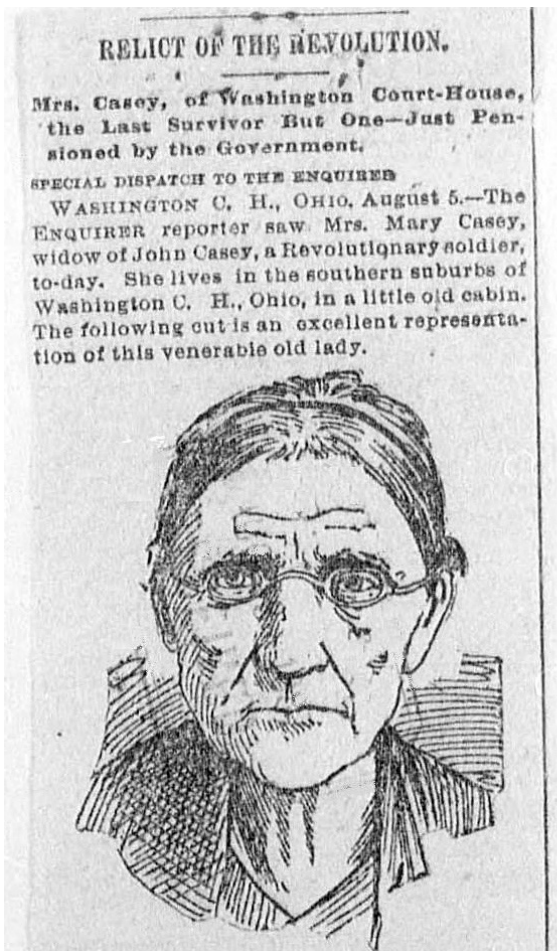
Although Mrs. Tilton is the only pensioner drawing a Revolutionary War pension, she is not the only person entitled to one. There is living in a little two-room cabin on Third street over on Sunny Side, this city, the widow of a brave and honorably discharged Revolutionary soldier, who has never received a cent from the Government, although she is at present in abject poverty. This seems strange, yet it is nevertheless true. The writer made the old lady a visit yesterday and found her engaged in sorting out garden seeds for planting. She told the following story which has been vouched for by persons who have investigated the case.

"I am eighty years of age and a resident of Washington C. H., Ohio, and am the widow of John Casey, who was a pensioner of the United States, and whose pension certificate was numbered, to the best of my knowledge, 19,554. As a soldier of the war of the Revolution he was pensioned on February 21, 1833 and was paid to March 4, 1834, the sum of \$200. About this time two ruffians, or robbers, came to our house in Kanawa county, Virginia, now West Virginia, and demanded my husband's pension certificate, and compelled him to deliver it up to them. They took it and also went to the house of one Hanover and took his pension certificate from him. But Hanover afterwards went to Washington D. C., and obtained another certificate. My husband had epileptic fits and was feeble and nervous and afraid to make any effort to recover his pension certificate for fear that these robbers would kill him. This was the reason he did not

continue to draw his pension to the date of the last pay day prior to his death. I was married to John Casey in Jackson county, Ohio, under the name of Mary Cox, on May 26, 1831, by Frederick Winfaugh, J. P. Neither myself nor husband had been previously married, and I have remained his widow."

It seems that Casey was seventy-five years of age when he married Mary Cox, who was eighteen at the time of their marriage. He was tall, handsome and vigorous, while his young bride had but fairly budded into womanhood. The old man saw the girl and, as the boys say in these day got "mashed on her." He won her affections and they lived with each other in the richest enjoyment of wedded life until death called him away. Left alone in the world, with no means of support and no relatives to take her in and give her a home, the young widow was at a loss to know what to do. Jordan Lookado, a negro slave who worked about the house stuck by his "Misses" through thick and thin; he came with her to Fayette county many years ago. They have both been brought to old age, and the old lady calls Jordan "her man." they get what help they can from the township, but withal it is impossible to keep the wolf from the door.

Some time ago a pension agent of this city took up the old lady's case and attempted to secure a pension for her. the Pension Department admitted that she is the widow of a Revolutionary War soldier, but because her husband did not continue to draw the pension after the time at which Mrs. Casey alleges the certificate was stolen, they refused to grant the pension. The name of John Casey has been found in the official lists of several records of the Revolutionary War soldiers who drew pensions, and yet with all this the Pension Department three years ago refused to grant the pension, which would amount to the present time to between \$4,000 and \$6,000. It is the general sentiment among those who are familiar with the case that it is an outrage that the old lady is not receiving a pension.



Mrs. Casey is a large, stout-looking person, is quite gray, and shows the effects of age. She was married to John Casey, an old gentleman seventy-eight years of age, when she was but sixteen. When the Revolutionary War broke out Mr. Casey was living in the mountains of Virginia, and was among the first to rush forth in defense of liberty and independence.

After the war was concluded Casey settled in Kanawha County, Virginia. He lived as a planter for many years, and became well known throughout the neighborhood. Mrs. Casey, whose maiden name was Cox, says that her husband was about seventy-eight years of age when he came on a trip to Jackson County, Ohio, and that upon this occasion they both met for the first time, and were shortly afterward married. After the old soldier's death his widow returned to Ohio, where it became necessary for her to toil for a living. One of her sons is in the regular army, and is said to be a handsome, well built fellow.

Mrs. Mary Casey, of Washington C. H., and Mrs. Tilton, of New Hampshire, are said to be the only Revolutionary War widows now living. Mrs. Casey is remarkably healthy, and may live for many years to come. Mrs. Abigail Tilton, of New Hampshire, the other, and it is believed the only other remaining Revolutionary War widow, receives a pension from both the State and National Governments, amounting in all to about \$300 a year.

The people of this city are glad to know that Mrs. Casey has been granted a pension, and that she is now blessed with a competency for the rest of her life.