



Chelsea Pensioners

1808-1828

Hindon



Until the 17th century the state made no specific provision for old and injured soldiers.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I it was recognised that provision needed to be made for poor, sick and disabled soldiers. This led to an Act of Parliament, passed in 1593, that levied a weekly tax on parishes for the relief of soldiers and sailors.

By 1673 it was becoming increasingly apparent that some soldiers were no longer fit for service. In 1681, King Charles issued a Royal Warrant authorising the building of the Royal Hospital Chelsea to care for those 'broken by age or war'.

Sir Christopher Wren was commissioned to design and erect the building. Sir Stephen Fox was commissioned to secure the funds necessary to progress the build.

The chosen site, set adjacent to the River Thames in the countryside of Chelsea contained the uncompleted building of the former 'Chelsey College'.

During the reign of King William III and Queen Mary II, the Royal Hospital was still under construction, so they introduced a system for distribution of army pensions in 1689. The pension was to be made available to all former soldiers who had been injured in service, or who had served for more than 20 years.

In 1692 work was finally completed and the first Chelsea Pensioners were admitted in February 1692 and by the end of March the full complement of 476 were in residence. However there were more pensioners than places available in the Hospital. Eligible ex-soldiers who could not be housed in the Hospital were termed out-pensioners, receiving their pension from the Royal Hospital but living outside it. In-pensioners, by contrast, surrendered their army pension and lived within the Royal Hospital.

In 1703, there were only 51 out-pensioners. By 1815 this figure had risen to 36,757. This was due to Napoleonic War Service

The Royal Hospital remained responsible for distributing army pensions until 1955, following which the phrase "out-pensioner" became less common, and "Chelsea pensioner" was used largely to refer to "in-pensioners".

To qualify for a Pension or a place within the hospital you had to satisfy one of two criteria. 1. Be injured whilst on active service. 2. To have served more than 20 years in the service of the country.

In 2009 the first women were admitted to the hospital following a decision in 2007 to modernise the facilities for both men and women use.

Not all pensioners were housed in the Hospital, many more were left in their parishes and received a pension for being "Out" pensioners.

For More information about the Chelsea Hospital please visit – [Origins and History](#)

Hospital Admissions – Born at Hindon, Wiltshire Served in Canada 1743-1882

Surname	Blandford
Given Name	Willm.
Rank	Sergeant
Regiment	Wilts
Age	50 (Born about 1736)
Years of Service	29 years served
Previous Occupation	Labourer
Reason for Admission	Rheumatic
Date admitted	28 Oct 1736

Surname	Bye
Given Name	Charles
Date of Admission	19th July, 1826
Regiment	34 th Regt & 41 st Foot Regt.
Age	34 (Born about 1788)
Years of Service	14 years 4 months in the 41st Regiment of Foot; Includes 5 years 11 months in the 34th Foot;
Previous Occupation	Labourer
Reason for Admission	Chronic liver complaints in India
Description	Height - 5' 9" Hair - Sandy Eyes - Grey Complexion - Fair

Surname	Day
Given Name	Jno.
Date of Admission	21st July, 1822
Age	46
Years of Service	26 years
Rank & Regiment	Sergeant - 24 th Regiment of Foot
Previous Occupation	Labourer
Reason for Admission	Infirmities from Age and Rheumatism
Description	Height - 5' 8" Hair - brown Eyes - Grey Complexion - Fresh

Surname	Norris
Given Name	Asher
Date of Admission	21 st May, 1779
Age	41
Years of Service	19 years
Rank & Regiment	Sergeant
Previous Occupation	Shoemaker
Reason for Admission	Rheumatic

Surname	Norton
Given Name	Edwd.
Date of Admission	13 th Feb 1748
Age	43
Years of Service	23 years
Rank & Regiment	1st Regiment of Foot Guards
Previous Occupation	Labourer
Reason for Admission	Worn out

Surname	Shergold
Given Name	Thos.
Date of Admission	26 th April, 1816
Age	42
Years of Service	15 years
Rank & Regiment	Sergeant – Staff Corps
Previous Occupation	Carpenter
Reason for Pension	Wounded left leg at Albuera
Description	Height - 5' 5" Hair - brown Eyes - Grey Complexion - Fresh

Surname	Yeates
Given Name	Moses
Date of Admission	10 th June 1777
Age	43
Years of Service	21 years
Rank & Regiment	Sergeant – 11 th Regt Dragoons
Previous Occupation	Labourer
Reason for Admission	A fall from his house

Pension

Surname	Bishop
Given Name	Thomas
Proceedings for Pension	London – 24 th May, 1862
Rank	Sergeant
Age	43 years
Years of Service	20 th Regiment of Foot - Attested 25 th April, 1837 at the age of 18. Transferred to - Royal Canadian Regt. of Rifles Served 25 years – Bermuda 5 ½ years; North America 15 years.
Previous Occupation	Labourer
Reason for Pension	Completed 25 years service – entitled to permanent pension
Description	Height - 5' 7 ½ " Hair - Brown Eyes - Grey Complexion - Fresh