



Chelsea Pensioner Registers of Soldiers who served in Canada

1743 - 1882

Parish

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'.

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.

(Chelsea Pensioners – [Origins and History](#))

Name	Jno. Stevens (Serjt)
Birth Place	Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire
Regiment	1 st Regiment of Dragoon Guards
Admission Date	5 October, 1807
Age	51
Years of Service	28
Occupation	Labourer
Medical reason	Rheumatic