

## **Pension Application for Gideon VanAken**

S.16277

The State of Ohio

Trumbull County SS

On this second day of October AD 1832 personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas of said county Gideon VanAken a resident of Johnson in the County of Trumbull aforesaid aged seventy seven 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1775 with ----- and served in the Regiment of the line belonging to the brigade commanded by Col. George Livingston (The no of Regt not recollected) under the following named officers, Lieut Abraham Vanaken, Capt Phillip Swarts (Major ----- Lieut Col. -----names not recollected) Col John Snyder. I served in this regiment I think eight months but am not positive as to the time. I left the service in the fall of the year or fore part of winter. I lived at the time I entered the service in the State of New York County of Ulster, Town of Esopus. I was in no battle after I enlisted.

I went up the river to Fort Stanwix where I was discharged. I had a written discharge but have lost it. I presume the records of the regiment will show my enlistment and the time I served.

That he again entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He lived at Esopus, County of Ulster, State of New York and was drafted as a private in the militia for five months in the year 1778 and served five months under Captain Phillip Swarts, Col. John Snyder. L He cannot state the day or month when he entered the service or left. He engaged in no battle during this period of service. He marched from the place of his residence to the City of New York. He cannot recollect the No. of the continental Regiment or company in which he served. He became acquainted with a Col. Drake of the regular army & with Genls Washington & Green.

That he again entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He was drafted into the militia service for the same town county & state above stated. He cannot state the day or month of his entering the service or of his discharge, but states that he entered in the summer [summer] of the year 1777, and was discharged the same fall, Capt Phillip Swarts & Col. John Snyder commanded the company & regiment in which I served at this time, Genl Washington commanded the army after I was drafted this time his company went to New York & there joined the Army of Washington, he was in the battle on the pine plains with a the british & thinks about 200 men were killed, states a ball went through his hat during the engagement. That Col George Clinton was in this battle and was near him in this battle. That at the time of service he was drafted for eight months, but that Abraham VanAken was his brother and a Lieutenant in the army & that he hired a man to take his place, and that he then got a discharge or certificate

from Genl Washington & returned home. That he has long since lost said certificate. That it was in a chest with a viol [vial] of British oil & the viol got broken and spoiled the papers so that it could not be read & he thinks his wife threw it and sundry other papers that sustained a similar injury away. That eh thinks he served at this time about three months, but cannot state positively as he is old and his memory has failed very materially within a few years past.

He states that he has no documentary evidence of his service and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to prove his actual service. After the Revolutionary War he lived at Esopus in the State of New York until sixteen years ago last June when he removed to the State of Ohio, and went into the town of Canfield in Turnbull County & resided in that place three years and then removed to the place where he now resides.

He states that he is known to Col. Walter Johnston of Johnston in this county and also to the Hon. Elisha Whittlesey of Canfield who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Gideon VanAken

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Letter in folder dated February 12, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

Your are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.16277, that Gideon VanAken, while residing in Esopus, Ulster County, Ohio, enlisted and served as a private with the New York Troops as follows: from sometime in 1775, eight months in Captain Phillip Swart's Company, Colonel John Snyder's Regiment; from sometime in 1776, five months under the same officers, and from the summer of 1777, three months under the same officers and was in an engagement on the "pine plains". No specific dates are given for any of the above services.

After the Revolution, he continued to live at Esopus, New York, until 1816, when he moved to Canfield, Ohio, resided there for three years, land then moved to Johnson, Trumbull County, Ohio.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 2, 1832, at which time he was aged seventy-seven years and resided in Johnson, Ohio.

In 1832, he referred to his wife, but did not give her name or the date of their marriage, or whether she was then living, and there is no reference to children. He stated that Lieutenant Abraham VanAken was his brother.