

Pension Application for John VanAntwerp

W.19897 (Widow: Rachel)
State of New York
Montgomery County SS.

On this 25th day of September 1837 personally appeared before me Myndert Starin a Commissioner of Deeds in and for said County John Dockstader of the Town of Palatine, County and State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law deposes and says that he is 86 years of age that he was well acquainted with John VanAntwerpen who was a private in the Revolutionary War and whose widow Rachel Vanantwerpen named in the annexed affidavit applies for a pension or rather sets forth the services of her said husband. That the said Vanantwerpen served in said War in Capt. John Davis (1) Company of Col. Frederick Fisher's Regiment until the battle of Oriskana. The first service was in the latter part of June or beginning of July 1775, occupied 8 days and was done in the Town of Johnstown at Caughnawaga according to the direction of the Committee of Tryon County. In September of the same year was ordered out by Captain John Davis to guard against the Tories who collected at Johnson's Hall and served 7 days at different times during the same year there were more meetings of the Militia but I cannot now recollect to specify the times or places.

In the 1776, in the month of January, Capt. John Davis Company was ordered to meet at Caughnawaga with Col. Fisher's Regiment, and was marched to Johnson's Hall, Johnstown, under command of Gen. Philip Schuyler (2) where Sir John Johnson (3) surrendered his arms & the said Vanantwerpen served there 7 days. That in the months of April & May of this same year, said Vanantwerpen was ordered out in Capt. John Davis Company and served in different places at Johnstown, Albany Bush & Scotch Bush in search of Tories 21 days.

That in months of June and part of July Capt. John Davis Company was ordered out to the protection of the inhabitants of Bowman's Creek, Groats Tavern and scouting parties when the said Vanantwerpen served 22 days. That in the year 1777 Col. Fisher ordered out a detachment of Militia to Balstown said Vanantwerpen served therein 8 days under Lieut. Van Brocklin (4) who had command of part of Capt. Abraham Veeder's Company. That in the month of July of the same year said Vanantwerpen went with a scouting party from Johnstown to Fort Miller, served 14 days under command of a Sergeant whose name I cannot recollect—

In the month of August 1777 the whole of Col. F. Fisher's Regiment was ordered out and marched to Oriskana, said Vanantwerpen was in the battle of Oriskana in said Regiment in the company of Captain John Davis who was there killed and thinks Vanantwerpen was out then about three weeks.

In September & October of the same year a part of Capt. Abraham Veeder's Company was ordered to Saratoga under command of Lieut Gerrit Van Brocklin said Vanantwerpen then served with him six weeks—In the year 1778 was ordered out by Captain Abraham Veeder to march to Sacondaga in the month of May where the said Vanantwerpen under command of said Veeder was 7 days at work building a blockhouse.

In the month of June said Vanantwerpen was again ordered out to guard the block house at Sacondaga under command of Capt. John Fisher (5) who had a detachment of Militia and served 30 days—and further that as near as I can now remember the said Vanantwerpen was again ordered out in Capt. Veeder's Company and marched to Canajoharie, Fort Plain and Fort Plank and there served 19 days, and also that in October of the year 1778 the said Vanantwerpen was ordered out to Cherry Valley when it was burned by Major Butler, (6) and served then 7 days in Capt. Veeder Company. (Signed) John Docksteter

I certify that I have been acquainted with John Docksteter for more than twenty years last past that he is a credible person and that this affidavit is entitled to full credit. Myndert Starin, Comm. of Deeds &c.

State of New York
County of Montgomery.

John V. Veeder of the town of Mohawk state and County aforesaid being duly sworn says that he is now of the age of seventy four years past that he was well acquainted with John Vanantwerpen in the revolutionary war and with Rachel his wife and was present when they were married by the Rev. Thomas Romyne in my father's house it was in the fall of the year after the expedition of Col. Willett to Oswego (7) to the best of my Recollection on the 22 day of Novem'r but I am not positive to the day of the month but I am positive it was in the year 1783 and no [know] this Rachel Vanantwerpen who now applies for a pension to be the widow of the said John Vanantwerpen who died about ten years since the said Rachel having lived in my fathers house in the war of the Revolution for more than six years, and knew her said husband was a soldier of the Revolutionary War served in the militia and also in a company of Rangers Commanded by Capt. Christian Getman (8) for a Term of 9 months as I then was informed and believe that in the year 1780 the said John Vanantwerpen was taking a prisoner on the 22 day of May by Sir John Johnson (9) from Canada in or near the house of John Veeder's where a number of Militia were collected he was taking in arms could not resist the enemy who were two strong and was carried to Canada remained a prisoner till late in the fall or the beginning of the winter when he make his escape from the

enemy together with another prisoner Joseph Scot (10) when they both returned again to the Mohawk River. (Signed) John V. Veeder (11)

Subscribed & Sworn to before me this 26th day of September 1837. Myndert Starin, Comm. of Deeds &c.

Additional notes for VanAntwerp, John

His name appears on a list of applicants for invalid pension returned by the district Court for the District of New York, submitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary of War on April 25, 1794, and printed in the American State Papers, Class 9, page 95.

Rank: Private

Regt: Col. Visscher's

Disability: Wounded in his left heel in an action with some Indians.

When and where disabled: Aug 7, 1777, Oriskie.

Residence: Mohawk Town

Remarks: There are no militia rolls in this office.

Evidence transmitted by the District Court incomplete. Physicians declare that his wound is not injurious. Disability not proved to be the effect of known wounds. No proof when he left the eservice. No proof of a continuance of disability.

Rachel VanAntwerp applied for the pension of her said deceased husband John VanAntwerp on October 31, 1838, while a resident of the Town of Johnstown, Fulton County and was 75 years old.

She states her husband died April 10, 1827.

On June 26, 1839, a daughter, Catharine Coughnet presents from the family bible a record of the marriage of John and Rachel which had been cut out of the bible. "John Van Antwerp, Rachel Allen was married 22 of November 1783."

The following are births known of children for John & Rachel:

Hester born October 19, 1784 and baptized on November 12, 1784, Dutch Reformed Church of Caughnawaga. Baptism Book, page 70.

Johannis baptized July 16, 1786, Dutch Reformed Church of Caughnawaga Baptism Book, page 81.

Johannis born May 17, 1787, baptized June 17, 1787, Dutch Reformed Church of Caughnawaga Baptism Book, page 85.

In the Wills of Montgomery County Book 57, page 268, a will of John VanAntwerp is dated March 28, 1827 and probated on June 4, 1827.

It lists wife Rachel, sons Abraham, Tunis, and Daniel, daughters Caty, Hester, Nelly, Polly, Rachel, and Jane.

Executors are sons Daniel and Tunis. Witnesses are Barent H. Vrooman, Richard Horning and Harmanus VanDusen.

End Notes—W.19897—John VanAntwerp

1. John Davis was appointed Captain on August 26, 1775 of the second company in Colonel Frederick Visscher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
2. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army.
3. Sir John Johnson, son of Sir William Johnson lived at Johnson Hall, Johnstown until May of 1776 when he fled to Canada with several of his tenants. Johnson in June of 1776 raised a regiment of loyalists known as the King's Royal Regiment of New York. During the War of Independence they were active against the Americans in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys.
4. Garret S. VanBrocklin was an Ensign in Captain Davis' company. Captain Davis was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777 and the company was then commanded by First Lieutenant Abraham Veeder. In 1778, Veeder was appointed captain, Nicholas Dockstader as first lieutenant, Garret S. VanBrocklin as second lieutenant, and Dirck Potman (Richard Putman) as ensign. They were all commissioned on March 8, 1781.
5. John Visscher (brother of Colonel Visscher) was appointed captain on August 26, 1775 of the fourth company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment.
6. Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant destroyed Cherry Valley on November 11, 1778. Butler's rank was captain in Butler's Ranger commanded by his father Lieutenant-Colonel John Butler.
7. Colonel Marinus Willett's expedition of capture Fort Oswego was in February of 1783.
8. John is listed as enlisting as a private in Captain Christian Getman's Second Company of Tryon County Rangers on August 14, 1776. The company was discharged on March 27, 1777. There is a notation on one of the muster rolls that he had been paid £ 9. . 5. . 3. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Roll 74, folder 103, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

9. Frederick Sammons in his deposition on May 20, 1837 who also had been captured on May 22, 1780, relates the following: "In the year 1780 the 22d day of May Col. John Johnson came from Canada with 6 or 700 British Torys & Indians to destroy the Country when VanAntwerpen was taken prisoner with myself & Tyed with a strong rope and put under a British guard the same day the Indians by leave of the Colo. came and took VanAntwerpen out of the guard & put him under there (sic their) own Guard. I saw him the nex (sic) morning with the Indians painted like an Indian & 8 days afterwards the Indians separated from the British when I saw him the last some tim elate in the fall of the same year I heard he had made his Escape from Montreal in Company with one Joseph Scott who was also a prisoner & further I know not."
10. Lieutenant Benjamin Deline and Joseph Scott were living at Johnson Hall and were captured by Johnson on May 22, 1780. Both men were from captain John Littel's (Little) company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment.
11. John Dockstader and Veeder both served in Captain Veeder's Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment.