

Pension Application for James Vanderbilt or Vanderbelt

S.16278

State of New York

Rockland County SS.

On this twenty seventh day of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, now sitting at the Town of Clarkstown in and for the County of Rockland, James Vanderbelt a resident of the town of Clarkstown in said County and State aforesaid aged seventy five years last October as appears by the Record of his age kept in the family Bible now in the possession of his step-mother now living in said Town who first being sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That in the latter aprt of the year 1775 or the commencement of the year 1776. Hew with many of the Inhabitants of the then Precinct of Haverstraw Orange County, now Clarkstown Rockland County, met together and signed articles of association or confederacy, by which they bound themselves to do all in their power to obtain the independence of the United States of America.

That in the year 1776 above mentioned he first enlisted as a soldier in the five months service as a volunteer, in a company of militia, whereof Jacob Deronder was Captain, and John D. Coe and Isaac Coe were Lieutenants and the Regiment to which said company belonged was commanded by Colonel Nicholas from Orange County, and general George Clinton was commander in chief.

That after his enlistment the company was stationed at a place called the Red Hook, near Peekskill landing on the east side of the Hudson River in what is now called Westchester County. There were at the same time stationed with them two other companies, to wit, the company commanded by Captain Abraham Onderdonk, and a company commanded by Captain Nicholas from Orange County.

That he the said Vanderbelt served out his time, and he with the company was discharged on the last of December of the same year.

That previous to their discharge a relief was sent, that the discharge that the company received was by parol, that he knew of no written discharges at that time. That after he was thus discharged, he returned home to Clarkstown, and in the following year 1777 as near as his memory now serves him.

He again was called out in the militia service, in guarding along the west shore of the Hudson River, and was stationed at different places along the same and continued so in service, until the fall of that year.

Soon after a company of Volunteers were raised by Captains Robert Johnson to serve for three months, that he the said Vanderbelt was appointed by this company as a Sargeant, but that he had no written appointment, as it was at that day unusual.

That the company thus raised were stationed at Tappan in Rockland county near the line of the State of New Jersey. That the company was then at that time

under the command of Colonel Gilbert Cooper; that he served out his three months faithfully and was then dismissed or discharged by the officers in command and he with rest of the company returned home.

That while serving in this company returned home. That while serving in this company and while stationed at Tappan, the British Army and light horse, came up and the division to which he belonged was compelled to retreat and were followed by the British, until they reached Clarkstown, recollect the night previous to this, that a company of British Soldiers, murdered a troop of light Dragoons, while they were asleep in Barns at Tappan.

That he afterwards in the year following, which as near as he can now recollect was in the year 1778, entered the militia service at home in the company of Captain Jacob Onderdonk and was stationed as a guard at different places along the Hudson River but more particularly at or near Haverstraw, Nyack and Tappan Landings in Rockland County, and occasionally scouting through different parts of the County of Bergen in the State of New Jersey.

That in the same year he again enlisted into another company under Captain John Garner, Resolvent T. Van Houten Lieutenant, and recollects that he and the rest of the company were discharged by the officers in command about New Year's day.

That he thinks Colonel Cooper had the command of this company also, as Colonel.

That according to his present recollection, he in the following year 1779, was engaged in the militia service in times of alarm, which were daily or weekly as occasion required. That he was engaged with some others for one month in the service under General Wain having been ordered by his officers to join his division, after the month was expired he returned home and entered into service again in the company of Capt Jacob Onderdonk, at this time he was the greater part of the time in actual service at various places, as the British were continually landing from the shipping that lay in the Hudson River, or marching out of the City of New York, plundering the inhabitants of everything valuable taking many of the inhabitants prisoners to New York, or murdering them on the spot, or burning their dwellings, so much so, that no person was safe at home, in their fields or even the sanctuary without carrying their arms with them. That he thus continued in service until the close of the war.

That he was called out frequently upon scouts in the State of New Jersey whenever an alarm was made. Recollects now distinctly of one particular time when an alarm was given, he with the rest of his company were marched into the County of Bergen in the State of New Jersey, as far as to a place called the [Dwas?] Brook the British were then on their march from Hackensack, and intended to have cut off their retreat. That a pretty severe skirmish took place, and he with the rest of the American soldiers were compelled to retreat back to their Regiment, that lay a few miles distant remembers that this was on Sunday and that the British intended that night to take them all prisoners, and which he says was prevented by two deserters that came to them that night and discovered the plot that the British had laid.

The said James Vanderbilt further declares that he was Born in the then Precinct of Haverstraw, then Orange County now the town of Clarkstown in the County of Rockland, in the year 1757 as by the record referred to appears.

That he has ever since his birth resided in said town.

That he cannot for absolute certainty declare the exact time in which he was engaged in actual service during the revolutionary war, as a length of time has elapsed, and his recollections somewhat imperfect, yet after mature reflection and consideration, can without hesitation fix and determine upon a period of at least two years in all, in which he was in actual service.

That he has no documentary evidence of his service and the positive testimony he can offer in corroboration of this his declaration is the depositions of the persons hereunto annexed who served with him in said war.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except he present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. To the seventh Interrogatory put by the Court, he further declares that he is known by the following persons residing in his neighborhood & who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, to wit, Abbraham [sic] Van Houten, Resolvert Van Houten, Peter Stephens, Resolvent Stephens and others and he further states that the names of officers that were with the troops where he served are the names of Co. Hawkes Hay, Major John Smith, Major John L. Smith, Major Genl Lee, and other that he cannot now recollect. (Signed) James Vanderbilt

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year above written in open court. David Pye Clerk.