

Pension Application for Martiness Vanderwerkin

R.10854 (Widow: Anna Maria) married April 27, 1780. Martiness died 1787. Anna Maria died January 10, 1843.

Richland August 16th 1847;.

Dear Sir,

In your letter of July 27 which I received some days since and have not found the opportunity to answer until now you desire to hear certain questions answered definitely and precisely as few as possible. I will endeavor to answer as definitely as we can with our present knowledge.

1st "How was the name spelled?" I answer, Martiness Vanderwerkin. 2 "Where did the old soldier reside?" Can not tell where he lived when he enlisted. He was married in the town of Canajoharie Montgomery County N.Y. about the year 1777 by a German preacher by the name of Toll or Tull. 3d "When did he perform his services?" He was with Washington during most of the war a portion of the time under short enlistments of from six months to a year at a time and once enlisted for a term of 3 years and served until he was regularly discharged. He was employed most of the time as a courier or news carrier under the direction of Washington or his staff from one portion of the American forces to other portions situated in other places. His services were probably performed both before and after his marriage but of that we can not be certain. He was one of the Regular army in his 3 years enlistment. Can not name his captain or colonel. His wife's name was Anna Maria Etz. She always remained a widow. William Vanderwalker, of Richland, Kalamazoo County Michigan is the only child that survived her.

She now applies for a pension. Mr. Vanderwalker thinks he can find a record of her marriage written in German Language with a son of his in the State of N.Y. but of this he is onto certain. Can not tell when the first child was born. Mr. Vanderwalker was only 3 years old when his father died and can only give accounts which he has received from his mother. The widow moved into this town in 1838 and died here 6th day of January 1843.

No application was ever made for a pension because of ignorance of the pension laws and because of the failure of so many who did make application.

Mr. Vandewalker says that he has seen a military record in the hands of Walter Wood containing the name of his father the time of service and regular discharge, but this as some 20 years ago, thinks there is no doubt but the same record can now be found.

There may be a difficulty in proving the marriage as Vanderwerkin died in about 7 years after marriage but Mr. Vandewalker thinks his uncle is not living in Schoharie by whom he could prove the fact of their living together as married persons and perhaps their marriage. They were married in a Dutch Reformed Church which as afterwards burnt and probably the record was burnt, still it is possible the marriage may be proved and Mr. Vanderwalker will set himself at work to find out what he can prove. If it was necessary perhaps he could go back to the State of N.Y. and look up

the facts. He would like to avoid this if possible as he is now 64 years old and is somewhat infirm.

You will write of course as occasion may require if you conclude to take up the matter.

I was at the Chicago Convention and should have been happy to have made your acquaintance.

I am also, well acquainted with Mr. Clark whom you mentioned. I am sometimes engaged in the same line of business with him and living near him here became somewhat acquainted with him.

I believe he has nearly recovered from the injury he received by the upsetting of the state coach. I saw him on my return from the convention and he was about to undertake to go home on a bed.

Mr. Vanderwalker would like to have you write as soon as you convenience will permit in relation to his mother.

Very Respectfully yours. March Giddings.