

Pension Application for John Vanfleet or Van Vleet

R.10898

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this thirteen day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of common pleas in and for said County now sitting John VanVleet a resident of the town of Glenville in said County & State, aged nearly seventy five 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He was born in the town of Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess in the Colony now the State of New York on the ninth day of January 1758. L He has no record of his age except that contained in his family Bible.

When he was called into the service of the United States in the army of the revolution, he was living in the town of Watervliet in the then County of Albany in said State, and since the revolutionary war he has lived in said town of Watervliet for 20 years or more afterwards at Caughnawaga & thence to Princetown N.Y. & he now lives in the town of Glenville aforesaid.

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

In the year 1775 he enlisted or was enrolled in the Company of Militia commanded by Captain Peter Schuyler in the Regiment whereof Francis Nicholls was Colonel. In the year 1776 said Captain being advanced to the rank of Major the command of his company was given to Henry Ostrom, and he served in this company of Henry Ostrom until the end of the war. His other company and field officers whom he recollects were Philip Hamestreet, Lieutenant, Jacob Weaver first Lieutenant and Philip Schuyler had the command of said Regiment until the end of the war.

His first expedition was in the year 1776, when he was drafted to go to the Helderburgh. In which expedition he served about eight days in pursuit of a party of Tories. He did military duty for about sixteen weeks with the American troops encamped this year at Lake George, for Edward & Skeenesborough. He was engaged in several scouting parties in pursuit of Tories to Clifton Park, near Lake George, and to other places where they were known to rendezvous.

When George Burgoyne [?] Ticonderoga, he was called out to fort Edward, was in the retreat of General Schuyler. Two out of his company of whom he was one volunteered with a party & marched to Bennington but came too late to engage in the battle fought at that place.

When the British troops were encamped at Skeenesborough he went there as a spy. He served in these last named expeditions for a term exceeding three months.

While at Fort Edward in the year 1777 the Indian Chief Captain John who had command of 4 or 500 warriors was permitted by the officers to make choice of a man from among the American troops to supply his party with provisions. That lot fell on the claimant who was employed in this service for the term of four weeks.

He has on several other occasions besides those herein before given, performed military duty at Fort Edward also at Fort Ann & at Fort Miller.

He has moreover served in several scouting & reconnoitering parties, and when not out from home in these different expeditions he mounted guard at Watervliet & other places in the vicinity exposed to excursions from the Tories.

When Ross & Butler made their incursion on the Mohawk Settlements in 1781, he marched pursuant to a draft to Johnstown, but was not with the troops that pursued the enemy on West Canada Creek. In this expedition he was in service one week.

The whole of the period he was engaged in actual duty during said war is not less than twenty months.

He was in no battles or skirmishes except a few skirmishes when out as a scout.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew, or who were with the troops where he served, and such continental and militia regiments or companies with which he served, or as he can recollect, viz: General Arnold, General Gates—Captain Staaats, Colonel Willet, Captain Wasson, Capt. Carmichael.

He never received any written discharge from the service.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except his Lieutenant Philip Hamstreet whose deposition is hereto annexed.

The following are the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution to wit. Simon A. Groot and Alexander Kelly.

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) John Vanfleet

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year first aforesaid. John S. Vrooman,
Clerk