
Pension Application for Jeronimus Van Ness or Van Nest

S.11614

State of New York

County of Monroe SS.

On this second day of October personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas of the County of Monroe now sitting Jeronimus Van Nest a resident of the town of Pittsford in the County of Monroe & State of New York aged sixty 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 act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

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

That he enlisted as a soldier into a company under the command of Captain Silas Gray (1) Major John Fundy (2) Lieut Colonel John McKinstry (3) & Colonel Willett.

That he does not recollect the day nor the month, but is positive that it was in the year 1781 I believes it to have been some time in January of that year when he enlisted and that he left the service sometime in October in the year 1781, that he served nine months, when he entered the service he resided in the town of Tomhanick in the County of Rensselaer & State of New York. That he marched from Tomhanick aforesaid through Washington County & up the Hudson River to Fort Edward on hearing the news that the enemy was approaching and secured the inhabitants & their property from destruction by tearing up bridges & taking other means to prevent the march of the enemy.

That he was stationed at Saratoga during the whole of this time.

That he has no documentary evidence that he knows of only one person living who can testify to his service & whose residence is now unknown to him. That he obtained his discharge for nine months service that he delivered his discharge for nine months service that he delivered his discharge to Doct Fobridge the agent to obtain pensions in 1817 for the purpose of applying for a pension for him under the act then in force & the said discharge was, probably sent to the War Department.

That the import of said discharge as near as he can recollect was the following:

This may certify that Jeronimus Van Nest is a private & has served as a faithful soldier according to his obligation for the term of nine months in Colonel Willett's Regiment commanded by Lieut Colonel John McKinstry and in Captain Grays Company whereby he is honourably discharged from his service Dated [blank] day of October 1781. (4) Signed John McKinstry Lieut Col. Silas Gray Captain.

That he answers to the several interrogatories in the County of Rensselaer & State of New York as directed to be propounded by the Court to each applicant as follows:

To the first Interrogatory he answers.

That he was born in the State of New Jersey in the year 1765.

2. That he has a Record of his age & that it is now in his possession.

3. That when he enlisted he resided in the town of Tomhanick in the County of Rensselaer & State of New York from thence removed to the town of Johnstown in the County of Montgomery & State aforesaid and from thence removed to Pamela in the County of Jefferson & State aforesaid and from thence to Penfield in the County of Monroe & from thereto Penn Yan in the County of Yates & State aforesaid & from thence to Penfield aforesaid & from thence to Pittsford in the County & State aforesaid & that he now resides in Pittsford aforesaid.

4. That he was a volunteer in the state Troops of New York. (5)

5. That he does not recollect of any other officers than those above stated.

6. That he received a discharge as above specified.

7. That the names of persons who can testify to his character for veracity are Mumford Clark, Robert Kennedy, Alexander Kennedy, John Le Clear & James Kennedy.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Jeronimus Van Nest.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. J. Cutler Dep Clerk.

End Notes—S.11614—Jeronimus Van Ness

1. Silas Gray was appointed captain on April 27, 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies.
2. John Fonda, Jr., was appointed a lieutenant on April 27, 1781 in Willett's Regiment. John also served as the QuarterMaster for part of 1781 for the same regiment.
3. John McKinstry was appointed major on April 27, 1781 in Willett's Regiment McKinstry was appointed Lieutenant Colonel Commandant on April 28, 1781 of his own regiment and Willett was appointed on the same day for the same rank. Willett refers to McKinstry as major for most of the year and in the payroll for 1781 under "audited and paid for their service" gives McKinstry's rank and pay as a major. McKinstry's appointed officers for his regiment actually served in Willett's Regiment. It appears that McKinstry did not recruit enough enlisted men to formally raise a regiment. So far no actual muster rolls or payroll for companies of McKinstry's regiment have been found.
4. The regiment was not formed until April of 1781 and Captain Gray's Company served to January 1, 1782. As he claims the original discharge had been handed to Doct Fobridge, the agent to obtain pensions in 1817, this information is from memory and in error. On Captain Gray's Pay Receipt Roll his name is listed as Jameron Van Nist and was owed £ 18. . 13. . 4. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, Folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. Jeronimus also served as a private in Captain Matthew De Garmo's Third Company in Colonel Peter Yates' Fourteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia. As he turned 16 in 1781 he would have to enlist in the nearest militia company of his residence. His pension application was eleven pages including the cover page and he had to only prove six months service which he had in his service in Willett's Regiment.