

Pension Application for James Van Nater or Van Natter or Van Etten

S.2-3044

State of New York

Montgomery County SS

On this 11th day of December in the year of our Lord thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Montgomery now sitting James Van Natter a resident of the Town of Johnstown the County of Montgomery and State of New York, aged 77 years 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 and served as herein stated.

Your applicant says, that in the first part of the Revolutionary War, the year this applicant cannot recollect, and now state, neither can he state the month or day of the month he was drafted in a militia company commanded by one James Kipp, Captain, the other company officers he cannot name, the field officers, whom he now recollects were Col. Ten brook or Hay & Major Bradley, he cannot state the name of any of the officers except those already stated and mentioned.

But your applicant says that at the time he was thus drafted, as aforesaid, he was unable to [leave?] and therefore hired a substitute to take him place, the substitutes name was John [cut off] whom your applicant paid the sum of sixty four Pounds as hire, your applicant further says, that the place where he resided during the period of the Revolutionary War was Dutchess County Town of Rhinebeck State of New York that most all other inhabited parts in the State of New York during this important [cut off] it was exposed to the withering hands of the enemy and liable to the attacks of the dreadful Coalition formed between the English, Tories & Indians, at all times.

Sometimes that detestable sett called or justly branded with the name of Tory would sally for the purpose of robbing and plundering the Whigs. At other times that Section be invaded by a band of British who destroyed and lay waste the country burning the habitations and property of the Whigs. This being the deplorable realization of that country the inhabitants were liable and not only liable, but instantly compelled to turn out and shoulder fire arms, in defence of their lives, families and property. Your applicant says that this was the situation of that place for the commencement to the close of the war.

That he was called out frequently in the manner as above stated during the war. The number of times that he was out during the length of time that he was out, at each time it would be as impossible, for applicant now to state, as it would be possible for him to name to endure the privations, hardships that he endured during that eventful period.

He your applicant was to the humanity & the knowledge that this Hon. Department has of the situation of the Country at that time and the manner in which

most of the applicant, under the present act of Congress served their country in the hour of danger.

He is well aware that this Hon. Department requires the precise length of time that each applicant has served to be definitely stated; but he is also conscious that if this rule is pursued by this Hon Department in cases where applicants have served in the war that he your applicant has by piece meals and short periods of 3 days, 8 days & at a time, that many will be very unjustly deprived of that remuneration which they are justly entitled from General Government. He your applicant says that whenever he went out, he went as a private in the company of Capt. James [Kipp?] aforesaid, in a detachment of that company under the command of some substitute officers belonging to said Capt Company, the names of the commanding subaltern officer he cannot state. He says that all the service that he rendered during the war was done within the County of Dutchess and on its borders, under the officers heretofore mentioned.

He your applicant says that he was out a half a month the time Sopus was burnt, the year he cannot state, this was the longest time he was out at any one time. He your applicant says that Benjamin Stoutenburgh whose affidavit is hereunto annexed did make a calculation of the length of time by adding together the different periods at which he had been out and the length of time he your applicant has been out, at each period, which times he the said Stoutenburgh knew of his own personal knowledge that he this applicant had served, and that when they were added up it made more than six months as he the said Stoutenburgh stated in his said affidavit. He says that Stoutenburgh recollect more about it than he himself. And your applicant says that he did serve, in the manner as stated during the period of the war for more than six months, but says he got pay only for six months for the services rendered as above stated.

Your applicants says, that over and above the services already stated, he was drafted in the service of the U.S. as a Teamster and went with his team from Rhinebeck he thinks this was in the spring of the year 1777, the day and month he went out and when discharged he is unable to state and served three weeks as such Teamster, the captain of the company in which he drafted was Wilson belonging to Col. Hays Regiment, the other officers names he cannot now recollect. He your applicant says he has given as much of a history of his services as he is able. Your applicant says that the time he served both as Teamster and on alarms would amount to at least a year but to place it on safe grounds and so that this Hon. Department cannot consistently with their own rules reject his claim, he claims pay for nine months and whatever else the Department may allow him for the money he paid to his substitute.

He was born in the Town of Rhinebeck Ulster County, State of New York, in the year 1755. His birth is recorded in his fathers family bible which is in his own possession. He was acquainted with some of the Regular officers, still might have been during the war but does not now recollect. He is acquainted with the following persons residing in his neighborhood who can testify as to his character for truth and

veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution to wit, Tobias A. Stoutenburgh & Aaron Haring.

He is acquainted with no clergyman and is unable to [?] the certificate of such a person.

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 with his mark) James Van Natter

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court. Geo D. Ferguson, Clerk.