

Pension Application for Benjamin Van Vleck or Van Vleek

R.10897

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

County of St. Lawrence SS.

On this eighteenth day of December in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty three, personally appeared in open court, before the Honorable the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of St. Lawrence aforesaid, now sitting Benjamin Van Vleck, a resident of the town of Fowler in the County of St. Lawrence and State of New York aged seventy 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 enlisted into the service of the United States March 7th 1776, for the period of nine months – was enlisted at Schenectady by Col. Christopher Yates, as an Artificer—served under Jacob Vrooman as Captain or Master Workman—commanded work at Fort George—was ordered from thence to the outlet of Lake George on the “French landing” and from thence back to Fort George, where the company remained until December following—Col Van Schaick’s Regiment lay at Fort George in 1776—Lieut. Col. Cornelius Van Dyke was acting commandant.

That he enlisted into the service as an Artificer March 1st 1777 under Jacob Van Duser of Albany as Master Workman, for the period of Nine months—was marched to Fort Miller, where the company was for some time engaged in building Scows—from thence to Fort Edward and thence built Scows—from thence to Fort George and there were engaged in boat building &c—and were marched from thence to Ticonderoga, which place they left when the Fort was evacuated by the United States troops and taken possession of by Genl Burgoyne—retreated from thence with the troops to a small Island a few miles above Albany, called Pine (or green) Island and returned upon the retreat of Burgoyne to Saratoga and was present at the surrender of Burgoyne—and returned home in November following—thence was (according to his recollection) but one company of troops stationed at Fort Edward, while he remained there in 1777, commanded by Capt McCrackan, Genl St. Clair was in command at Ticonderoga.

That he was again enlisted March 1, 1778 at Schenectady by Col Christopher Yates for the period of nine months in a company of Artificers commanded by Jacob Vrooman as Master Workman was marched to Saratoga and remained there through the season, engaged in building barracks and bateaux and in rebuilding the mills and dwelling house of Genl Schuyler which had been burnt by the British Troops—returned home the last of November or first of December in the same year—there was one company of troops stationed at Saratoga in 1778—but he does not recollect the name of the officers in command –

That he was born at Schenectady in the State of New York, on the 10th day of January in the year 1756—has no record of his age—he had one which was destroyed by fire when his buildings in Denmark, Lewis County, N.Y. were burnt.

That he resided at Schenectady when he entered the service—removed from thence to Ballston in Saratoga County with his father and returned again to Schenectady during the revolutionary war—afterwards removed to the town of Mohawk (now Florida) in the County of Montgomery & State of New York—removed to Johnstown in said County of Montgomery in 1799 and after having served for nearly three years as High Sheriff of Montgomery County, again removed to Harrisburgh (now Denmark) in the County of Lewis and State of New York and in 1824 removed to Fowler in the County of St. Lawrence and State of New York, where he now resides.

That he was called into service by enlistment and never received a written discharge, but was allowed to return home at the expiration of the several terms for which he enlisted.

That he is acquainted with the Rev. Abel L. Crandal, Adam Vedder and Joseph Martin, all living within a few miles of his residence, and who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as artificer in the revolutionary war.

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.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. (Signed) Benjamin VanVleck A. C. Sow, Clk

Letter in folder dated February 13, 1930, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.10897, it appears that Benjamin Van Vleck was born January 10, 1756 in Schenectady, New York.

He applied for pension December 18, 1833, at which time he was a resident of fowler, St. Lawrence County, New York where he had lived since 1824, and stated that he enlisted March 1, 1776 at Schenectady, as an artificer, and served nine months under Jacob Vrooman, Captain or Master Workman, a part of the time at Fort George. He enlisted March 1, 1777 as an artificer, under Jacob VanDuzer, master workmen of Albany, served nine months and was engaged in building scows and boat building, a part of the time at Fort Edwards [Edward]. He was present at the surrender of Burgoyne. He again enlisted March 1, 1778 at Schenectady for nine months in a company of artificers commanded by Jacob Vrooman, Master Workman, and was engaged in building barracks and Batteaux at Saratoga.

During the Revolution he lived some time at Ballston, Saratoga County, New York, and returned to Schenectady. After the Revolution he lived in Mohawk and Johnston [Johnstown], Montgomery County, New York and “in 1799, after having served for nearly three years as High Sheriff of Montgomery County, again removed to Harrisburg (later Denmark) Lewis County, New York,”

His claim for pension was not allowed as the service rendered by him was not in an embodied military corps.

There no data relative to wife and children.