

Pension Application for Nicholas P. Van Vranken

S.17170

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this twelfth 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 Nicholas P. V'n Vranken a resident of the town of Niskayuna in said County & State, aged Eighty-three 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 Niskayuna in the County of Schenectady in the State (then colony) of N. York in the month of July in the year 1749. He has no record of his age except that contained in the Register of Baptisms in possession of the Rev. Prot. Dutch Church of Schenectady. When he was called into the service of the United States in the army of the revolution he was living in said town of Niskayuna and since the revolutionary war he has lived in said town of Niskayuna & he now lives in the said town of Niskayuna in the County aforesaid.

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

In the summer of the year 1776 he received the appointment of second Lieutenant in the Company of militia commanded by Captain Manning in the Regiment whereof James or Jacobus Van Schoonhoven was Colonel. The name of the first Lieutenant of his company was John van Vranken & Mans Van Vranken Ensign and he served as such Lieutenant until the end of said war.

His first expedition was to Jessup's Patent with a detachment of about 300 men as fronts. His next expedition was to Fort Edward where he remained in camp for 3 or 4 weeks.

In the summer of the year 1777, he marched to Fort Edward, remained there on duty for some time—thence to Snooks kill where he engaged in an encounter with the British troops, he also served at Stillwater & the other posts in that vicinity during Burgoyne's incursion in that quarter.

It is impossible for him to specify these different periods of service in which he engaged during said war. The principal expeditions in which he served, were as follows as near as he can recollect. To Sacondaga as a scout at [Owlankill], now Mechanicsville under Captain Steenbergh.

At the upper fort in Schoharie for the term of fourteen days to Palmertown for fourteen days—at Ballston when that place was destroyed by the enemy in the year 1780.

At Stone Arabia fort for the term of three weeks, at Albany 4 weeks—at Lake Otsego—to Boston & guarding the cannon that was conveyed to that place for the term of fifty days.

He served as a member of a Court martial for the term of fourteen days at Albany & for the like term of fourteen days at Niskayuna aforesaid—when not out on

distant expeditions, he performed duty as a guard at Fisher's ferry & Fort's ferry & other posts & passes along the Mohawk river, [?] with incursions from the enemy.

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 Gates, General Arnold, Colonel VanDyck, Colonel Van Schaick, General Schuyler, General Ten Broeck, General Gansevoort & Colonel Gordon.

He never received any written discharge from the service. His commission was dated sometime in the summer of the year [177?] & signed by Governor Geo. Clinton, which Commission is lost.

He has no other documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service, except those whose depositions are hereunto 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, the Rev'd John H. VanWagenen & Derick G. Groat. The whole term of his service during said war is not less than one year.

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) Nich P. V'n Vranken

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