

Pension Application for John Yanson or Janson

W.20144 (Widow: Margaret)

State of New York

Schoharie County SS

On this fourth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty three personally appeared in open court before the honorable the court of Common Pleas of the County of Schoharie and State of New York, now sitting John Yanson a resident of the town of Middleburgh in the said County of Schoharie 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.

That he has born and has always resided in that part of the State of New York, now the town of Middleburgh in the County of Schoharie. That he was enrolled as a private in the Militia of the State of New York as early as the first day of August in the year 1775. That the Regiment & company to which he was enrolled at the time of his enrollment was commanded by the following named officers, Colonel Peter Vroman, (1) Lieutenant Colonel Peter Zelig, Majors Thomas Eckerson & Joseph Becker, Captain George Richtmyre, (2) Lieutenant John Billinger Jr.—That he does not recollect the name of the Ensign. That he belonged to the same Militia Regiment & company from the first day of August in the year 1775 until the first day of April in the year 1783. That the said Regiment & company were commanded by the above named officers during that time. That from the said first day of August in the year 1775 until the first day of April in the year 1783 he was very frequently on duty in the service of the United States for short periods of from two days to one month.

That he does not recollect the number of different times he was on duty. That he was during most of those times under the immediate command of some officer of the regiment or company to which he belonged. That which officers had the command each period he cannot tell. That he does not recollect the exact time he entered the service each or any of those periods, nor the time when he left the same nor how long he was engaged on duty each time. That he was not drafted, a volunteer or a substitute any of the above periods to his knowledge. That he was ordered into the service by some officer of his Regiment or Company and entered the service in obedience to such order. That he was in no battle during the war.

That as near as he can recollect in the month of October in the year 1776 he marched with his company by the way of Albany to Fort Edward & lay there about a fortnight, then marched to that part of the State of New York now the town of Johnstown in the County of Montgomery & staid there two or three weeks when he returned home. That he marched with a party under Colonel Vroman in pursuit of the Indians & Tories who had been massacring [massacring] the inhabitants in Schoharie. Colonel Harper (3) with a party of Light Horse (4) were with the Americans. That he was in the middle Fort in Schoharie when Schoharie was burnt in the year 1780. (5) That he went several times on scouts to those parts of the State of New York now the counties of Green & Montgomery, Delaware & Rensselaer. That he assisted in building the middle Fort in Schoharie. That he was frequently in the Fort in Schoharie on garrison duty. That small parties of Continental troops were at Schoharie during the war, but that he does not recollect who were their officers.

And the said John Yanson saith that he is positive that he was engaged on duty in the service of the United States as a private soldier from the said first day of August in the year 1775 until the first day of April in the year 1783 at different periods in the whole amounting to at least three years.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services above set forth. That he never received a written discharge from the service, that he has no record of his age.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) John Yanson (6)

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. John Gebhard, Jr.
Clerk

We, John Garrison a Clergyman residing in the town of Middleburgh in the County of Schoharie in the State of New York & Freeman Stanton residing in the said town of Middleburgh hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Yanson who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration. That we believe him to be eighty three years of age. That he is reputed & believed in the neighborhood where [the word used here] he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion (Signed) John Garrison, Freeman Stanton.

State of New York
Schoharie County SS.

On this 29th day of October 1839, personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Oyer and Terminer of the County of Schoharie and State aforesaid Margaret Yanson, a resident of the town of Middleburgh in said County, in the 76th year of her age, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows": That she is the widow of Jonannes Janson, who could not write his name, and it was generally written in English, John Yanson, and he was so called to the time of his death.

That he was a private soldier in the war of the revolution at various periods in each year from the spring of the year 1776, to the fall of the year 1782; that he belonged to Captain Richtmyer's Company in Col. Vrooman's regiment, though she believes he occasionally served under other officers in said regiment, but the number of time he was in the service each year and the length of each tour of service she is unable to specify, and she is also unable to specify the names of the officers under whom he served each time.

That sometime in the summer or fall of the year 1776, he was called into the service in Capt. Vrooman's regiment, and she thinks in Capt. Richtmyer's company, that he was gone as much as a month and she understood that during the time he was gone, he was at Fort Edward, and at Johnstown and other places. That he was also in the service at other times in that year.

That in the year 1777 he was frequently called into the service and when McDonald made an attack upon Schoharie with the Tories and Indians, which was about the time of wheat harvest. He was called out and was in the service at that time as much as two weeks; he was also in the service at various other times, during that year, in scouting, keeping garrison and on alarms.

He was also in the service at various times in the years 1778 and 1779, at the upper and middle forts in Schoharie, and in scouting. That in the year 1780, he was in the service in like manner, but the number of times he was called out she cannot state, nor the length of times he served when called out, but at the time Schoharie was burnt in 1780, he was in the service at that time, she thinks, as much as a month. That in the year 1781, he was also in the service scouting, keeping garrison and on alarms. And she believes he was also in the service in the spring and summer of 1782. That he belonged to Capt. Richtmyer's company in Col. Vrooman's regiment, but she thinks that subaltern officers sometimes had command of the scouting parties and parties sent out on alarms &c.

That the said husband applied for a pension in his lifetime but died before a final decision was made in the case. She further declares that she was married to the said Johannes Janson, otherwise called John Yanson, on the 29th day of March in the year seventeen hundred and eighty four, that he husband the aforesaid John Yanson, otherwise called Johannes Janson died on the 24th day of January 1836; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the fourth of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz, at the time above stated. (Signed with her mark)
Margaret Yanson

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written in open court before me this 29th day of October 1839. Wm. [?] Holton, Clerk of Schoharie County

End Notes—W.20144—John Yanson

1. Colonel Peter Vrooman, Lieutenant Peter W. Zielie, First Major Thomas Eckerson and Second Major Jost Becker were the regimental officers of the Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
2. Captain George Richtmyer, First Lieutenant Johannes J. Lawyer, Second Lieutenant Martin W. Zielie and Ensign Johannes Lawyer Bellinger were officers of the Third Company in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment.
3. John Harper was the Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
4. A Troop of Light Horse of the Second Continental Regiment of Light Dragoons under Captain Jean Louis de Vernejoux. The loyalists were under Captain John McDonell. The battle of the Flockey was fought on August 13, 1777.
5. Sir John Johnson raided and destroyed the Schoharie Valley on October 17, 1780.
6. Second Lieutenant Martin W. Zielie kept an order book and it was filed with his Pension Application S.28960. it was separated from his file and placed in record group. FROM: The Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 77, folder 167, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Lieutenant Zielie listed the names of several detachments and other military orders mainly pertaining to Captain Richtmyer's Company. These are some extracted for John Yanson as follows: June 17, 1780—June 23, 1780 served 7 days, July 2-July 9, 1780, served 7 days and July 16-23, 1780, served 7 days. There are several more listings but none were more than 7 days of service for John. One for July 26, 1781 at the Middle Fort for Ammunition that was issued to Johnas follows: 1 Gill of powder (a Gill is about 4 ounces), 12 balls and 1 flint.