

Pension Application for Richard VanArnam

S.11622

State of Vermont

District of Chittenden SS

On the 7th day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. Probate Court for the district of Chittenden now sitting Richard VanArnam of Shelburne in the County of Chittenden and State of Vermont aged 74 years last May 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.

In March 1776 I enlisted as a private in Capt. Veeder's Company, Col. VanDyke's Regiment in the North and of Albany called Colonie, B. TenEyck was our Major, marched to Fort Edward, from thence to Fort George, Genl Gansevoort Commander. We were then ordered to Ticonderoga, from thence ordered to Skeensborough where we did duty about one month, Genl Waterbury, Commander. From thence ordered to Fort Ann, Col. Christopher Yates Commandant returned to Albany & was discharged in Nov same year making nine months—in this service. I had a discharge which is lost.

In April 1777 volunteered in Capt Winnes Company Lieut Lansing—this at Albany N.Y., marched to Stillwater and ordered to Fort Miller, Van Wert was commissary stopped some time, retreated to Saratoga staid a few days then returned to Stillwater. Genl Schuyler Commanded, began to fortify by making breastworks, we were reinforced and marched back to Bemus heights began to fortify and became stationary—Genl Gates Commanded, after the 2nd battle with Burgoyne he retreated and we pursued him to Saratoga under the Command of Maj'r Funda on the 17th of October Burgoyne surrendered, returned to Albany and were dismissed at the end of six months.

In October 1780 I entered on board of the Ulysses of Marque of 20 carriage Guns as Gunman under Capt McNiel in Boston first mate was Collins went to sea ten or twelve days but were captured by the Centaur 74 put on board of a Man of War. Sent to barbarous, no room for prisoners on shore staid on board, went to St. Lucia joined the fleet of admiral Rodney, Commodore Wood and Drake cruised for the French fleet returned to St. Lucia where Wood and Drake were made Admirals—Rodney left the fleet and went to St. [Eustatia?] with our ship of 90 Guns & one of 64, Wood and Drake went to take St. Vincent and was defeated and returned to St. Lucia and anchored in Crosslet Bay. A prison shop was then prepared and all the prisoners from the Centaur were put on board except 150 sent to [Carmask?] near 3 leagues from Crosslet Harbor—6 of us ran away and were taken the 2nd day and put in irons, let loose again and [?] were over come, and very close confined for three days, then on Deck 100 of us put on board of a Frigate, went to sea the 3rd day fell in with the Russell 74 Lord Stanhope commander who took us all on board and gave us good usage 3 days after arrived at Antigua English harbor next day marched under guard to St. Johns Prison good attention paid to Prisoners of all Nations, taken out of prison to interpret for the Dutch, Isaac Greenwood a prisoner and John Jacobs French

Interpreter got liberty to live with me, we agreed to run away, engaged a Man to take us to Fire Island Harbor stated at Noon, went by Goat Hill fort to 5 Island Harbor—made him prisoner and his man, started for Montserrat arrived next morning—examined before the Governor, (no Court of Admiralty short of Guadalope) waited 12 days at Gaudalope arrived with 20 Carriage Guns, Capt Raviera Commanded the Governor agreed with him to take the schooner [schooner?] and prisoners to Baptere in Gaudalope where Greenwood and Jacobs were committed to prison my [?] 2 companions next morning were examined one at a time & acquitted, and liberty granted us to sell the schooner and African servant who first started with us, at Private sale or Vendur, sold at private sale Greenwood parted for Cape Francois—Jacobs remained with me, got a passage with Capt. [Jenkins?] Sloop. For belonging to John Brown Providence, went to St. Christopher's, Thomas to St. Martins, there quit him for I did not like the sloop, took passage in a vessel bound to Baltimore called the Clio, Capt. D. Shields arrived safe in Baltimore Dec'r 25, 1782 making 2 years 3 months.

December 25th 1782 after stopping a few days in Baltimore at fells point depart the 15th of Ja'ny 1783 I entered with Capt G. Barney as Capt of Marines in the ship Finn & Lee's a letter of Marke mounting 20 Carriages guns—In the beginning of January went to sea 3 days after we cleared Capt Charles, fell in with the Centurion of 50 Guns, were captured and carried to New York, then put on board of the Jersey Prison Ship where we remained till the latter part of March when peace was declared about 100 of us was sent to Stonington Connecticut.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Signed) Richard VanArnham

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Wm. P. Briggs, Judge.

1 Question by the Court. When and in what year were you born. Answer—I was born in Albany in the State of N. York in the year 1759.

2 By the Court. Have you any record of your age. Answer. My age is recorded in the records of the Dutch Church in Albany.

3 By the Court—Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live. Answer—I stayed a short time in Albany then went to Troy, staid about one year—went to Guilford & stayed about six months—went to Shelburn & stayed about 10 years—went to Canada Town of Augusta about 1799 or I stayed till the year 1815 went to Morristown St. Lawrence County N. York staid in various places in said County till some time in July last, when I went to Shelburn & where I now live and expect to reside hereafter.

5A By the Court. How were you called into service were you draughted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom. Answer. For my first Campaign and in all the others I volunteered – according to the best of my recollection.

5 By the Court. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can

Recollect and the General circumstances of your service. Answer—For my first service in 1776 VanDyke was my Col. Veeder was my Capt, Welch was Orderly Sergt. 1777 L. Winnee was my Capt in TenBrook's Brigade Maj'r Funda Commanded and was wounded, I helped carry him off the day, Genl Frazer was killed—Gates was our General. In 1790 McNeil was my Capt. Collins [Mate?] on board ship Ulysses. 1783 G. Barney was my Capt I think Chandler was my Lt. on Board ship Finn & Sier the remaining circumstances of my service are contained in my declaration.

6 By the Court-State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present Neighborhood who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. Answer—Genl Jacob Arnold, Timothy Ross Esqr, Thomas Will Esqr, Maj'r David Griffin, Ex Judge Thomas J. Davis, Maj'r Tho. J. Thurber all of the County of St. Lawrence and State of New York whose recommend is herewith enclosed.

Levi Comstock and Lemon Judson and Abijah Allen of Shelburn Vermont.

I never had but one Discharge and that is lost. I have no documentary evidence nor living testimony within my knowledge.

Letter in folder dated October 13, 1921, written in response to an inquiry.

In response to your letter dated September 23, 1921, you are advised that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.F. 11622, it appears that Richard VanArnham was born in May 1759 in Albany New York, and lived there when in March 1776, he enlisted as Private in Captain Veeder's Company, Colonel VanDyke's Regiment, and served 9 months; in April 1777 he served 6 months under Captain Winne; in October 1780 he entered at Boston as a Gunner, on the Letter of Marque, "Ulysses"; Captain McNeil; after 10 or 12 days out they were captured by the Man of War "Centaur" and he was placed on a prison ship, whence he made his escape, but was recaptured and put in irons.

He was later placed on a Frigate, and falling under the command of Lord Stanhope reached the English harbor Antigua, where he was imprisoned; he again escaped, was recaptured and arriving at Montserrat was sent by the Governor to Guadeloupe, where he was given his liberty. He obtained passage on Captain D. Shield's Ship "Clio" and arrived in Baltimore December 25, 1782, having been a prisoner 3 years and 3 months. About January 15, 1783 he entered at Baltimore on the Letter of Marque "Financier" Captain C. Barney, and after 3 days was captured by Ship "Centurion", taken to New York and placed aboard a prison ship where he was held until March of the same year when he was released.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 7, 1833, while living in Shelburne, Chittenden County, Vermont.

His wife, name not stated, died in Canada, where he then lived, in 1815, and he then returned to St. Lawrence Co., New York where he had previously lived. There is no data on file as to his family.