

Pension Application for Mans Van Vranken

W.15970 (Widow: Sarah) Married August 16, 1778, he died July 1, 1833.

State of New York

County of Columbia SS.

On this third day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me John J. Miller [?] first Judge of the County Courts of the County of Columbia of State of New York Mans Van Vranken a resident of the town of Gallatin in the County of Columbia and State of New York aged Seventy six—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.

This Deponent Mans Van Vranken says that he was born in the year 1756 in the City of Schenectady as he is informed and verily believes and that a record of his age may be found in the Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectady and that this Deponent ever since his Birth has resided in the City of Schenectady in the State of New York until some time in the year 1830 when this Deponent removed therefrom to the town of Gallatin in Livingston's Manor in the said County of Columbia where this deponent now resides in the family of the Rev'd Herman Vedder.

This Deponent says that he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Viz. Under the command of Jellis Fonda as Captain and Andrew Van Patten as Lieutenant, the name of the Ensign this deponent does not recollect—Captain Fonda above mentioned resided at the commencement and during the revolutionary war in the City of Schenectady and so did this Deponent and the greater part if not all of said Company.

This Deponent Entered into the United States Service Sometime in the year 1776 and continued to perform active duty during the whole of the revolutionary war as a soldier therein whenever required or called out on duty.

This Deponent cannot state fully all the duty so rendered by him as such soldier during said war but is confident that the same exceeds three years during all which time this Deponent served as a volunteer for himself and not as a substitute.

This Deponent recollects that he was frequently called out and went to Caghnawaga [Caughnawaga] and other places west of Schenectady to protect the Inhabitants in that region of Country.

This deponent says that he was called out and marched under the command of Captain Fonda aforesaid mentioned to Still Water where General Schuyler then commanded. This Deponent remained with the said company sometime and then marched to Fort Edward and thence to Fort Ann to guard the Magazine at Fort Ann the time that this deponent remained at Still Water and at said forts he cannot particularly remember and from Fort Ann this Deponent thinks and believes he went to fort George and how long this Deponent remained at Fort George he cannot recollect.

This Deponent further says while the troops lay at Still Water he thinks General Schuyler stated to the troops that is they would volunteer and go to Bennington such

volunteers would be well rewarded for their Services. That this Deponent volunteered as one to go to Bennington and had crossed the river but were recalled and as this deponent now thinks and verily believes because some of the officers claimed that they had no right to march their troops into another state on some such reason about marching out of the State was assigned.

This deponent further says that he lay with the troops of the United States under General Schuyler on VanSchaicks Island in the Mohawk River but how long this deponent cannot state distinctly;

This deponent further says that he was present at the capture of General Burgoine [Burgoyne] and the American Officers whom this Deponent recollects were General Gates Commander in Chief a Colonel Morgan a General Nixon from some part of New England the names of others this Deponent does not recollect. This Deponent believes that General Gates took command of the American Army sometime in the latter part of the Summer of 1777.

This Deponent further says that he was present at the Battle of Still Water which this deponent thinks was fought some time in September 1777 but was not called in the engagement at the time of the second battle fought between the American and the British forces at Still Water this Deponent thinks and believes that he and some others of the American Soldiers were out on a scouting for hunting party and hearing the firing of the armies the party with whom this Deponent was together with this Deponent returned to the Company but not in time to take part in the Engagement.

This Deponent recollects a circumstance that took place at the time while the enemy under Burgoine lay at Still Water. Viz: This Deponent with one Mans Schermahorn and one Simeon Groat all belonging to Captain Fonda's Company as this deponent verily believes, volunteered and went out at night to reconnoiter and watched the movements of the Enemy and while out as such scouts had got near the piquet guard of the Enemy and could distinctly hear them tell the time of night and while lying in the woods this deponent and those with him were discovered by some of the Morgan's rifleman who would have fired at this Deponent and those with him had they not ascertained to what party he belonged. This deponent says that he had got into the midst of Colonel Morgan's Brigade of Rifleman who were posted in the woods and while there one of Morgan's Scouts brought the news that the Enemy had left their camp. That the corps under Morgan marched immediately and entered the enemy's Camp and this Deponent and those who were with this Deponent from Captain Fonda's Company also marched with Morgan's troops into the enemy camp. This Deponent recollects that Mans Schermahorn took a large brass kettle which he found and one of the others whom this deponent thinks now was Simeon Groat took a Gun properly belonging to or left by the enemy. This Deponent says that the enemy under General Burgoine retreated from still Water to Saratoga and there surrendered. This Deponent thinks that General Burgoine was captured some time in October 1777.

This Deponent further says that sometime in 1776 or 1777 this deponent under Captain Fonda was ordered to march from Schenectady to Johnstown to surprise and

take prisoner Sir John Johnson. That this Deponent went with said Company of Captain Fonda to Johnstown but on coming there this Deponent Thinks Sir John Johnson had fled and the troops took and seized the furniture and personal property of Sir John Johnson and according to the impression of this Deponent removed the same to Johnstown nearby and there left the same in different houses. Now long this deponent was absent on this Expedition he cannot distinctly state.

This Deponent further says that during the years 1776 and 1777 this Deponent was frequently called out on alarms and went to Caghnawaga and Gallston and other places not now particularly remembered to guard and protect the Inhabitants in those Regions.

In the year 1778 this deponent was called out and went to fort Hunter with the said Captain Fonda and this Deponent and six others from Schenectady took with them a field piece as this Deponent thinks that Colonel Abraham Wemple commanded at Fort Hunter. This Deponent says that he remained at Fort Hunter until an alarm came there that the enemy and tories under Butler had destroyed and burnt Cherry valley and that fears were entertained that they would also attack fort Plains and destroy the property about that place.

This deponent and others volunteered and marched to Fort Plains and took with them their field piece of which this Deponent was Captain or Gunner. That when they arrived near Fort Plains this deponent and his party fired their cannon or field piece in order to alarm the tories and prevent a further waster of property.

That said party then marched towards the fort and coming up to the church found in it men women & children who had fled thither for shelter & safety whose who were in the church went with this Deponent into Fort Plains which was commanded by Colonel Cornelius VanDyck as this Deponent thinks & believes.

This Deponent further says that he and a party of soldiers from Fort Plains went south of the Mohawk River in pursuit of Butler who commanded those Indians & tories who were burning and laying waste that region of Country south of fort Plains. That this Deponent and his party pursued the enemy three days but could not overtake them.

This Deponent would relate a circumstance which took place at Fort Plains. When this Deponent arrived at Fort Plains he found among those of the Inhabitants whom they advised to take refuge in the fort attacking weaver who was then weaving a pair of stockings for a Mr. Miller a preacher who resided in Schenectady. This Deponent wished him to take down his loom and convey the same into the fort but he declined finally on being again advised by this deponent and one [Ahasuarus?] marched to remove his loom in the fort he consented and this deponent and Marcellus assisted him in taking down the loom and putting the same up again in the fort. This Deponent wished said Weaver to weave but he declined assigning as a reason that no person of ordinary genius could take down his loom and put the same up again as this Deponent & Marcellus had done and that he would not weave for fear this Deponent had done and that he would not weave for feat this Deponent or Marcellus would learn his art of weaving. After this Deponent discovered the jealous disposition of the

Weaver. This Deponent & Marcellus continued for several days while laying in the fort to annoy and tease the said Weaver by pretending to examine his loom & learning.

This Deponent says that he was frequently called out to go to Ballstown where there were many inroads from the enemy. This Deponent recollects of going on one of those Expeditions under the command of Captain John van Patten with about seventy men. That as this Deponent now believes at or near the Junction of the Keyadaross [Kaydaross] Creek with the Hudson River. This Deponent and those with him discovered on the opposite side of said Creek or River a party of the Enemy engaged in boiling something and when discovered by their gestures and actions served to defy the party to which this deponent belonged and dared our party to fire – accordingly some of the party to which this deponent belonged fired at the Enemy but said fire had no other effect then to cause the Enemy to laugh at our party the more convincing this conceiving this the distance between them and this deponents party rendered them safe from afire from our small arms.

This Deponent having a smart French piece reloaded the same and crept down to the waters edge and got behind a stump and fired at the enemy & one of the Enemy fell whether he was much injured this Deponent cannot say but believes that he was wounded as the enemy immediately fled.

This deponent recollects that on a certain occasion there were three Negroes ran away from their Masters in Schenectady and fled towards Ballstown and were pursued by this deponent and a company of five others and were retaken near the High Mills about seven miles north of Schenectady on their way to join the tories at Ballstown and at the same time there were three Schotchmen [Scotsmen, Scotch is the make of a liquor] who were tires who were also taken and brought back to Schenectady by this Deponent and those who were with this Deponent. This Deponent thinks that one Abraham Van Voorst was Captain of said Company in said Expedition. The Negroes this Deponent believes were John Glenn's Tat, Jacobus Teller's Prince and Hermanus Van Smyck's Tat.

This Deponent further says that he was one who went and took prisoner old John Duncan at his residence near Schenectady and conveyed them to Albany jail. Duncan was a man of wealth and a Tory. He had been a Major under the Crown of Great Brittain [Britain] during the Colonial Government. He wore a uniform, and had been an officer among the regulars. He was a Scotchman by birth a man of influence and excited and gave confidence to the tories and others disaffected.

This Deponent would further state that during the years 1776 and 1777 he thinks and believes that he performed active service in all nine months in each year. That said active service during said two years of 1776 & 1777 were rendered and performed principally with the Northern Army at Still Water, Saratoga, Skeensborough, Fort Edward at Fort Ann and at Fort George under Generals Schuyler and Gates—and the service that this deponent rendered in 1778 was principally at Fort Hunter at Fort Plains and at Caghnawaga [Caughnawaga] and other places west of Schenectady and also in and about Schenectady.

That the whole service so rendered by this Deponent during said year of 1778 at different times amounted as this deponent believes to six months in the Militia of the United States.

That the active Service that this Deponent performed during the years 1779, 1780, 1781 and 1782 as a volunteer in the service of the United States this deponent believes amounted to four months in each year. This Deponent says that said duty so rendered by him as such soldier as aforesaid was in and about Schenectady and at Ballstown, Helderburgh, Schoharrie [Schoharie] Flats Caghnawaga [Caughnawaga], Johnstown & various other places north and west from Schenectady.

This Deponent would further state that in the various expeditions he has made as a soldier in the revolution. This deponent has marched through that District of County now called the Counties of Schenectady, Montgomery, Schoharrie, Saratoga, Albany, Washington and Otsego.

This Deponent would further state that he has always marched when called out, that he always remained as long as the Company or Corps to which he belonged remained on duty from home and is certain that the amount of active duty performed by this Deponent in the United States Service either as drafted or as a volunteer as aforesaid stated is over two years and as this Deponent verily believes full three years.

This Deponent would further state that his memory is too imperfect to enter more minutely into the various particulars attending the various Expeditions performed by this deponent during said war. But this deponent would refer to John Marcelus, Simeon Groat, Isaac Truax & others of the City of Schenectady as persons who may remember some part of the services rendered by this deponent during said war of the revolution and who are now living as this deponent is informed and believes.

This Deponent would refer to Captain Jellis Fonda of Schenectady as a person who could give the desired information as to most of the active duty performed by this Deponent from those under the said Fonda as Captain were it not that said Fonda is now and has been for some time as this Deponent believes insane and not of sufficient mind to [?] such information.

This Deponent further says that he is well acquainted with Joseph A. Yates Esquire, John DeGraff Esqr, and David Boyd Esqr. All of the City of Schenectady who are persons of known respectability who can from their knowledge of this Deponent and from their general acquaintance in said City of Schenectady state what the private or general character of this Deponent has been and this Deponent would also refer to the Rev'd Jacob VanVechten of the Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectady as a proper person to state what the Character of this Deponent has been down to the period when this Deponent left the City of Schenectady and since that time and while this Deponent has lived in the town of Gallatin he would refer to the Rev'd Herman Vedder of the Reformed Dutch Church of said town of Gallatin and with whom this deponent has resided—and State what has been and what is now the character of this deponent.

This Deponent 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) Mans Van Vranken

Sworn and Subscribed this 23d of January 1833 before me. John J. Miller, first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the said County of Columbia in the said State of New York.