

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Garret Vanosdaln R10829

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/29/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Morgan: SS

On this fifth day of April 1834, personally appeared before may John Hutchinson a justice of the peace in and for said County, Garret Vanosdaln of the County of Hampshire, in the State aforesaid aged about 77 years, who being first duly sworn in due form of 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 from old age, infirmity and the consequent loss of memory he cannot with precision state the times and places where & when he served as a soldier in the war of the revolution; but he submits the annexed statement, which is true and to the best of his memory. Viz.

That although he cannot remember his time of service, he thinks he served at least 3 years as a private in the war of the revolution: his Captains were Pickering (he thinks that was his name), Vanswearsingin [Van Swearingen?], Foreman, and Jones. He cannot now remember in which company he first entered, but thinks it was in Captain Pickering's. He marched through York & Lancaster to Philadelphia Pennsylvania through Jersey and to New York was at Long Island at Fort Washington, was in the Army when the skirmish took place at Fort Lee, but was some distance off – was in several places in the State of New Jersey; Tenton [Trenton?], Brunswick, Basken Ridge and Pluckamin [?]. He was in the Army when General Greene took about 700 Hessians prisoners at a place called [indecipherable word] point; he thinks this was in the State of New Jersey. He was at the taking of the Tories at Cedar Swamp in Jersey under General Morgan. He was in New York when the plague prevailed there. He was in the service when the action took place at Bunkers Hill, but he was then some distance off. In this campaign he served at least one year. Most likely more or it is quite possible that the aforesaid services were not done in one campaign, but his decayed memory does not enable him to separate dates.

He served another Campaign under Captain Swearingen (called Indian Vanswearingen) against the Indians. The time of his service was at least nine months perhaps as much as 11 months. He entered at Martinsburg Virginia Morrow was Colonel. He marched to the big Crossings across the Allegheny Mountains thence to Fort Pitt. There joined the Brigade under General McIntosh. From thence down the River and built a Fort about 19 miles below Pitt. Thence across the Country towards the Muskingum and built another Fort, and returned by the way of Fort Pitt sometime in February; the year he cannot remember but the time he well recollects; for the snow was very deep, and he had neither shoes nor stockings; he and his fellow soldiers made a kind of boot out of bear skins with the woolly side in, which answered for shoes & stockings.

He served another Campaign under Captain Foreman, and thinks it was this time he went through Virginia, he remembers being at Alexandria and Dumfries. He cannot remember the

length of this campaign, but thinks it was at least 6 months and it might have been 12.

He thinks he served another campaign under a Captain Jones, and thinks that service was performed in Jersey.

He submits his statement defective as it is, He has endeavored to be particular; but from his week state of mind, it is very likely that there may be many arrows of times and dates. As to the Service under Captain Swearingen against the Indians he thinks he cannot be mistaken. But as to the other Services his mind is so confused that he cannot in consciousness the positive, this he knows, that he does not state anything disguisedly untrue, and feels well assured that he served near 3 years in the Army although now he cannot trace out the particulars.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Garret Vanosdaln, X his mark

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In the State of New Jersey, on the 19th of March 1757

Quest. 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. My age was recorded in my father's Bible in the Low Dutch language I still have the Bible, but the page on which my age was entered has been torn off.

Quest. 3rd How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I always rather than stand a draft, volunteered. I never was drafted. I served one campaign as a substitute for a man of the name of Cookus of Shepherdstown Virginia. I think this tour was six months and the shortest one I served.

Quest. 4th Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. When called into service I was living in Berkeley County Virginia – Berkeley then comprehended in its bounds the present County of Berkeley, Jefferson and part of Morgan. In my different trips I always marched from either Martinsburg, Charlestown or Shepherdstown, I now live in Hampshire County very near the line.

Quest. 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. In addition to what I have said, I remember, that in the tour against the Indians, Lyle of Berkeley commanded a company. When I was in Jersey I remember Captain Darke; and Washington was commander in chief. I saw him many a time. I now recollect Glenn, Lucas and Colonel Joseph Swearingen

Quest. 6th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. Mr. Hutchinson who now qualifies may knows me well, Messrs. John & Jacob Huff, John Bechtol, Aaron Harlan, Israel Dawson, Jacob Zeiler, and all the neighbors know me.

S/ Garret Vanosdaln, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the 5th day of April 1834 before me

S/ John Hutchinson, JP

[Jacob Huff and John Bechtol gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

P. S. Garret Vanosdaln on his oath aforesaid says further

Question. Did you ever receive a discharge? If so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer. Yes, I had several, 3 or 4. I gave them to an older Brother for safekeeping. He went down the Ohio many years ago – and I have never heard of him since. I cannot remember what officers signed the discharge is.

Sworn to as above this 5th April 1834

S/ Garret Vanosdaln, X his mark

State of Virginia Morgan County: SS On this 8th day of September 1834 personally appeared before me John Hutchison a justice of the peace for said County, Garret Vanosdaln, and being duly sworn, does on his oath make the following amendments to his declaration of the 5th April 1834 in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7th 1832, viz.

That he cannot remember the year in which he served in Captain Swearingen's company, but it was that year in which Colonel Morrow and Major Scott marched from Berkeley West against the Indians, Lyle's company from Berkeley formed a part of the Regiment, when we got to the West General McIntosh was the General. The two forts he helped to build as stated in his former declaration, were called forts McIntosh & Lawrence [Laurens]. He is still very confident he served at least nine months this campaign for he went out early in the spring and did not leave Fort Pitt on his return until the next January or February.

The next season he served another Campaign under the same Captain – Swearingen pretty much the same route as the last, only that he was discharged on the Ohio River a little above Wheeling, as there was a report that the Indians had fled; this Campaign lasted three months, or a little more. He thinks the Colonel's name was Shepherd, Colonel Morrow was not out this time; In both these tours under Swearingen, he volunteered, and was principally induced to do so by promises of Western bounty land. The campaign which he served as a substitute for Cookus, he thinks was under Captain Pickering, and it was in this as well as he recollects, that he marched through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, to New York &c as set forth in his former declaration. This Tour of service he is still of opinion was six months. Such was the terms of the draft, and he served it out fully. He does not remember the year, but in either the yes or in the other Campaign served by him in the same part of the Country, the defeat of the Tories at Cedar Swamp took place, and other circumstances mentioned in his declaration.

He served two other campaigns under Captains Foreman & Jones, as well as he recollects, such were their names. One of these Campaigns he served in Virginia, and during it was at Alexandria, Dumfries, & other places in that part of Virginia: it was in this tower he thinks, his company fell in with some of the prisoners taken at York town under Cornwallis: he was employed with the rest of the company to guard them on to York Pennsylvania. There they were delayed a good while by a mortal sickness among the British prisoners; and afterwards he marched on with those prisoners eastward in the direction of New York, but did not reach so far, when he was discharged. In this tour he thinks he must have served nine months, but at least six months. The other of these Campaigns he has a very indistinct recollection of, owing he thinks to its having been served in nearly the same parts with that under Pickering – the is in New Jersey and about New York: he served no campaign of less than three months; and to the best of his memory none the less than 6 months, except the 2nd one, under Swearingen against the Indians as before stated.

He has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person now living who could prove them. The above is as distinct and account of his services as his decayed

memory enables him to give of them in the war of the revolution, he submits it as it stands; and as for such allowance as from the nature of the case may seem right, to the War Department.

S/ Garret Vanosdaln, X his mark

[Cornelius Vanosdaln, aged about 35, gave a supporting affidavit in which he states he has known the veteran since his, the affiant's, infancy; that the veteran is reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier of the revolution and the affiant concurs in that opinion; that he has heard the veteran speak of his services in the revolution and when he was a boy, he heard the veteran and a certain Thomas Barnett (now deceased) a miller in their neighborhood discuss the veteran having been a soldier in the revolution recounting to each other their services and sufferings during the war. The relationship, if any, of the affiant to the veteran is not stated.

Cornelius Vanosdaln]