

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Garrett Vanzant

R 10911

Transcribed and Annotated by R. Neil Vance
[Original spelling and punctuation retained]

September 13, 2010 Source: Footnote

[fn pp. 2-3]
State of Kentucky
Barren County

On this 12th day of February, 1841 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Margaret Vanzant a resident of said County and State aged Eighty one years (81.) on the 11th. day of November 1841. 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 pass^d July 7th. 1838. entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to Certain Widows"¹, that she is the widow of Garret Vanzant, and late of Barren County, who was a Captain of Militia, and Lieutenant, of the 10 months regulars in the Revolution, she further Declares, that she was married to the said Garret Vanzant on the 14th day of July in the year 1782, (seventeen hundred and eighty two) in the County of Rutherford and State of North Carolina, and that her aforesaid husband died on the 27th. day of August, 1830. in the County of Barren State of Kentucky, That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place prior to the year Seventeen hundred and ninety four, to wit, on the 14th day of July in the year 1782. That she has never married since the death of her said husband, and she still resides in the County of Barren and State of Kentucky, That her said husband was a Captain, of horsemen , for several years during the Revolution, in the state of North Carolina, fighting the Brittish and the Tories in North and South Carolina[.] She was present and saw him (her said husband) before their marriage, parade his men, together with another company commanded by Captain William Whiteside, in Rutherford County North Carolina to go after the Brittish and Tories, and that her said husband afterwards in the year 1781. was appointed a Lieutenant in what was called the ten months regulars¹ his Captains name was Levi Johnston (or Johnson) and his Colonels name was _____ Thomas², in this capacity he served till the close of the War in the state of North and South Carolina, she has often heard her said husband state that he was in a number of battles, and was taken prisoner and confined some time in Lincoln County North Carolina and she further states that she has heard him say repeatedly, that he was in the service as a private, Captain, Lieutenant, etc. etc. during the whole time of the Revolutionary War, she further states that her said husband lived in Rutherford County before her marriage, and that she saw him frequently during the war

Subscribed and sworn
to before me this 12th day of
February 1841

Margaret Vanzant
her mark

James Murrell JPBC

and in the presence of

Hugh Vanzant

[fn pp. 6-7]

¹ Probably the S.C. State Troops under Brig. Gen. Thomas Sumter

² Probably John Thomas, Jr.

State of Kentucky
Barren County

On this the 2nd day of January 1847 personally appeared before me Buford Wood Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid County Mrs. Margaret Vanzant a resident of said County aged eighty seven years past, 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 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of Garrett Vanzant who was a Captain of Militia in the war of the Revolution and resided in the County of Rutherford during the war and served as a Captain of Militia from the earley part of the war until the summer of 1781. when he resigned his office as Captain, and enlisted under Colonel William Porter & Captain Levi Johnson in a horse Company for Ten months service. She further declares, that she saw her said husband Garrett Vanzant in command of his Company in company with Capt. William Whitesides Raunting the Tories the day after Cornwallis [Cornwallis] crossed the River Cataba [Catawba River]³: She does not recalled of hearing him say that he served any regular tours of duty. but was always on the scout. some few times as long as three months, principally in the South western part of North Carolina & through South Carolina and as low down as the Long Island of Holston in Tennessee, she recollects of no particular Battles he was in except the Battle of Ramsours Mill [Ramsour's Mill] in Lincoln County North Carolina [June 20, 1780] , But he had many skirmishes with the Tories and Indians during his Captaincy. She verily believes the statements as made above is correct. having immediate knowledge of a part & living in the immediate neighborhood of the above operation & hearing numbers speak of it as well as her said husband. she further declares that she frequently saw his Commission or Commissions as Captain of Militia or Lieutenant one or both but cannot be certain which or whether both, but she believes both., she further states that they moved from Rutherford County North Carolina on pack horses in the year 1794 and her husband left all his papers with his brother, and with them was his commissions. and he never after got them. and she further declares that her said husband never received any pay for his said service in said war. She further declares that she was married to the said Garret Vanzant on the fourteenth day of July in the year Seventeen hundred & Eighty Two That her husband the said Garret Vanzant died on the 28th day of August 1830. that she was not married to him prior to leaving the service but the Marriage took place prior to the first day of January Seventeen hundred ninety four viz. at the time above stated:

Sworn to & subscribed on the day
& year above written before me

Margaret Vanzant
her mark

Buford Wood J.P.B.C.

‡ She further declares that she know[sic] of no one now living by whom she can prove the services of her husband the said Garrett Vanzant. She further declares that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim, except a leaf of the Bible which contains the family record of there childrens ages, The Birth of Herself & Husband, and their Marriage: The Record of the Birth of three of their children, and themselves and Marriage is obliterated by age. And she further declares that it was kept in her husbands own handwriting and has been kept in the family ever since, which she herewith files as part of her declaration: Sworn & subscribed this 2nd day of January 1847. before me

Buford Wood J.P.B.C.

Margaret Vanzant
her mark

[fn p. 12]

State of Kentucky
Barren County

³ Cornwallis' army crossed the Catawba on Feb. 1, 1781 at Cowan's Ford in N.C. The crossing was unsuccessfully opposed and Gen. William Davidson was killed in the engagement. C.L. Hunter, *Sketches of Western North Carolina* 1877, reprinted. 1970.

On this 5th day May, 1852, Before me Buford Wood, an acting Justice of the Peace within and for the county and State aforesaid, personally appeared Hugh Vanzant, Garret Vanzant, Elizabeth Vanzant, and Mrs. Margaret Walbert, who, being first sworn according to law, on their oaths make the following declarations, to wit:

That they are the children and heirs at law of Garret Vanzant, deceased, who, they verily believe was for a considerable length of time a soldier in the War of the Revolution. That they have heard him say repeatedly that he served for a long time as Captain in the North Carolina State Militia in said war, and that he afterwards enlisted in what was called the ten months' service in the United States continental line of the army in North Carolina; That in this line he served as Lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain Levi Johnson, in the regiment commanded by Col. Porter. That he was at the Battle of the Cowpens, in S. Carolina [January 17, 1781] . That the said Garret Vanzant did never make application for a pension, he having died soon after the first act of Congress was passed granting a pension to Revolutionary soldiers. That he died in Barren County, Ky., on the twenty-eighth day of August, eighteen hundred and thirty (1830.) aged about 85 years. That his widow, Margaret Vanzant, died in the aforesaid county and State on the tenth day of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, (1851.) aged 91 years. That her name, before her marriage to the said Garret Vanzant, was Margaret Caldwell. That they were married in Rutherford County, North Carolina, about the year seventeen hundred and eighty-three (1783) That the said Margaret Vanzant has heretofore made application for the pension due her as the widow of Garret Vanzant, and to the army records and muster-rolls, and to the evidence on file with said application the refer for proof of service, marriage, and identity, or any other evidence necessary in the adjudication of said claim. That they make the declaration for the purpose of obtaining the pension due the said Garret Vanzant, and also the pension due Mrs. Margaret Vanzant, as his widow. And they now pray that an examination of the right of the said heirs of Garret and Margaret Vanzant to a pension may be had at the City of Washington, and an allowance made.

They further declare that the only surviving children of the aforesaid Garret and Margaret Vanzant are the following, to wit: Jacob Vanzant aged sixty-one years; Rachel Walbert, aged fifty-nine years; Hugh Vanzant aged fifty-four years; Garret Vanzant aged fifty-three years; Elizabeth Vanzant aged fifty-one years; and, Margaret Walbert aged forty-six years. That four of the children are dead – the eldest of whom, (Jannes Vanzant) was born on the thirteenth day of July, seventeen hundred and eighty-four.

Hugh Vanzant
Garrett Vanzant
Elizabeth Vanzant
Margaret Walbert

[fn p.34]
State of Kentucky
County of Adair

On this 10th day of November A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty six before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the county and state aforesaid personally appeared Henry Hayes, a resident of Barren County in the state aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law, declares he is a disinterested witness, and that he was well acquainted with Garret Vanzant, deceased, who was a Revolutionary Soldier; That he was not under the officers with Vanzant, but that from the most reliable information, the [] of those who knew the facts, the said Vanzant served two years as Captain in the Militia Service in said war, and that he then served ten months as Lieutenant, dragoons in North Carolina; that said Vanzant then living on the borders of South Carolina entered Col. Sumpter's Brigade, as Lieutenant, and served as he verily believes the term of five months.

Henry Hayes

Subscribed and sworn to the day above written

John Y. Wallace J.P.

[fn p.39]
Barren County S.A.

This day Hugh Vanzant appeared before me Buford Wood Justice of the Peace in &for the aforesaid County and made Oath in due form of law that he is fifty one years old the 13th day of February next and that he is the son & the seventh child of his father Garret Vanzant, that he has often heard his father speak of his Revolutionary service, he heard him say that he was Captain of Militia, and served during the war or thereabouts. He served the principal part of his time in Lincoln & Rutherford Countys in North Carolina and through South Carolina and as far down as Long Island of Halston Tennessee. Suppressing the Indians and Tories, he never was in any formal Battle, but that he had many Skirmishes with the Indians & Tories. He was all the time thus engaged, with his Company, no particular Touers of duty, until the Summer of 1781 when he resigned his commission as Captain, & joined a Horse Company as Lieutenant, under Colonel William Porter & Capt. Levi Johnson for ten months. he has often heard him say that he never Received anything for his services in said war he further states that his Father the said Garret Vanzant died on the 28th. of August 1830. & that his said Wife Margaret Vanzant now his widow is still his unmarried widow, having never Married since his death. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd. day of January 1847

Hugh Vanzant
his mark

Buford Wood, J.P.B.C.

[Note: The file contains a similar statement from Jacob Vanzant]

[fn p. 27]

Comptroller Generals Office
Columbia S.C. May 23, 1856

Mr. W. S. Underwood

Dear Sir:

The following is a statement of the services of Garrett Vanzant

\$1.25 Lib. M. No. 441. One Indent as Lt in Thomas' Regt, Sumter's Brigade, State troops for £94 Stg.

\$2.00 The pay roll of Lt. Col. Thomas, belonging to the above Indent. shows 5 months service as Lieutenant. The same Pay Roll also shows the name of "Levi Johnson" as Capt. I have not heard from you yet, in the Mc Millan case was my letter received by you?

Very Repectly
Wm. R. Huntt

[fn p. 30]

Comptroller General's Office
Columbia June 2nd , 1856

I hereby certify that it appears by "A Return of Lt. Col. Thomas' Regt. of State Troops (or Light Dragoons, raised for the defence of South Carolina) By order and under the Command of the hon. Brigr. Genl. Thomas Sumter, with an acct. of Bounty, recd. and to receive" that Garratt Vanzant entered said Regiment as Lieutenant the 10th. June 1781 and served five months in said capacity, and then became Supernumerary".

Given Under My hand
Wm. R. Huntt

[Family Information in file fn pp. 9-10]

Incomplete list of children

Rachel Vanzant b. Sept. 5 1793

Hugh Vanzant b. February 13, 1796

Garrett Vanzant b. [obscured] 17, 1798

Elizabeth Vanzant b. April 4, 1801

Peggy (Margaret) Vanzant b. March 26[or 16] 1816