

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Vanbibber R18641

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/27/11

[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 Missouri County of Callaway: SS

On this 20th day of May in the year 1833 personally came and appeared in open Court before the County Court of Callaway County aforesaid now sitting, James Vanbibber a resident of Nine Mile Prairie Township in the County of Callaway aforesaid in the State of Missouri aged sixty-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 – That he was born in he believes Halifax County Virginia, and before he can recollect removed with his father to a settlement in the same State on Green briar River [Greenbrier River] about one hundred eighty miles from the mouth of the great Kanawa [Kanawha] River that he remained there for many years, that whilst he was living there, he thinks in '81 [1781] the Shawnees and mingo's [¹] having proposed to Colonel Thomas Lewis who commanded at the mouth of Kanawha to go over to Scioto Salt licks and meet them there in order to treat of peace Colonel Lewis having accepted the proposal was proceeding thither with several of his men when they were attacked by a party of the same tribe of Indians at a place called Raccoon Creek west of the Ohio and several of his men were killed and himself taken prisoner, those who succeeded in escaping having reported the capture of Colonel Lewis as soon as it was known at the Settlements on Greenbrier a party of volunteer militia was raised in which this applicant was enrolled which under the command of Captain John Vanbibber marched with the intention of rescuing Colonel Lewis and punishing the Indians but when the party had proceeded as far as the mouth of Kanawha – they there found the same Colonel Lewis who had succeeded whilst a prisoner in making a sort of treaty with his captors and the balance of their tribes by whom he had been released, the Company after a considerable absence finding the object of their expedition obviated returned to Greenbrier – this was in the year '81 – it was probably some two years after this, the same tribes having again broken out into hostilities against the whites this applicant together with the family having moved down to the mouth of Kanawha he together with one of his cousins one day when out in search of horses which were belled and hobbled at some distance from their habitation after searching for some time in the woods they heard the battles and going in the direction of the sound they supposed they had reached within ten paces of their horses they were fired upon by two Indians and a Frenchman in the guise of an Indian who had found their horses and having taken off the hobbles and bells rang the bells in order to decoy whomsoever might go out in search of the horses – the cousin of this applicant was

Mingo's
1

immediately killed but he himself having been [indecipherable word²] succeeded in making his escape to the fort –

In October '85 – two of the brothers of this applicant having gone out from the fort for the purpose of bringing in a bear that had been killed were fired upon by the Indians one of whom was left for dead and the other taken by the Indians who after remaining in captivity about 11 months succeeded in making his escape and got into the settlement –

The Country about the mouth of the Kanawha being exposed to continual incursions of the Indians it became necessary to establish a regular system of defense which would protect the inhabitants from surprise and enable them to attend to the cultivation of their fields with some degree of security. Accordingly a company of the militia was ordered to be raised to be kept in service as Rangers, scouts, spies & during all that part of the year which is favorable to Indian inroads. Captain Leonard Cooper commanded that company and this applicant entered it as a volunteer at first when the company commenced operations in February '87 and was continually engaged in active, dangerous and hard service until the following fall from about the last of November. In this company my brother was Lieutenant and I was Ensign – in the following Spring, '88 I entered as a volunteer in the company commanded by Captain Hugh Caperton – James Kelly Lieutenant, Ensign not recollected – we were out again in February and continued scouting occasionally skirmishing with the Indians until in November of the same year we were engaged all the time in active service affording protection to the Settlements and pursuing when necessary bands of depredating Indians – The following year, '89 I again went out as a volunteer in the same service under the command of Captain Moses Mann, James Vanbibber Lieutenant & Maurice Reynolds Ensign and continued in it from February until November – I cannot say what was the number of days or months I served in those campaigns but I very well recollect that I was paid by the general Government, as I suppose, for twenty-seven months service, and therefore believed I must have served that length of time. If I ever receive a discharge in writing I have forgotten it – Colonel Lewis who resided at the mouth of the Kanawha and had the military command of those settlements was the only general Officer with whom I was at all acquainted, the 3 companies in which I served were all subject to his orders –

I was born in the year 1766 on the 8th of May but have no record of my age.

I am known to several persons as having served as I mentioned, my cousin Isaac Vanbibber who I expected to see here today knows it perfectly well and Thomas Harrison Senior who is here present either knows it of his own knowledge or has had such undoubted evidence from the statements of others as is tantamount to actual knowledge – I am known to many other persons in this Country for I have lived here many years and have served as a Spy in this Country during the last War under the Command of General Howard –

I have never before applied for a pension nor is my name on the pension roll of the agency of any State of the United States – and I do hereby renounce all claim to pay or pension for revolutionary services except that may be granted under the law of 7th of June last. I am well known to William Coats who has been a preacher of the gospel for many years in this Country – I left Kentucky in 1808 and came to this Country and have lived for the last 15 years in this County – I am also well known to old Mr. Sitton who is here present – I had a commission as Ensign in one of the campaigns I have mentioned signed by a Governor of Virginia but I have examined the papers for you and cannot find it now – I suppose it is lost – I think it was in '95



that I removed from the mouth of Kanawha to Kentucky –
Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court before me Clerk of the Callaway County Court this 20th
day of May A.D. 1833

S/ Irvine O. Hockaday, Clerk

S/ James Vanbibber

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Vanbibber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

[William Coats, a clergyman, and Jeffrey Sitton and Nathan Kouns [?] gave the standard
supporting affidavit.]