

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Vanasdal S11611

NJ

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } Ss

County of Brooke } On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the court of Brooke County, now sitting, John Vanasdal, a resident in the same county and state aged seventy years past, who being 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated.

In the month of September in the year 1776 (day of the month not remembered) declarant served one month tour of Militia duty, as a Drummer in Captain Vanbrights company. – Vanerster[?] was Lieutenant, immediately after the commencement of this tour the British took possession of New York [November 1776] – our company was then stationed at Bergen, but on the arrival of the British retreated to Newark. the Colonels name as well as Declarant can recollect was [John] Nelson. During this service our Regiment marched to Elizabeth town and thence to Staten Island, where we intended to attack a small fort at Cox town, on the Island, but was met by an express, who informed our party that another party of Militia were ahead of us for the same purpose – were beaten back – and we retreated to Newark.

In the month of April 1777 (day of the month not remembered) Declarant served two weeks as a Drummer, under the command of Captain Wheeler, at Millston town [Millstone], or Somerset court House, Colonels name not remembered – the Brigade commanded by Genl. Hord.

In the month of May 1777 (day of the month not remembered) Declarant served two weeks as a Drummer, under the command of Lieutenant Stocton – this service was performed at Schonk's Mills.

In the months of May & June 1777 Declarant served one month as a Drummer under the command of Captain Lot.

In the latter end of June, all July, and beginning of August 1777 served a draft of two months, at Pomptown and Peramus [sic: Pompton Plains and Paramus] – settlements of inveterate Tories – under the command of Captain Cumpton. Colonels name not perfectly remembered, but thinks it was Frilinghyson [sic: Frederick Frelinghuysen], in General Hords Brigade.

In the month of September 1777 served one months duty as a Drummer at Woodbridge, in New Jersey under the command of Capt. [Joseph] Babcock.

In the spring of the year 1778 (particular months not remembered, but know that it was the spring of the year after the British left Brunswick) served two months under the command of Capt'n. Cornelius Lot, as a Drummer, in Col. Wine's Regiment of Jersey Militia. This service was performed at Elizabeth town, in Jersey.

In the month of June 1778 I served ten days, as a Drummer, in the company commanded by Capt. Lott in Col. Vromes [sic: Peter Dumont Vroom's] regiment and was in the Battle at Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] – this service was an immediate call on the Militia in the neighbourhood of Monmouth where declarant resided.

All the foregoing services of Declarant were performed, as a Drummer, in the several companies in which he served, and performed by him as a substitute for Tunis Coovort, the person with whom declarant served his apprenticeship as a farmer and weaver; and each was in consequence of his said master being drafted to serve the several times above stated, and which declarant faithfully performed, and at the expiration of each was regularly discharged.

Declarant being out of his apprenticeship, and of age to be enrolled in the Militia [16], was drafted in the Summer of the year 1781 (owing to a very imperfect memory declarant cannot name the months, but is certain as to the season and year) and served three months, as Drummer in the company

commanded by Capt. Israel Rickey, in Col. Seeleys regiment of Jersey Militia. The first part of these three months was performed at Dobbs ferry on the north river, and the remainder at Connecticut farms [now Union Township NJ]. At this service there were a number of twelve months volunteer Jersey Militia – of these I remember Capt. Baldwin and Capt. Garles. Whilst performing the latter part of this tour of duty – General Washington with his Army marched from Jersey for Yorktown in Virginia. Genl. [Elias] Dayton commanded the Jersey Continental line, and the Militia with whom the declarant served, were placed under his command, the Militia were always seperated from the regular troops, and declarant cannot recollect the names of any of the regular officers except that of General Jonathan Darton.

Declarant states that he faithfully served, as a Drummer, eight months and ten days, as a substitute, and three months on his own account, as a drafted Militia Drummer, as above stated.

Interrogatories by the Court.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Where, and in what year were your born?  
Answer. I was born in Somerset County, in the then colony now State of New Jersey, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 1763.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?  
Answer. Yes; My father furnished a list of the ages of all his family and which is inserted in the Bible, now produced.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, and until the end of the Revolutionary War I resided in the County of Somerset, N. Jersey, and for the last forty seven years, have lived in Brooke county and State of Virginia.
- 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or, were you a substitute; and if a substitute, for whom?  
Answer. I served at several times as stated in my declaration, as a substitute for Tunis Coovert, eight months and ten days; and as a drafted Musician Three Months.
- 5<sup>th</sup> 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. This is as fully answered in the above declaration, as I can, at present recollect.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Did your ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?  
Answer. I never received a written discharge – but was discharged verbally.
- 7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, who can testify to your character for veracity, and their beleif of your services as a soldier of the revolution.  
Answer. The Rev'd. Edward Smith and Moses Congleton Esquire

Declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, other than the appended deposition of Thomas Peterson [pension application S5899].

He 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.

John hisXmark Vanasdal

State of Virginia } Ss.  
Brooke County } on this first day of January in the year 1834 personally appeared before the subscriber, one of the Justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, Thomas Peterson, aged seventy seven years past and who is a revolutionary pensioner of the United States, who after being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he is well and personally acquainted with John Vanasdal whose declaration, in order to receive a pension, this deponent has

attentively read, and as to the service of the said John Vanasdal, this Deponent saith that to his personal knowledge the said Vanasdal did serve, as a Drummer in the month of September in the year 1776, one month, in Capt. Vanbrights company.

That in the month of april 177, the said Vanasdal served two weeks, as a Drummer in Lieutenant Stockdon's company, at Schenths Mills.

That in the latter end of May and in June of the same year 1777, the said Vanasdal served, as a Drummer, one month, in Captain Lots company of Jersy Militia.

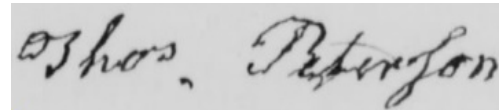
That in the Summer of the same year, last of June, all July and part of August the said Vanasdal served two months, as a Drummer, in Capt. Cumpston's company.

And that in the month of September 1777 the said Vanasdal served one month as a Drummer in Capt. Babcocks company.

This deponent at the time of the above services lived in the immediate neighbourhood of the said John Vanasdal, and perfectly remembers the afore mentioned service, having in some of them, served in the same company. And this deponent further states on his oath aforesaid, that from his own knowledge the said John Vanasdal served each of the tours of duty mentioned in his said declaration, and this deponent believes as many more, that, from want of recollection, cannot now be stated.

The Deponent thinks it proper to mention, that often when orderly at the same time with the said Vanasdal, he the deponent would assist him in carrying his drum through bad roads.

Further this Deponent saith not.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Vanasdal". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted.

[On 17 Jan 1834 Vanasdal was issued a certificate for a pension of \$35.80 per year for eight months and eight days service. The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

John Vanasdal, – alleges in his Declaration to have served in the N. Jersey Militia under Capt Van bright & al. for 8 mo. & 8 days.

I the undersigned John Vanasdal in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War, make the following ReDeclaration of my Revolutionary service. to Wit.

I shall be 72 yrs. old the 25<sup>th</sup> September next. was born in 1763. am a native of Somerset county N. Jersey and lived there during the war of the Revolution. I moved to this county in 1786.

I think in the year 1776 directly after the British army came to New York my Master Tunis Coovert was drafted for one month. he sent me in his place. I went with Capt. Vanbright to Bargin [sic: Bergen] & Newport & served out the time. I think col. Nelson was with us and I presume had a Regt. there was a good many men, I was then 13 yrs. old and was Drummer to my company.

I think it was in 1777 at any rate it was when the British lay at Brunswick, I was drafted for two weeks and served out the time under Capt. Wheeler at Sommersett Court House. I was then fourteen years old.

in same year I served two weeks at Schenks Mill under Lt. Stogden was drafted in this service, but the one company at that station.

in same year I was drafted again and served on months at Pumpton under Capt. Compton. – there was at that station several companies but cant now recollect whether there was a Col. or Major with us

I think in same year, it was at any rate at the time the british left Brunswick I served a nother month at Perramus under Capt Lott. I here correct myself by saying that all the forgoing service was done in place of my Master Tunis Covert who I presume was drafted. I was drummer all the time.

I was at the Battle of Monmouth under Capt. Lott. was in this expedition for ten days. this was also in place of my Master.

before I done the last mentioned tour of duty I served one month at Woodbridge under Capt. Jos. Babcock, in place of my Master.

In the year in which Cornwallis and his army captured at York town Va. [19 Oct 1781] I was drafted for a three moths tour. Went from Somersett cty. under Capt Rickey. Joined Col. Seeleys regt. at Dogs Ferry, marched to the conneticut farms and remained there until my tour of 3 mo. was fully done and performed.

I think I served one month in place of my master at Elizabeth Town under Capt Lott & Col Williams. I was in service with Thomas Peterson & proved my service in part by him. Cant tell how long I was in service put it all together. Capt McLuney wrote my Declaration the narative now given is in substance the same given to him to the best of my remembrance. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name July 7 1835

John hisXmark Vanasdal

Witness/ W. McLuney

a copy

W G Singleton

Note. this man seemed to be but very little known in his neighbourhood. I could not learn whether he was of good or bad character.

W G Singleton