

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jean Baptiste Janis ¹S15901

f39VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/16/13

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Missouri County of Ste. Genevieve: SS

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County aforesaid Baptiste Janis who being duly continued and sworn on his oath deposeth and saith

That he is now Seventy-four years of age and a resident of the County of St. Genevieve aforesaid. That he was residing in Kaskaskia Illinois in what is now the County of Randolph and State of Illinois when he received from General George Rogers Clark a Commission to act as an Officer in the Troops; and accompanied General Clark for six months with the Continental Troops, and during the term of service aided and assisted in taking Post Vincennes [February 23-25, 1779] from the Loyalist or Enemy of the United States, That he used a Horse during all the time while acting as Officer, and that he has never received any Lands or money as pay for his Service from the United States or State of Virginia –

That he received and accepted a Commission from Governor Todd at Kaskaskia Illinois and served the United States or State of Virginia for Three months with the troops on Continental Service in Illinois County that he used a horse during all this time and has never received any Lands or money as pay for Service under this Commission or any other from the United States or State of Virginia.

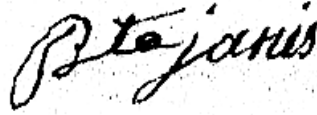
That he received a Commission as Ensign for the Troops stationed in the Illinois Country North West of River]?] Ohio from Governor Arthur St. Clair and excepted and done duty as Officer for Three months under this Commission and used a Horse during all the time, That he has never received any pay for his services as Officer from the United States or State of Virginia

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That about three years ago he placed in the hands of Honorable E K Kane Senator from Illinois his Two Commissions from General George Clark and Todd and is informed by Mr. Kane the said Commissions are on file in the War Office at Washington City. That his Commission as Ensign from Governor Arthur St. Clair was forwarded to H. D. Handy Esquire at Washington City for him to place on file with the others, that he is uninformed if said Handy ever received it. – In consequence of his Commissions being absent and his old age it is impossible for him to give the month or years the different services were rendered but thinks it was in the years 1781 and 2. That he was about eighteen years of age when he served under the first Commission, and understood at the time he was doing duty that he should get Lands and money for his services. That he always done his duty as far as in his power to render aid and support the orders of his

¹ Va Half Pay

Commanders and the Government by them employed.

S/ Bta janis



[Attested in St. Genevieve County Missouri April 15, 1833]

[p 8: In a power of attorney executed April 10, 1833 by the veteran he refers to his attorney as "his relative William Gibson."]

[p 12]

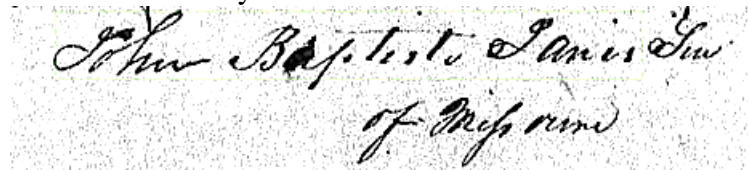
To the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled

Oppressed with age and infirmity and in want of many comforts of life the undersigned begs leave respectfully to present this petition to the Congress of the United States. –

Your petitioner states that in the summer of 1778, Kaskaskia was taken by Colonel George Rogers Clarke [George Rogers Clark] of the Virginia line, he was then young and ardent and although a stranger to the laws, customs & language and institutions of the Americans, he became animated in support of the great cause for which they were struggling, and on many occasions manifested his devotion in a way as he believes to secure the entire confidence of the Army and of its officers.

Your petitioner further states, that in the course of the summer a company of volunteers was organized composed of the French inhabitants on a call from Colonel Clarke. In this company your petitioner was appointed an Ensign by his Excellency Patrick Henry then Governor of the State of Virginia which commission is exhibited with this petition. – Your Petitioner states that this Company was required to be ready for active service on a minutes notice, that many of its members were employed as hunters and spies then required when necessary to perform Garrison duty. – Your Petitioner further states that the term of time for which Colonel Clarke's men were enlisted having expired, many of them returned to their homes, which had the effect of weakening his force to an alarming extent and rendered his situation in that vast wilderness critical in the extreme. About this period Colonel Hamilton Commandant at Vincennes commenced assembling an army of British & Indians with the avowed the purpose of not only expelling his enemies from Kaskaskia and Cahokia but to drive the Americans East of the mountains. At this juncture Colonel Clarke determined on his daring expedition against Vincennes. Your petitioner further states that without the aid of the French inhabitants of Kaskaskia and Cahokia the power of the Americans was unequal to the task of capturing Vincennes, at that time the center of British influence. But in this emergency Colonel Clarke called upon the French to take part in the expedition as volunteers, which call was promptly responded to. Two Companies were accordingly raised, and equipped at their own expense, one under the command of Captain Charleville of Kaskaskia, the other under Captain McCarty of Cahokia. Your petitioner acted as Ensign in the company of Charleville. These two companies added to the Americans made a combined force of 170 men. With this small array Colonel Clarke marched in the month of February 1779 and after swimming rivers and creeks, wading for miles through waters amid snow & ice, suffering the extremes of hunger and fatigue, they surmounted every obstacle and towards the close of the month, arrived before Vincennes, where the flag of the United States was planted by the hand of your petitioner within gun shot of its walls. Your petitioner further states that after a few days siege, conducted with consummate skill

by Colonel Clarke this important place fell and with it forever the British power in the valley of the Mississippi. Your petitioner further states that during the whole period the American troops held possession of Kaskaskia & Cahokia they were quartered on the inhabitants or sustained by requisitions. Your petitioner's friends and relations made advances for which compensation to this day has never been made. For these services and sacrifices, your petitioner prays that his name, during his few remaining days be placed on the Pension Roll, or such other provision made for him as the justice of his case would seem to demand. Your petitioner begs leave further to say that in the year of 1796 he being then a married man and the father of 8 children removed from Kaskaskia to St. Genevieve in the Spanish province of Louisiana with the intention of acquiring lands for his family under the liberal policy pursued by the Spanish Government in making donations to settlers. He made application for a concession of 8000 acres which was granted by the St. Governor. On the transfer of Louisiana to the Americans a law was passed by Congress requiring that all concessions should be registered by a certain day. Your petitioner unacquainted with the English language never heard of this law and his claim not being recorded in accordance with its provisions was consequently lost to him. Thus your petitioner served this country in his youth without compensation and in his old age finds himself deprived by law of that property which was generously bestowed on him by another Government.



*John Baptiste Louis Lew
of Missouri*

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as an Ensign in the Virginia service.]