

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Van Swearingen S31401
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

MD PA

Shelby County }
State of Kentucky } S.S.

On the 17th day of Sept 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the judges or justices of the Court of Shelby now sitting Van Swearingen a resident of Shelby County State of Kentucky aged about 78 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.

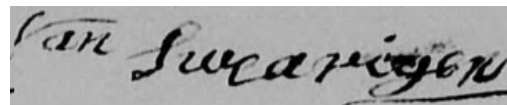
I was Born in the State (then Colony) of Maryland about 10 miles from Hagerstown on the 3rd of November 1754. I was removed to the State (then Colony) of Pennsylvania about 1770 to the part then known as the monongahela Country now Fayette County [then claimed by Virginia]. At which place I resided when hostilities commenced with Great Britain. In the Spring of 1777 I entered the Company of Capt Daniel Stull a regular officer belonging to the Maryland line in which I acted in the Capacity of 1st Lieutenant for about two months and assisted in recruiting thirty or forty men. My Commission not arriving I quit the service, in consequence of an insurrection of the Tories in the western part of Pennsylvania where my father resided. returned and assisted in quelling them.

In the fall of the same year I volunteered in the company of Capt. James Neill [probably James Neal] and served three months in Station at yellow Creek on the river Ohio. In support of the above service I know of no person living that can give his testimony and if I ever had and discharges they are now lost In the Spring of 1778 I volunteered in the Company of Capt. Wm. Harrod [see endnote]. to the best of my recollection we rendezvoused at a place called Muddy Creek in the western part of Pennsylvania in the month of April. We marched from thence under the command of Gen'l. George Rogers Clark on the expedition against the Illinois. [Left Falls of Ohio in Virginia at present Louisville KY on 26 Jun 1778] Col. Wm. Lynn [William Lynn] second in command. I was at Ft. Kaskaskia &c when surrendered [4 Jul 1778]. On the return I remained at Louisville (then the falls of Ohio) two months and assisted in building a Fort and as a Spy comprising about Ten months from the time I left the Monongahela till I returned In the Spring 1779 I again entered the service as volunteer in the company of the above named Capt. Herrod. We rendezvoused at Louisville (Ky) and marched from thence against the Shawnee Indians on the little Miami river now in State of Ohio Commanded by Col. Boman [sic: John Bowman] and was in the battle [late July 1779]. To the best of my recollection I was three months in Bomans Campaign the inclosed discharge will be evidence of my services in the two last named expeditions

I again returned to the Monongahela where I joined a company of volunteers and rendered miscellaneous service as a scout &c upon the frontier settlement until the peace of 1783. Except the two months service which I rendered in 1782 at two forts one called Pricketts [now Fort Prickett State Park near Fairmont WV] and the other Evans [probably near present Point Marion PA]. In the last named service I know of no person who can testify. In consideration of all my services to my country I have never received any compensation except a lot of 100 acres of land lying near the falls of Ohio which was granted in consideration of services rendered on the Illinois Expedition

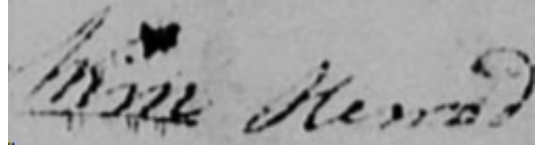
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state

Sworn and subscribed the day and year afore said



March 16th 1780

This is To Certify that Van Swerngen sarved as Solder in the islonies Expedition under the Comand of Coln Georgers Rodgers Clark and Returned back to the Fall of Ohio and asisted in [one or two illegible words] Maner in building a garison thar Likewise sarved in my Compy of volenter against Shanaess Towns the 1779 and Behaved Him Self as a Brave Solder
Wm Herrod Capt

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Wm Herrod". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

NOTES:

The name of Van Swearingeng's Captain in 1778 is almost always spelled William Harrod, but in the discharge above it can be seen that he signed his name as William Herrod. His brother signed his name as James Harrod.

A Treasury-Department document states that the children of Van Swearingen received the final pension payment up to his death 18 July 1839. Elsewhere it is stated that Van Swearingen died in Bath County VA.

The file contains a letter dated 8 Sep 1834 from Van Swearingen, Jr. of Shelbyville KY referring to an error in his father's pension certificate.

Correspondence in the file indicates that in 1882 Sarah Swearingen, nearly 85, attempted to apply for a pension as the widow of Van Swearingen, but that "her mind was entirely gone," and no witnesses or other evidence of the marriage could be found. She died in May 1883 "in care of her only living child (a son) whose health is gone, and whose financial circumstances require assistance." This son was said to be "a Loyal man in time of the Rebellion [Civil War], holding office in a County of this State [WV] and entirely lost his health in discharge of Official duty." The correspondence states that Sarah Swearingen was not the mother of any of Van Swearingen's children, but it refers to her daughter and other children by a previous marriage.