

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Van Pelt W18198

Agness

f37VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/26/11

[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 Virginia Rockingham County: SS

On this 17th day of April 1837 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of said County, Agnes Van Pelt, a resident of the County of Rockingham and State of Virginia, aged Seventy-six years, 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 may by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836: That she is the widow of Peter Van Pelt, who was a private in the militia service of the United States during the Revolutionary War; and served as follows, viz. In the fall of the year 1777 and before she was married to said Peter Van Pelt, he was drafted as a private in the Rockingham militia, and marched against the Indians in Tyger's or Tygart's Valley in Virginia, under Captain Robert Cravens [Robert Craven], and served a three month tour, as she has always understood from her husband, and believes.

On the 13th of March 1778, this applicant and her husband were married and in a very short time after their marriage, she thinks it was not more than three weeks afterwards, he marched as a private militia man under a draft, made upon the Rockingham militia; he marched directly to General Washington's head quarters at Valley Forge as she has always understood and believe; and entered the service of the United States in General Washington's Army, under the immediate command of Colonel Neville, Captain John Steed and Lieutenant Benjamin Kinley. She cannot be very positive as to the exact time of his return, owing to her advanced age, and partial loss of memory, but she believes it was some time in the year 1779 after an absence of not less than twelve months, and perhaps more. She understood from her husband that he was with the Army at the time of the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] took place although he was not immediately engaged in the battle himself, he having been appointed one of the guard for the baggage wagons on that day; but he was within hearing of the whole engagement: and she has often heard him speak in strong terms of censure of General Lee's [General Charles Lee] conduct on that occasion. If she ever heard him speak of having been in any other engagement with the enemy during this tour, it has escaped her recollection.

She has no documentary evidence of her husband's services that she is aware of. She further declares that she was married to the said Peter Van Pelt as already stated on the 13th of March 1778, that her husband the aforesaid Peter Van Pelt died on the 4th day of April 1831, and that she remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

S/ Agness Van Pelt, X her mark

[David Rolstone gave testimony on September 25, 1837 that he was a resident and near neighbor to Peter Van Pelt during the revolutionary war and was aware of Peter Van Pelt being drafted into

the 18 months service from Rockingham County and that James Blain [could be James Blair] & Benjamin Crow from the same County was subject to the same 18 months draft.]

[f p 26]

State of Indiana Monroe County: This day before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County personally came James Blain¹ (Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States) who being by me duly sworn according to law upon his oath makes the following statement relative to the revolutionary services of Peter Van Pelt who he says lived in Augusta County Virginia but now Rockingham County when he entered the service of the United States, he was drafted for one year and received a bounty of \$15, we had liberty to join any Regiment or company we pleased when we joined the Army, and Peter Van Pelt and myself were drafted at the same time and place & received \$15 each bounty and joined the Army at Valley Forge under Captain David Stevenson in the 8th Virginia Regiment – Scott's Brigade as called – Colonel Neville also command – from Valley Forge we marched with the Army in pursuit of the British, through New Jersey to Monmouth and was in the Battle on the 28th day of June 1777 [sic] – Peter Van Pelt was in the same mess with myself and was in said Battle he was not in any other General engagement as Deponent knows of but was in several scrimmages – After the battle of Monmouth we were sent to Brunswick under the same Officers and from thence to Kings Ferry, and then to White Plains in York State, where we were stationed about two months – and from thence we marched to West Point on the North or Hudson River, where we remained until late in the fall, when we marched back to New Jersey and went into winter quarters at Boncrook and Middlebrook we remained at the last mentioned place until the 10th day of February 1778 when we were discharged – by Lieutenant Cooper – having been transferred into the 4th Virginia Regiment at the time of our Discharge Deponent thinks Colonel Gess commanded the Brigade from which we were discharged Colonel Neville being sick at the time – Peter Van Pelt and myself started as before stated in the service together, at the time before mentioned namely about the 10th of June 1777 – and served together one year and as well as deponent recollects were all the time in one mess, and under the same Officers and Discharged at the same time and went home together in Rockingham County which has been made or struck off from Augusta County – during the time we were out in the Army – he may be mistaken as to some of the particulars owing to the length of time – and might state many other circumstances – but he is certain the statement is substantially correct.

S/ James Blain

certainly the statement is true
James Blain
mark

[attested November 15, 1837]

State of Virginia Rockingham County: SS

Be it known that before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County,

¹ [James Blain S35780](#)

personally appeared Edward H. Smith and may oath the papers which he has exhibited before may which purports to be a pay roll of Captain Daniel Smith's company, and has a certificate attached to it in the following words, viz. "I certify that the above to be a copy of Captain Daniel Smith's payroll as settled by the auditors Samuel McDowell" was found among the papers of his Grandfather, Daniel Smith, who was an officer of militia, and held the office of the County Lieutenant or Colonel in Rockingham County near the close of the Revolutionary War: the paper above mentioned was found among a considerable bundle of papers connected with the revolutionary war; the above mentioned paper has been in possession of the affiant or his mother for a considerable period, perhaps 30 years, and it is only recently that he communicated to Benjamin Van Pelt, son of Agness Van Pelt, that he had in his possession such a paper, with the name of Peter Van Pelt, connected with his revolutionary services; and this affiant resume said Agness Van Pelt could have had no knowledge whatever of the existence of such a paper in April last or for a considerable period afterwards.

S/ Edwd H. Smith

Subscribed and sworn to by the said Edward H Smith who is known to me as a credible person and his statements on oath entitled to full confidence. Given under my hand this 26 day of September 1837

S/ Abraham Smith

[f pp36: what appears to be the payroll referred to by Edward H. Smith above]

[Name of Soldier]	[Rank]	£	S	D
Daniel Smith	Capt.	20	2	0
Henry Ewin [Henry Ewing or Henry Ewen, lieutenant]	Pd.	13	8	0
John Fuller [probably the company's ensign]	"	10	1	0
Antony Reader [Anthony Rader?]		6	14	0
George Vinton	Pd.	6	14	0
Jno Lelly [John Lelly or Selly?]		6	14	0
Jno Vendiver [John Vendiver or Vandiver?]	Pd	5	18	0
Jno Shoumake [John Shoemaker?]		5	18	0
Jno Grider [John Grider]	Pd	4	9	4
Adam Reader [Adam Rader?]	"	"	"	"
Alexr Samples [Alexander Samples]	*	*	*	*
D. Williams				
Joseph Blear [Joseph Blair?]				
Wm Crow [William Crow]				
Sam. Johnston [Samuel Johnston]				
Thos. Morris [Thomas Morris]				
Andrew Bird [Andrew Byrd ²]				
Wm Russell [William Russell]				
Rd. Harrison [Richard Harrison]				
John Phillips				
Geo. Phillips [George Phillips]				

² [Andrew Byrd S5311](#). According to this veteran, he served under Daniel Smith and Lieut. John Ewin, Orderly Sergeant Anthony Rader for 3 months returning in November or December 1776; stationed at Westfall's Fort in Tygart's Valley.

Jacob Wodly [Jacob Woodly?]				
Charles King				
Sam. King [Samuel King]				
Jno. Bryan [John Bryan]				
Pet. Bryan [Peter Bryan]				
Pet Bryan [Peter Bryan] [sic, name listed twice]				
Thos. Muckelvain [Thomas McIlvain?]				
Jno. Gum [John Gum or John Gunn?]				
David Reader [David Rader?]				
Jno Reader [John Reader or John Rader?]				
Godfray Boman [Godfrey Bowman?]				
Christian Boman [Christian Boman or Bowman?]				
Henry Peep				
Henry Harter				
Adam Harter				
Jno. Harter [John Harter]				
Wicktess Lamb				
Christn. Cahlenger [Christian Cahlenger]				
Christn Couts [Christian Coutts]				
Antony Speck [Anthony Speck]				
Pet. Shellinger [Peter Shellinger]				
Jno. Dunbarr [John Dunbar?]		3		
Jno. Brown [John Brown]		4		
Jacob Sevly				
Jno. Chism [John Chism]		1	12	0
Denis Dever [Dennis Dever]		3	10	8
Danl. Whitfawl [Daniel Whitfall or Daniel Whitfield?]		2	18	8
Jacob Westfawl [Jacob Westfall?]				
Joel Westfawl [Joel Westfall?]				
Jas. Westfawl [James Westfall?]				
Jno. Sullavan [John Sullivan?]				
Antony Smith [Anthony Smith]				
Edward Shedmore				
Burton Blesand [sic, Burton Blizzard ³]		2	17	4
Jno. Johnston [John Johnston]		0	18	8
Jeremiah Reagan		2	5	4
Edward Bedsly [Edward Beasley?]		2	5	4
Sam. Susdusud [Samuel Sushusud?]		0	16	4
Capt. Forage [allowance for forage allowed Capt. Smith]		10	1	0
Lieut. Forage [allowance for forage allowed Lieut. Ewin]		5	0	6
Ensign "		5	0	6
Jno. Keer Shy [John Keer or John Kerr spy?] 54 Days at 5/				
James Dunshew Pd to Coutts 54 days at 5/				

³ [Burton Blizzard W20720](#)

John Johnston Pd 21 days at 5/				
Wm. White [William White] pd 21 days at 5/				

I certify the above to be a copy of Capt. Daniel Smith's Pay Roll as stated by the Auditors
S/ Saml. McDonell

[*empty cells indicates that there is a 'ditto' in that cell in the original]

[facts in file: The widow died August 25, 1840; she was survived by children but they are not named in the file material; that the veteran and his wife had a son named Benjamin who is referred to in a document dated 1837; that the veteran's 4th child (not named) was living in Harrisonburg Virginia in 1838 aged about 51 years.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's service of 15 months in the Virginia service.]