

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jacob Vanmeter (Vanmetre, Vanmatre) W8798 Rebecca f155VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/29/11

[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 Kentucky County of Hardin: Jacob Vanmeter of the County and State aforesaid Personally appeared before me John Morris a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath to the following Statement viz. That he the said Jacob Vanmeter was commissioned an Ensign in the Illinois Regiment commanded by Colonel George Rogers Clarke [George Rogers Clark] in February 1778 and commenced recruiting men for Captain Harrod's Company of said Regiment on the Monongahela River about ten miles above Redstone Fort that having finished recruiting that he started down the River with part of these companies commanded by Captains Helm [Leonard Helm], Harrod and Bowman the whole under the command of Colonel George R Clark for the falls of the Ohio now Louisville where they remained about a month and built Fort on Corn Island they then left the falls of the Ohio for the old Cherokee Fort on the Ohio called afterwards Fort Massac where they only stayed one night then they left the boats five in number and commenced their march to Ocan now called Kaskaskia which was taken by Colonel Clark from the enemy who commanded by a Frenchman by the name of Rousblack [sic, probably Philippe de Rastel, sieur de Rocheblave, commandant of Fort Gage]. Leaving Captain William Harrod and Colonel Clark at catch Cascadia he marched under the command of Captain Joseph Bowman of the Illinois Regiment to who a small French village about 10 miles below the present site of St. Louis from this place he returned under the command of Captain Bowman and rejoined his Regiment under the command of Colonel Clark at catch Cascadia the following summer he was with Colonel Clark at Vincennes that he continued as an Ensign in the Illinois Regiment until the end of the war that in 1782 when Colonel George R Clark then General commanded an expedition against the Shawnee Indians there was not a full command for the Officers of the Illinois Regiment he received the appointment of Captain of Militia to command a Company from Busels licks [¹ but I think it is probably a garbled reference to "Blue Licks"] which he did command for about two months which ended the expedition, but that he did not consider his acceptance of the commission of Captain of Militia to have annulled his commission as Ensign in the Illinois Regiment that it was only a temporary appointment for the expedition that he afterwards continued to hold his Commission of Ensign of the Illinois Regiment until the end of the war and as such was recognized by the Board of officers who assembled at Louisville in 1784 under an act of the Assembly of Virginia for the purpose of allowing the officers of the Illinois Regiment there portions of land in the Illinois Grant and that he was allowed for his services to the end of the war as Ensign in the Illinois Regiment 2156 acres of bounty land, that when the declaration was prepared for him by Mr. Northup to obtain a petition under the act of

1832 he was totally on it guys of the provisions of the law that he then stated to Mr. Northup that he was an Ensign in the Illinois Regiment and also a Captain of Militia but never intended to convey the idea that he was an Ensign of militia and that he served only seven months and that capacity for that in truth he served in said on our Regiment for several years viz. from February 1778 when he was first commissioned until the close of the war that Mr. Northup must have mistaken the seven months service as Ensign of militia for seven months of active campaigning mentioned to him when Ensign of the Illinois Regiment. That he did not intend to convey the idea that he only served seven months in said Regiment but only alluded to a particular portion of the time when in service. Given under my hand this 6th day of October 1833

S/ John Morris, JP HC

[f p 148]

State of Kentucky Hardin County: I Temple Poston a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid in the State of Kentucky do hereby certify that Isaac Vanmatre is a credible witness and that he personally appeared before me in my County aforesaid and made oath that he was well acquainted with Jacob Vanmeter of Hardin County and State of Kentucky and that he was and Officer of the Virginia State line during the Revolution and that he served first as an Ensign under Colonel George Rogers Clark on the Illinois Campaign as this deponent well knows as he was himself a Soldier at the same time and in the same Regiment and afterwards in the year 1782 the said Jacob Vanmeter was promoted to the rank of Captain and served under Colonel Clark against the Shawnees and that he continued in service until dismissed about the close of the revolutionary war, and that the said Jacob Vanmeter is now living in the County of Hardin Kentucky and that he is the same Jacob Vanmeter who executed powers of attorney to John P Duvall of Bardstown Kentucky dated 7th day of September 1833.

Given under my hand & seal this 7th day of September 1833

S/ Temple Poston, JP

[f p. 33: affidavit dated September 12, 1835 given in Hardin County Kentucky by David Linder² in which he states he, David, was a private in the Illinois Regiment at the same time that Jacob Vanmeter was Ensign in said Regiment.]

[f p. 44: Affidavit dated September 15, 1835 given in Grayson County Kentucky by Isaac Vanmeter³ in which he states that he was well acquainted with Jacob Vanmeter of Hardin County Kentucky an Ensign in the Illinois Regiment under Colonel George Rogers Clark; that said affiant was a private in the Illinois Regiment at the same time that Jacob Vanmeter was Ensign.]

[f p. 9: On October 21, 1839 in Hardin County Kentucky, Rebecca Vanmeter, 62, filed for a widow' S pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Jacob Vanmeter late a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him in Hardin

² I could not find any application for a federal pension filed by a person of this or any similar name for service in Virginia. However, the online documents filed by the Virginia State Library do contain a rejected pension claim for a David Linder in which Jacob Vanmeter gave an affidavit that David Linder served in the company of Captain James Patton under the command of George Rogers Clark from 1780 until the fall of the year 1782. Vanmeter's affidavit is dated November 7th, 1833 and is posted at http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve_image=Revolution&type=rr&reel=9&start=425&end=429 That file contains no application by Linder in his own behalf.

³ [Isaac Van Matre \(Vanmatre, Vanmeter\) W225824](#)

County Kentucky May 12, 1793; that her husband died April 12, 1838. She signed her name "Rebekah Vanmatre"⁴

Rebekah Vanmatre

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[f p. 11: On October 17, 1839 in Hardin County Kentucky, Mahala Prather, 27, gave testimony that she is the daughter of Jacob and Rebecca Vanmeter

Mahala Prather

[f p 11: On October 19, 1839 in Hardin County Kentucky, Jacob Vanmeter, 77, gave testimony that he is the uncle of Rebecca Vanmeter the widow of Jacob Vanmeter; that he has a perfect recollection of the marriage of his knees to the veteran at Rebecca's Mother's house in Hardin County Kentucky on May 17, 1793; that they were married by the Reverend Josiah Dodge.

Jacob Vanmeter

[f p 16: On June 5, 1851 in Franklin County Kentucky, John Weems, administrator of the estate of Rebecca Vanmeter filed a claim stating that Rebecca died July 16, 1849 leaving only four children living viz., Nancy Vanmeter, Mahala Milburn [?], Letitia Watson and Edward Vanmeter. In his claim he states that the widow only received a pension of \$105 per annum for limited service by her husband as an Ensign whereas she was entitled to receive a pension based on 4 years of service by her husband as an Ensign.]

[facts in file: the widow whose maiden name was Rebecca Rawlings; she was born in November 1777; f pp 25-31, detailed description of the bounty land awarded the veteran for his service in the Illinois Regiment. The file also contains unattested statements from descendants of the veteran giving supposed genealogical information relating to his children and their descendants.]

[f pp 60-74 is a brief filed by an attorney for the administrator of the estate of Jacob Vanmetre arguing for Vanmetre's entitlement to half pay under the act of July 5, 1832. This brief contains some historical background relating to the Illinois Regiment, its officers and campaigns.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$105 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as an Ensign and Captain in the Virginia militia. [Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$105 per annum commencing April 12, 1838. In 1851 the office of the Commissioner of pensions revised the pension due the veteran to \$260 per annum commencing

⁴ Another example of her signature as appears on another document in this file: f p 152

Rebecca Vanmeter

March 4th, 1831 and ending April 12, 1838. Likewise, the widow's estate received an increase in the pension that had been paid to her during her lifetime.]

[f 143]

A Pay Roll of Capt. Wm Harrods Company of Militia in the County of Kentucky on Duty from the 27th of May to the 8th day of December 1779

| Mens Names [and rank] | When enlisted | When discharged | Numb ^r of days | ? | [Pay] |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------|
| William Harrod Capt. | May 27 | De ^r 8 | 196 | a 5/4 | £52.5.4 |
| James Patten Lieut | | | 196 | 3/6 | 34.6.0 |
| Edward Bulger Ens. | | | 196 | 2/8 | 26.2.8 |
| James Harris Sarjts | | | 196 | 1/8 | 16.6.8 |
| Levi Teal [Sarjts] | | | 196 | 1/8 | 16.6.8 |
| Samuel Harriss Soldier | | | 196 | ¼ | 13.1.4 |
| John McMeness senr | | | 196 | ¼ | 13.1.4 |
| &c &c &c | | | | | |
| Jacob Vanmeter | | | 196 | ¼ | 13.1.4 |
| &c &c &c | | | | | |

William Harrod

Kentucky County: to wit

This day Captain William Harrod made oath that the above Pay Roll is just and that there is due each man 86 Rashens [rations]. Sworn to before John Bowman this 13th day of September 1780

S/ Jno Bowman County

Leut. of Kentucky County

Auditors Office Richmond for August 1852

I certify that in the 1st Vol. of Illinois Papers now on file in this Office there is to be found a Pay Roll of Captain William Harrod's Company of Militia, of which the foregoing is a true copy, excepting that the names of nearly all the privates are omitted, which appear on the Roll both before & after the name of Jacob Van meter.

S/ G. W. Cluther, Acting Aud.

Rank of the Officers of the Illinois Regiment and dates of their respective Commissions – bulbul
28 January 1782

| Names | Rank | Dates of Commissions |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| John Montgomery | Lieutenant Colonel | 14th December 1778 |
| Thomas Quirk | Major | 17th of August 1779 |
| Robert Todd | Captain | 17th of March 1780 |
| Isaac Taylor | Capt. | 18 th March 1780 |
| Abraham Kellar | Capt. killed Dec. 12 th 81 | 19 March 1780 |
| John Bailey | Capt | 29 th March 1780 |
| Richard Brashear | Capt. | 30 th May 1780 |
| John Girault | Capt. | 3 rd June 1781 |
| Michael Perrault | Capt. | 10 th October 1781 |
| Joseph Calvit | Lieutenant | 1 st June 1780 |
| James Montgomery | Lieut | 2 nd June 1780 |

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|---------------------------|
| Abraham Chaplin | Lieut | 3 rd June 1780 |
| Richard Clark | Lieut | 4 th June 1780 |
| Jarret William | Lieut | 5 th June 1780 |
| Wm Clark | Lieut | 6 th June 1780 |

This certifies that the above is a true Roster of the Illinois Officers

C. R. Clarke

it appears by the Returns of Colonel Montgomery's Regt. that there were raised

in May 1779 350 effective men
August 1780 reduced to 130 men
at present with Recruits 130 men

John Montgomery Lt Col
Comdt Illinois

Casualties

Capt. Kellar Killed 12 December 1781

General Clark's Commission (who was Colonel of the within Regiment) was dated January 2nd 1778

Richmond April 13, 1782 a board of Officers belonging to the Western Department a...md by request of Colonel Davies agreeable to an act of Assembly of last Session

Colonel John Montgomery President

Members

Major George Walls
Major Thomas Quirk
Captain William Cherry

The Board having considered the order of Council of January 18th have proceeded to give their opinions as follows

Relative to the Officers of the Weston Department who are not entitled to the Benefit of half pay

It is the opinion of this Boar that the Officers on the enclosed list of the Illinois Regiment are entitled to the emoluments allowed the officers of this State by act of Assembly, as it appears they have been in service since the Raising of the Illinois Regiment and continued in service until deranged by Act of Assembly, And that they have behaved (whilst in service) as good officers and gentlemen

John Montgomery, Lt Colo. Comadt Illinois Regt.

In Council November 14, 1783

The above Report all to be considered as authentic

Benjamin Harrison

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Addendum to Jacob Vanmeter (Vanmetre, Vanmatre) W8798
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 24 June 2022.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files indexed as Vanmetre, Jacob.]

State of Kentucky } I William Paterson a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid in the state of
Grayson County } Kentucky do hereby Certify that Isaac Vanmetre is a Creditable Witness and that
he personally appeared before me in my County aforesaid and made oath that he was well acquainted with
Jacob Vanmeter of Hardin County Kentucky that he was an Ensign in the Illinois Regiment under the
Command of Col. George Roger Clark that this Deponant served as a private in the same Regiment and
that the said Jacob Vanmeter never Resigned but held his Commition as Insign in the ilinois regment and
did duty untill the end of the war the said Vanmeter at one time had the command of a militia Company
under Con'l. George R Clark but this deponant Considers the said Vanmeter as still belonging at the time
to Clarks Regiment and that the said Vanmeter took command of the company of Militia for a short period
to add to the forces of the Redgment in an expedition under the command of Con'l. George Roger Clerk a
gains the Shawnees and this Deponant further states that the said Jacob Vanmeter is now living in the
County of Hardin in the state of Kentucky and that he is the same Jacob Vanmeter who executed powers
of attorney to John P. Duvall of Beardstown Kentucky dated the 7th day of September 1833 Given under
my hand and seal this 2nd day of November 1833. William Patterson JPGC

The memorial of Ensign Jacob Vanmeter of the Illinois Regement commanded by Conl George R
Clarke to the Executive of Virginia. your memorialist Respectfully represents to the Executive of Virginia
that he resides in the county of Hardin in the State of Kentucky and that he entered in the Revolutionary
war in the Month of February and in the year 1778 in the State of Virginia and was attached to the Illinois
Regiment in the following Month March under the command of the said Conl. George R Clarke and
served in the Revolutionary war to the end and was reported entitled to Bounty lands by the bord of
commissioners of the Illinois Grant who assembled in Louisvill in the year 1784 under the resolution of
the assembly of Virginia of the 2nd January 1781 and agreeable to an act passed October session 1783
which will more fully appear by reference to the prosedings of the said bord on file in the treasury
department at washington city or to the office copy of the same are then located by the Secatary of the
Treasury in the possession of my attorney in fact John P. Duval your memorialist request that the
Executive of Virginia would direct the Register of the Land office of Virginia to esue a Warrant to me
deliverable to my Attorney in fact John P Duval on account of the services of the said Ensign Jacob
Vannmeter who served in the war to the end agreeable to the act of the Legislature of Virginia granting to
the officers and soldiers of his state on continental line or their heirs bounty in lands for the service to the
end of the ware

[10 June 1835]

Jacob Vanmatr
Signed your memorialist

