

Pension Application for Jonathan Vanscoy

W.19899 (Widow: Abigail)

State of New York

State of Greene SS

On this 20 day of May AD 1832 personally appeared before Perkins King a Judge of the county courts in and for said county Jonathan Vanscoy a resident of the town of Granville in said county aged seventy one 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 7, 1832.

That for the war of the revolution he resided on Cortland Manor now called North Salem in the County of Westchester in the State of New York in which place he resided before the war and until after the close of it. That some time after the close of the war he removed from that place to the town of Greenville in the County of Greene in the same state, where he has resided ever since and where he now resides.

He was born in the County of orange in the same state, but the name of the town in which he was born he does not now recollect. That in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine according to the best of his recollection. (The month he has forgotten) in the seventeenth year of his age he as enrolled as a private in a company of New York militia in said County of Westchester commanded by Captain Ephraim Lockwood, Isaac Keeler being first Lieutenant a Daniel Purdy second lieutenant and William Rogers Ensign, in the regiment of Colonel Samuel Drake; and he was called into actual service the same [?] immediately after he was thus enrolled.

He belonged to and served in the same company during the war when the company or regiment was called into service and he performed several tours of duty also by drafts and enlistment when the company or regiment aforesaid did not serve.

According to the best of his recollection the aforesaid Colonel Cantine in command of the regiment until the winter of the year 1780; but he well recollects Lieuts Colonel Thaddeus Crane commanded the regiment the last three or four years of the war and that he belonged to Captain Ephraim Lockwoods Company under both Colonels from the time he first joined the company of [occasion?] until the close of the war.

At the time declarant was called into actual service as aforesaid the whole company and regiment to which he belonged until ordered out & he served in the same on the lines; but he does not recollect either the day or month when he entered the service as aforesaid nor when he was discharged in which service at least half a month.

In the same year as aforesaid (1779) answering to the best of his recollection he was called into the service by being classed and drafted; he served this time three months on the lines in Captain Requa in Stevens Company in Colonel Thomas Thomas regiment of New York militia at the end of his service he was verbally dismissed but the day or month when he entered or when dismissed he can not now call to mind.

In the year 1780 according to the best of his recollection whilst in captain Ephraim Lockwood's Company aforesaid in the Regiment commanded first by Colonel Samuel Drake and after by Col. Thaddeus Crane as before mentioned whilst said Crane commanded our regiment early in the spring he was called into actual service in said company and regiments in detached embodied cor[p]s or militia for the protection of the inhabitants and to repel the enemy the lower and middle parts of the county being open and exposed to the depredations of the enemy who with cavalry and infantry were continually in motion and committing depredations burning meeting houses and villages in the north part of the county. At this time the militia in which he was bound to serve was really considered in service the whole time and when dismissed for a short time it was with orders to be ready at a minutes warning to march. He well recollects that in this year he actually served in various times of duty in embodied cor[p]s of militia and on as he believes the lines and in guarding stores within the lines belonging to the United States as long as four months as a private.

In the year 1781 whilst still belonging to the aforesaid company and regiment at the north part of the county was still a refugee for the distressed inhabitants of the south. That this year during the spring and summer he served in embodied cor[p]s of militia in and below the lines on various tours of duty and on guard duty within the lines he verily believes up to the first of September at least three months.

On or about the first of September during the year aforesaid (1781) to the best of his recollection (he cannot be positive as to the time but well remembers that it was the same fall that the American Army marched to Yorktown to attack Cornwallis Army) he enlisted in a company of New York Militia commanded by Captain Thomas Hunt Colonel Wizenfelts regiment and marched with the said company and regiment to Saratoga in the State of New York. He entered the service this term for three months in a service called three months and was then discharged at Poughkeepsie on return home. This discharge was in writing from Colonel Wizenfelts who commanded the regiment but he has long since lost the discharge.

In the year 1782 whilst still belonging to said Captain Ephraim Lockwoods company in Colonel Thaddeus Cranes regiment he was called into actual service early in the spring of the defence of the said County of Westchester and he served in said company and regiment on and below the line sin detached embodied cors and on guarding stores of the United States within the limits of the regiment this time at least three and a half months.

The declarant further states as a corroboration and proof of his services in the regiment of militia aforesaid whilst commanded by Lieutenants Colonel Thaddeus Crane he received pay of said Crane for services performed in his regiment from the month of February 1780 to the conclusion of the war in a militia certificate for thirty pounds or seventy five dollars and he believes a fraction over exclusion of pay for all other tours of duty which if private soldiers pay was seven dollars for month (once he believes it was) the amount of his services under said arrangements have been ten months and a half and in said Cranes regiment as a private in Captain Ephraim Lockwoods Company.

The declarant further on his oath aforesaid saith Whilst by reason of old age & sickness (having been confined to his bed for more than a year past) and the consequent loss of memory he can not swear positively as to the precise length of his service nor can he swear any more precisely as to the different & several times he entered service or left the services that he has done as aforesaid but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods before mentioned, to wit:

In the year 1779 three months by Class and drafted in Captain Benjamin Stevens company in the regiment of Colonel Thomas Thomas whilst he belonged to the regiment of Colonel Samuel Drake of Militia.

In the same year half a month in Colonel Drakes Regiment.

In the year 1780 four months.

In the year 1781 three months making in all sixteen and a half months for which the declarant claims a pension as a private soldier.

He was born in the year 1762 in the County of Orange aforesaid.

He has a record of his age in a Psalm [Psalm] Book now [?] his family & that is the only one he knows of.

No regular officers to his recollection ever encamped with the troops whilst he had served he therefore does not recollect the names of any of them.

He does not recollect any continental or militia regiments other than those before stated.

He never received a discharge from the service except the one before given [?] to have been given by Colonel Wizenfeltz and thinks he before stated has been lost.

He is known in his present neighborhood to Joshua Baker, Silas Rockwell & Henry [Spencer?] who he believes can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no persons whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except Timothy Vanscoy, Abraham Vanscoy and Daniel Purdy whose affidavits are hereto annexed.

He hereby relinquished ever 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. (Signed) Jonathan Vanscoy.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Perkins King, Judge as aforesaid.