

Pension Application for Isaac Van Camp, Orderly Sergeant

S.11603

State of New York

Orleans County

On this 23rd day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Oyer and Terminer now sitting at the Court House in the Town of Barre in and for the County of Orleans. Isaac Van Camp a resident of the Town of Barre in the County of Orleans and State of New York aged Seventy Three 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he was born at a place called Warsing in the County of Ulster in the State of New York in the year seventeen hundred and Fifty nine. That he has a record of his age in his Bible at home which is transcribed from an old Bible that became worn out and is destroyed.

That he was living in the Town of Canajoharie in the County of Montgomery in the State of New York. When he entered the service that he has served since the Revolutionary War in the said Town of Canajoharie that he moved to the Town of Sullivan in the County of Madison a few years before the Commencement of the late war, that he removed to the Town of Watertown in the County of Jefferson and about six years since he came to the place where he now resides.

That he has always lived in the State of New York and now lives in the Town of Barre the County of Orleans aforesaid. That he entered the service as a volunteer. That he enlisted in the month of March or the first of April seventeen hundred and seventy six, under Captain E. Van Knaps (1) for nine months as a boatman.

That he served under the said VanKnaps about six months where his Captain the said Evert VanEps was broke for some misconduct. That at that time he was in Schenectady. That on the same day he enlisted into Captain Garret Lansing Company (2) and served until the first of January 1777.

That his service consisted in boating on the Mohawk River in transporting troops around, Militia and provisions for the army. (3) That he was subject to strict military discipline during the whole time. That he frequently had to march on duty and that the company in which he served and their captain were under the command of the officers of the regular Continental Troops. That they drew their daily rations and monthly pay and were subject to the same penalties for desertion as the Regular troops. That on the said first of January 1777, he was discharged, but that he received a written discharge. That the captain called his company together and thanked them for their faithful service and told them they were discharged.

That in the month of February or March 1777, he enlisted a second time under Captain Reuben Simons (3) for nine months as a boatman that the company in which he was went first to Saratoga from there to Ford Edward and were employed on the Hudson River in conveying the many provisions and arms between Fort Edward and Albany until about the Time that Burgoyne (4) surrendered when the company in which he was were ordered to Schenectady and from there to Fort Stanwix that they were commanded by Colonel Hale (5) but most of the time by Colonel Schuyler. That he was discharged at Schenectady on the first of January 1778 in the same month as he was

from the first term of service. That the company in which he served were regularly enlisted were subject to the commands of the Regular or United States Officers and were subject to the same discipline and served their daily rations and received their pay in the same manner as the soldiers employed on the land. That whenever they were not transporting soldiers, who could defend their boats that the company in which he served were furnished with arms and had their sentinels on watch and that he was not hired or employed on a civil contract but Regularly enlisted and served under such enlistment during both of the terms of such

That he enlisted again in March 1779 (6) under Capt. John Breadbake for nine months. The company was raised as a company of Rangers and were under the Command of Colonel VanRensselaer, (7) that part of the company and he among them were first stationed at Cherry Valley but were soon relieved and joined the rest of their company at German Flatts. That for the first four months he was chosen by the company and acted as second Sergeant and was then appointed Orderly Sergeant and served five months as such. That he was discharged on the first of January 1780.

That when the term of enlistment had expired the company were called out and thanked by their commander and discharged. But no written discharges were given, that he had a Sergeants warrant signed by Captain John Breadbake which he kept a number of years but that the same is now lost.

That he understood that at the time the said company of Rangers under Captain John Breadbake were called. That several other companies were also needed and that one of them were stationed at Schoharie one at Cherry Valley and one at Stone Robby (Arabia) and one at Johnstown. That he never was under this last term of service any officer higher in command than the said Captain, John Breadbake. But that he understood the companies raised at that time were under the command of Colonel Van Rensselaer as above stated. That while the company in which he was were at the German Flatts, he thinks in the month of September he was sent with twelve Men who were placed under his command to a place about forty miles south called the Carr Place (8) or Farm to see if they could obtain any information of the enemy that they went to the said Carr Place and were there surprised by the Enemy and that ten of the men that went with him were killed. That he and two of the men Escaped and got back to the German Flatts. That he got into the fort the same day That they were surprised at the Carr Place but that the other two men did not get in until a day or two after. That on the day following his return to the German Flatts the enemy came and destroyed the property around the fort and drove off the cattle. But did not attack the Fort. That they were reinforced from below and pursued the enemy and retook some of the cattle. (9)

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whatsoever whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

That he is acquainted with Almeron H. Cole and Gideon Hard Esq. Who reside in this neighborhood and can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a Soldier of The Revolution. (Signed) Isaac Van Camp (10)

We, Almeron H. Cole and Gideon Hand, residents of the Town of Barre in the County of Orleans hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Isaac VanCamp who has signed and sworn the above declaration that we believe him to be seventy three years of age that he is reputed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of The Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. A. Hyde Cole, Gideon Hard.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid Before me. A. B. Mills Clerk of Said Court.

He died April 20, 1843 in Hanover, Chautauqua County NY. Leaving five surviving children and no widow.

End Notes—S.11603—Isaac VanCamp

1. Captain Evert VanEps Bateau Company was only for 1776. His company was part of the Quartermaster General's Department. So far a surviving muster roll has not been found for this company.
2. Captain Lansing's Company of Bateaman were also in the Quartermaster General's Department.
3. Captain Simonds or Symonds Company of Bateamen were as above. Unfortunately records for these companies are torn, water damaged, or missing.
4. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered his British forces on October 17, 1777.
5. Isaac states a Colonel Hale or Colonel Schuyler commanded them most of the time but no Christian names are given. There was a Colonel Nathan Hale of the Second New Hampshire Continental Regiment. He was taken prisoner on July 7, 1777 in the Battle of Hubbardton, Vermont, which was the only battle fought in Vermont. There was a Lieutenant-Colonel Harmanus Schuyler who was the Assistant Commissary General of the Northern Department.
6. The year should be 1778. Isaac was appointed corporal in Captain John Breadbake's Company of Rangers under the command of Colonel Morris Graham. Isaac's pay was 7 1/3 dollars per month. The muster and payrolls are from July to October and Isaac's name is on all of them and with the rank of corporal. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775- 1783, Series M-246, Roll 74, folder 106, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
7. Lieutenant Colonel Henry K. VanRensselaer, Colonel Stephen J. Schuyler's Sixth Regiment of Albany County Militia. VanRensselaer was appointed in April of 1779 as lieutenant colonel commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies.
8. The Carr place was near the Susquehanna River. This ambush took place on September 16, 1778.
9. On September 17, 1778, Captains William Caldwell and Joseph Brant destroyed the German Flatts.
10. Isaac does not mention his militia service but he served as a private in Captain Jacob Dieffendorf's Fifth Company in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. He appears on Captain Dieffendorf's Receipt Roll dated Canajohary September 25, 1784 as follows: Certificate No. 10904 £4. . 10. . 8; certificate no. 10857 £10. . 4. . 5; and certificate no. 10787 £1. . 13. . 9. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 89, National Archives, Washington, D.C.