

Pension Application for Francis Conklin

W.18921 (Widow: Hester Brown. Married May 20th 1787.)

State of New York

Westchester County SS.

On this thirteenth day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared before me Rahaman C. Austin a Commissioner authorized to do certain duties of a Judge for the Supreme Court in the State of New York, at Chambers in & for the said County of Westchester, Frances Conklin a resident of the Town of Cortlandt in the said County of Westchester & State of New York aged about seventy six years, who being first duly sworn according to Law 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 after stated.

That he first entered the said service of the Country at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, the particular time this deponent is unable to state, at Haverstraw in Rockland County and State of New York, as a volunteer under Lieutenant John Waldron of the said County of Rockland.

That at this time this deponent served three months as near as this deponent can now recollect, during which time this deponent was principally employed in building & preparing the docks for the ferry between VerPlanck's Point & Stoney Point, commonly called Kings Ferry, and in building [?] huts or houses on the west side of the river near said Ferry for the use of the Army principally for the use of the commissary department.

That after rendering the tour of service aforesaid, this deponent removed from Haverstraw aforesaid with his father's family to the opposite side of the river in the said town of Cortlandt & County of Westchester aforesaid, and soon after this deponent was imployed [employed] with a number of the other inhabitants of the said town of Cortlandt, about the time & just before the British came up the North or Hudson River, in collecting the cattle in the said town of Cortlandt and driving them to the north, towards Fishkill. That this measure was adopted and this service performed as this deponent always understood by the advice or direction of General McDougal & to prevent the cattle from being taken by the British who were then expected daily to be up said rivers.

That this deponent after assisting in collecting cattle as aforesaid went with others in charge of them towards Fishkill. This was in the fore part of July, and on or about the tenth of July of the year the British took Stoney Point. This deponent with the party who had the charge of said cattle at a place in Phillipstown called Peekskill Hollow was taken prisoners by a part of Refugees commonly known as Cowboys, under the command of Jo. McKeel, when this deponent was carried prisoner to the City of New York where he was confined as a prisoner in the Sugar House, and a part of the time in the Quaker Meeting house, where for the period of eighteen months or about that time, and was exchanged & discharged from said prison, after being in confinement until about the end of the year following his capture, or the beginning of the year thereafter. That when he was released he was taken under charge of a British Guard to Elizabeth Town in N. Jersey & then delivered over & was received by Commissary [?] when this deponent returned with his father who had been a prisoner during the same period to their residence in Cortlandt town aforesaid.

This deponent further saith, that he summer after he was discharged from his imprisonment as aforesaid he served in the militia under Lieutenant Benjamin Dyckman in the company of which James Cronk was Captain (said Cronk being at the time a prisoner) That he served under said Dyckman at different times during two summers on scouting parties and on guards, in different parts in the upper part of the County of Westchester which service in all was at least six months, for periods of from one week to twenty or thirty days.

That this deponent has no documentary evidence in his possession or in his power of his said services, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services other than John Peterson whose testimony is hereto annexed.

To the several Interrogatories put to the deponent agreeably to the directions contained in the instructions from the war department in cases of this nature. The deponent answers & says.

That he was born in Haverstraw in Rockland County & State of New York in the year 1756.

That he has no record of his age.

That he resided in Haverstraw aforesaid ever since the Revolutionary War he has resided in Cortlandt town in Westchester County & State of New York where he now resides.

That he first entered the service as a volunteer. That the service in which he was engaged when taken prisoner was in pursuance of the order or direction of General McDougal as the deponent then & ever since understood, altho there was no person having a particular command of the part at the time.

That the service rendered under Lieutenant Dyckman was a Militia [militia] man & was ordered out as such to protect the inhabitants of the upper part of Westchester County and their property for the incursions & depredations of the Cowboys & Tories.

That he never received any written or regular discharge.

That the names of the persons in the neighbourhood in which deponent resides to whom he is known & who can testify to his character as to veracity and their belief as to his services as a soldier of the revolution are David Lent Esquire & Col. Peter Goetschins.

And this deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

This deponent further saith that there is no clergyman in his neighborhood now residing there. That the clergyman or minister settled there for a number of years has lately left said place.

This deponent also says that from bodily infirmity he cannot attend the courts in said County of Westchester without greatly hazarding his health & perhaps endangering his life.

(Signed with his mark) Francis Conklin.

Sworn to & Subscribed this 13th day of August 1832 before me R. C. Austin a commissioner to perform certain duties of a Judge of the Supreme Court of the State of New York residing in the County of West Chester.

Letter in pension folder dated May 26, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Francis Conklin

W.18921

The data herein were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, W.18921, based upon service of Francis Conklin in the Revolutionary War.

Francis Conklin was born in 1756 in Haverstraw, Rockland County, New York; the names of his mother not given and name of father not designated.

While residing at Haverstraw, New York, he volunteered in the fall or winter of 1776 and served three months as private under Lieutenant John Waldron, in a company of artificers engaged in building a storehouse at Verplanck's Point. He enlisted in the fall of 1777 and again served three months as private under Lieutenant John Waldron engaged in building the dock at King's Ferry. After this tour, he moved with his father's family from Haverstraw to Cortlandtown across the river in Westchester County, New York, where he was employed in driving cattle to Fishkill to places of safety.

He enlisted in June, 1779, when Verplanck and Stony Point were attacked and taken by the British and served as private in captain James Cronkhite's New York Company, and while serving on this tour was captured by the British and held a prisoner of war for about eighteen months in New York City, in the North Sugar House and the Quaker meetinghouse, then exchanged and returned home in

company with Thomas and John Conklin, his father and brother (the father not designated) who were taken prisoners with him. After his release from prison he served in the Revolutionary War at different times on short tours, amounting to at least six months, as private under Lieutenant Benjamin Dyckman in the company of which Captain James Cronkhite was captain but who was then a prisoner.

Francis Conklin was allowed pension on his application executed August 13, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Cortland, Westchester County, New York, where he was still living in 1840. He died July 11, 1846.

The soldier married May 20, 1787, in Cortland, New York, Hester Brown. The date and place of her birth and names of parents are not given. Their marriage was recorded in the Journal and Record of Marriages of the Reformed Dutch Church of Cortlandtown, New York. It was stated that the baptism of several children of Francis Conklin and his wife, Hester, were recorded also in that journal, but no names of children were stated.

Francis Conklin's widow, Hester, was allowed pension on her application executed October 30, 1846, at which time she was aged seventy-eight years and a resident of Westchester County, New York. In 1848, she was living in Cortlandtown, in that county.