

Pension Application for Henry Croutz, Cront, Crout, Grauts, Crans, Krans, Crants

S.23179

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

On this 12 day of February 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Henry Crouts a resident of the Town of German Flatts in the county and state aforesaid aged seventy nine 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he performed duty in the Militia of Tryon County in the State of New York before the Revolutionary War—that at the commencement of the Revolution he served in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Jacob Small (1) who was afterwards murdered by the Indians—that he does not now recollect who were the other officers under Captain Small—that the regiment was commanded by Col. Peter Bellinger Lieut Col. Frederick Bellinger(2) and that Nicholas Herkimer (3) was their General—that he continued to serve in said company under said Capt. Small until he afterwards moved to Fort Hunter which is now in Montgomery County on the Mohawk River except the time he served when he was enlisted as hereafter mentioned.—That he cannot state precisely the year that he moved to Fort Hunter but believes it was in May 1780—that from the beginning of the war until he moved to Fort Hunter he resided on the Mohawk River about three miles above the Little Falls—that during said war and whilst he continued to reside above the Little Falls he was called out in the service of the United States and served as follows—that he was engaged at a house on the south side of the Mohawk about three miles above the Little Falls in neighborhood where he lived—that at another time when Shell and his wife and family had their battle (4) he in company with Capt. Small went out to Shell's—that at another time he and others went to Remesnyder's bush now in Herkimer County in pursuit of a Tory—that at another time in the neighborhood at Fort Herkimer he was sent out with others on a scout—that when Andrewstown (5) was burnt he with others went from Fort Herkimer to that place—that he went as a guard one time from Fort Herkimer to Fort Stanwix & guard for cattle drove to Fort Stanwix—that at one time he was at Fort Dayton on guard about a week or a fortnight that at one time he was at a fort in Casler's neighborhood a short distance below Fort Herkimer – that he was on guard at said Fort and watched also for Tories—that when Brandt burnt the German flatts (6) he was also on guard at fort Herkimer that then had some fighting with the enemy—that he was again at Fort Herkimer on duty at another time when they laid a plan to catch some of the Indians but did not succeed—the plan was after seeing the enemy at different places on the hills south of Fort Herkimer for several days, he and a party making about thirty men went out of the Forts in the night time shortly before day light and secreted themselves in a ditch by previous concert after day light a man went out from the fort and went to hoeing corn near the ditch were the party lay concealed—the expectation was that the enemy Indians wanted to make an attempt to take the man engaged in hoeing and that then their party were to have an opportunity to take them but the enemy did not show themselves at that time, and their plan failed—the party was commanded by Henry Staring (7) who was afterwards an officer—that he went to Fort Stanwix at one time to guard boats or something else besides the time before mentioned when he went to guard cattle—that most of the before mentioned service was rendered in the said war before and some of it was rendered after he enlisted as hereafter mentioned but he cannot now remember the years in which it was done nor can he say under what officers except as he has already stated.—

And the said Henry Crouts further stated that in the winter before he enlisted in the Boat Service he went as a substitute in the room of a Mr. Hunt or Clark into a company of nine months men called Rangers under the command of Captain Marks Demuth (8)—that the reason he does not know whether he went in the room of Hunt or Clark is that he and Adam Casler went as substitutes at the same time in the room of Hunt & Clark and he does not now remember whether he took Hunts or Clark's place but thinks he went in Room of Hunt—that he served under said Demuth for some time but cannot say how long—that he drew pay for the time he served under said Demuth but cannot say how much and does not remember any of the other officers under Capt. Demuth except one Gordon (9)—that in the month of February of the same winter that he served under Captain Demuth he enlisted into the boat service of the United States for the term of nine months under Captain Billy McGee (10)—that at the time of his enlistment he still lived at the place about three miles above the Little Falls that under this enlistment he served from March until New Years day following when they returned home that this enlistment and boat service he knows was during the same season that Burgoyne (11) was taken in Saratoga which was in the year 1777—that in the spring of the year when they arrived at Albany to enter upon their said service they performed any duty or service they were mustered in General Schuyler's door yard in Albany and it was not until after he was mustered that he drew provision—that their service was performed upon the Hudson River in transporting supplies for the army in Saratoga at Stillwater—that during said year he frequently saw General Schuyler who commanded the American Army during some part of the season that he saw General Gates at Halfmoon who had the command of the Army

when Burgoyne was taken—that a Mr. Miller was the commissary at Albany and he believes Col. Lewis who was afterwards Governor of the State was then Paymaster—that he never knew Col. Lewis & Winne (13) and Genl Schuyler—that for this boat service he never had any written discharge nor had any such discharge for any other service—that his boat service he expects he can prove by Peter Bercki of Frankfort and Jacob Bell of Herkimer in Herkimer County who are now living and the only persons he knows that are living of the number that were with him in said service.—

That at the termination of his Boat Service he returned home again above the Little Falls and then served again in the Militia under Capt. Small aforesaid until he afterwards moved away to Fort Hunter on the Mohawk River below Little Falls now in Montgomery County – that he moved to Fort Hunter in the spring of 1780 as he thinks but cannot say certain that after his return home from his boat service & until he moved to Fort Hunter he continued to serve in the Militia in the manner aforesaid under Capt. Small—that he was in constant readiness to march whenever he was called upon and that he does know that he frequently was called and did go out and that he sometimes went out and served when he was not called out but he cannot remember what particular services except the usual militia services—that after his arrival at Fort Hunter he repeatedly volunteered and although he recollects some of the occasions yet he does not recollect any of the officers under whom he served except as her herein after states—that the officers there were strangers to him—immediately after the war he moved back again and went to reside at German flatts and has forgotten the officers at Fort Hunter but whilst at Fort Hunter he volunteered to go to the Turlock Battle (14) but that the battle had been fought before they arrived there—that they went to the battle ground however and picked up a boy (15) who had been scalped and was yet living that they brought him along with them to Currystown where his parents lived—that the boy he understood recovered—that Col. Vedder (16) commanded him in this expedition—that at another time he was marched from Fort Hunter to Fort Plain and was on duty guarding Fort Plain for some days but cannot say how long under command of Col. Willett (17)—went to Fort Hunter again—at Fort Hunter he was on guard at a house of defence called a block house a number of times but cannot say how long—that he afterwards volunteered and was in the Johnstown Battle (18) he returned again to Fort Hunter where he remained to the close of the war—that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his military service.

That he was born in Germany in the year 1752 the 31st day of December.

That there is a record of his age made by his father now in the possession of Marks Crants his brother.

Resided about three miles above Little Falls on the north side of the Mohawk River in Tryon now Herkimer County when he entered the service—

Has ever since the close of the war resided at German flatts where he still lives.

He was ordered out into service in the militia—he enlisted twice and after volunteered as is hereinbefore stated.

Served under Colonel Willett—knew Genl. Schuyler & Col. Morgan Lewis although he did not serve under them otherwise than a Boatman and Genl Herkimer, Colonels Peter & Frederick Bellinger & Capt. Small in the militia under whom also served—Col. Vedder at Fort Hunter.

He never received a written discharge for any of his services.

He is known to Robert Shoemaker, Conrad Hess, whom he is known in his present neighborhood and can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

And he hereby relinquishes every 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 with his mark) Henry Crouts (19)

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid. F. E. Spinner Dpt. Clerk

End Notes—S.23179—Henry Croutz

1. Jacob Small was appointed captain in 1776 in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
2. Frederick Bellinger served as the Lieutenant-Colonel under Colonel Bellinger.
3. Nicholas Herkimer was appointed Colonel of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia on August 26, 1775. Herkimer was appointed Brigadier General on September 5, 1776 of the Tryon County Militia Brigade.
4. Christian Schell and his family defended their blockhouse at Schells Bush on August 31, 1780.
5. AndrusTown also known as Henderson Town was burnt on July 18, 1778. This settlement was near the present day Jordansville, Herkimer County, NY.
6. Captain William Caldwell and Joseph Brant destroyed the German Flatts on September 17, 1778.
7. Captain Henry Staring of Colonel Bellinger's Regiment.
8. Captain Hans Marks Demuth's Company of Tryon County Rangers were raised in August of 1776 and the company was discharged on March 27, 1777. So far a muster roll for this company has not been found.
9. Several men from this company that applied for pensions state the lieutenants were John Adam Frederick Helmer and Robert Gordon.

10. Captain William McGee's (sometimes given as McKee) Company of Batteauxmen were part of the Quartermaster General's Department.
11. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne with about 8,000 British Germans, Loyalists and Indians came from Canada and went down the Hudson Valley towards Albany. Major General Philip Schuyler was in command of the American forces. General Schuyler's Army retreated before the larger British Army until both armies eventually reached Stillwater. In August, Major General Horatio Gates replaced General Schuyler as Commander of the American troops at Stillwater. Two major battles were fought on September 19 and October 7. General Burgoyne surrendered his army on October 17, 1777.
12. Morgan Lewis was a Colonel, and Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Northern Department. He was appointed on September 12, 1776. Miller is unknown at this time, so far complete records for this department have not been found.
13. Possibly Jacob Winney or Winne, or Winnie.
14. The Battle of New Dorlach was fought on July 10, 1781. This area is now Sharon Springs, Schoharie County.
15. Henry is probably referring to Jacob Dieffendorf who had been captured with his brother Frederick near Currytown, in present day Town of Root, Montgomery County. Both of them had been tomahawked and scalped when the battle commenced.
16. Lieutenant-Colonel Volkert Veeder of the Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia, this is the regiment Henry was serving in when he moved to Fort Hunter. Henry was probably serving as a private in Captain Hermanus Mabee's or Mabie, Maybe, etc., company in this regiment. According to a letter in Henry's file dated Washington City, 20th May 1854, written to Hon. L.P. Waldo, Commissioner of Pensions from Chas. C. Tucker, Attorney for Heirs of Henry Crouts, lists several certificates that were then in the Comptroller's Office in Albany, N.Y. The certificate was dated September 18, 1780 for £0. . 19. . 06 (given or assigned by) Lieut Francis Prine (or Pruyn, Prune, Praine, Pruyne, etc.) Col. Fred'k Fisher. Colonel Frederick Visscher was the Commander of the Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Colonel Visscher had been tomahawked and scalped on May 22, 1780. Visscher survived his wounds but as his home was also burned in this raid he had moved with his family to the Schenectady area. This left Veeder in command of the regiment until the end of the war. Francis Pruyne was appointed First Lieutenant and was commissioned as such on June 25, 1778 in Captain Mabee's Company. Henry also served at some point under Captain John Visscher, Fourth Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. As Captain Visscher who was Frederick's brother, was killed on May 22, 1780. The service was rendered sometime in 1780. The First Lieutenant of this company was John Wemple but he was not commissioned Captain of this company until March 8, 1781. Although Visscher was dead the company may have been referred to as Visscher's Company until the official appointment.
17. Marinus Willett was appointed on April 27, 1781 as Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies. The regiment was sent to the Mohawk Valley. Afterwards various companies were sent to the Schoharie Valley, Ball's Town, Stillwater and Catskill.
18. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781. Willett commanded the American forces at New Dorlach and Johnstown.
19. In the letter to Commissioner Waldo a certificate for Henry was dated for April 1, 1780 for £ 2. . 11. . 06 2/3 (given or signed by) Captain Frederick Frank in Colonel Bellinger's Regiment. It is also mentioned that in 1854 a muster roll for McGee's Batteauxmen could not be found. Henry's name does appear on Captain Small's Muster Roll for 1779 which lists him as serving 3 days. His name is listed as Henrich Krans. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D. C.