

Pension Application for Conrad Hess

R.4927

State of New York

Herkimer County SS

On this 13th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the said County of Herkimer now sitting Conrad Hess, a resident of the Town of German Flats in the County and State aforesaid aged seventy 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 in the year 1777 before he was sixteen years of age at the time that the Militia of German Flatts where he was born, and at that time resides, was marched to the Oriskany Battle, (1) he volunteered into the service of the United States in the Militia Service and was placed upon duty at Fort Herkimer as a picket guard at said Fort—that he volunteered and served at said Fort under Captain Michael Ittig, (2) Lieutenant Jacob Basahorn and Ensign Frederick Frank & Colonel Peter Bellinger at that time was the Colonel, Frederick Bellinger (3) was the Lieutenant Colonel and Denis Clapsattle was the Major under whom he and the company in which he enrolled & served—that from the time that he so volunteered he was enrolled into their said company and into the said Militia Service he with the exception of occasional absence on duty was stationed at said Fort Herkimer in German Flatts in the County of Tryon now Herkimer County until the close of the Revolutionary War—

That after his enlistment (4) into the Militia as aforesaid, in obedience to the orders there explained he provided himself with arms and the usual equipage and kept himself in readiness at all time during said war to march at a minutes warning—Worked on the farm but little in that time for two years after the Oriskany Battle, he cannot say for certain that it was during said year, he served as a substitute for the term of over a month in a company of nine months men Commanded by Captain Gross as he now believes [?] who was under the command of Colonel Marinus Willett— (5)

That he entered into said service as such substitute in the room of a man named Bot Kern (6) who was enlisted for the term of nine months in the said company of Captain Gross [French is crossed out] that he fully served the said term of one and a half month as such substitute at Fort Herkimer aforesaid where said company of said Gross was serving that time stationed—that during the residue of the said period of the said war he was constantly totally engaged in service of the United States in the Militia under the Militia officers herein before named—that whilst so in the service from the time of his enrolment as aforesaid he was repeatedly ordered out and that he also repeatedly volunteered and served as herein after mentioned—that at one time he was ordered and marched to Fort Dayton and was stationed there for some eight days to guard said Fort Dayton—

That at another time he was ordered as a guard and did proceed as a guard to guard Boats from Fort Herkimer to Fort Stanwix—That he was several times ordered during said war and he thinks he sometimes volunteered to guard boats and to drive cattle and to carry provisions to Fort Stanwix for the American troops stationed there—that at one time he volunteered in pursuit of the enemy in the vicinity of Remesnyders bush and at another time he again volunteered and went in pursuit of the enemy to the north part of the county of Herkimer in the Vicinity of Fairfield that when the Militia were ordered in pursuit of the enemy under the Command of Butler and Major Ross (7) he also was with the Americans under the Command of Colonel Marinus Willett and present on the West Canada Creek where Butler was

killed—that at another time where Sir John Johnson passed through the Mohawk district he again under the command of General Henry Van Rensselaer (8) went in pursuit of the enemy in a southwestern direction in the direction of Unadilla—

That he cannot say in what particular years the said service before mentioned was rendered but knows that it was during said war and from the time of his enrolment in the year 1777 & the close of the war—that he was also ordered out and employed in building Fort Herkimer—that from the year 1778 when German Flatts was burnt (9) & the close of the war & the inhabitants of German Flatts in the vicinity of said Fort [lived in?] said Fort Herkimer—that he and most of the Militia of that quarter were during the whole of said period stationed at said fort and almost constantly engaged in defending said Fort—

That he was at said Fort at the time that said Fort Herkimer was attacked by the enemy being a party of about seven hundred—that at the time of the said attack upon said Fort his Father who was also engaged in the defence of the said Fort was killed in said Battle—(10)

That he and the rest of the Militia stationed at said Fort although there were times when they were not on duty yet that their duties and services were almost continual both in the summer and winter seasons from the year of his enrolment until the close of the said war.

That he has no documentary evidence of any of his said services—that Thomas T. Shoemaker of German Flatts, Conrad Getman of Columbia and Peter P. Bellinger of Danube in the County of Herkimer are acquainted with the services or most of the services rendered by him.

That he was born at German Flatts in the county of Tryon now Herkimer County in the year 1762.

That he has no record of his age but that his age is recorded in the church book which book is now in the possession of George Rosencrants of Little Falls.

That he was living at German Flatts when he entered the service—that he has lived at German Flatts ever since the war—

That he once entered the service of the United States as a substitute in the room of Bat Kern—that he repeatedly Volunteered and that repeatedly enrolled into the service—that he served in the Militia in pursuance of Resolution of Congress which as he is informed and passed in the year 1775.

That Capt. Moody (11) was stationed at Fort Herkimer whilst he was at said Fort—that when he served as a substitute under Captain Gross he was under Colonel Willett—that Col. Willett was not at said Fort during his service under Capt. Gross but that he frequently saw him & was well acquainted with him—and served with him at the Battle where Butler was killed—that his Militia service was rendered under Col. Peter Bellinger—Lieut. Col. Frederick Bellinger and Denis Clapsattle Major—

That he does not know that he ever had any written discharge for any of his said services.—

That he is known to Thomas T. Shoemaker, Frederick Shoemaker, Frederick Bellinger Junior & Frederick Bellinger who reside in his immediate neighborhood and who can testify as 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) Conrad Hess

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

End Notes—R.4927—Conrad Hess

1. The Battle of Oriskany was fought on August 6, 1777. Conrad was 15 years of age.

2. Captain Michael Ittig or Edick was in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The other officers under Captain Ittig were-Jacob Basehorn as the first lieutenant, Frederick Frank as the second lieutenant and Patrick Campbell as the ensign.
3. Frederick Bellinger was the lieutenant Colonel of Bellinger's Regiment. Frederick was taken prisoner at Oriskany. Augustinus Clapssaddle and John Eisenlord were the majors of this regiment. They were both killed at Oriskany.
4. Conrad is not listed in Captain Ittig's roll for 1776 and 1777. Conrad being under age was not listed but Frederick, George, Augustinus, and John Hess were listed. On Captain Ittig's payroll for "February the 28th to November the 30th 1778 inclusive" lists Conrad serving 12 days in August; 20 days in September and 16 days for October for a total of 48 at £6 2/3 per month and his wages total was £ 4. . 5. . 3 ¾. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Conrad doesn't mention this but after 1778, Captain Ittig and Lieutenant Basehorn left the area and Frederick Frank was promoted to captain and Campbell to lieutenant. Conrad served 25 days in 1779 and 29 in 1780 under Captain Frank. FROM: Box 14, Doc. No. 4, 00203, Special Collections and Manuscripts, New York State Library, Albany, New York.
5. Lawrence Gros was appointed on April 27, 1781 in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies.
6. French is crossed out but Balt Kern served in Captain Abner French's Company in 1782 in Colonel Willett's Regiment. Captain French retired in November of 1782 and Lieutenant Jellis A. Fonda was promoted to Captain in his place. Captain Gros served only in 1781 in Willett's Regiment. There is not a muster roll or payroll for Captain French's Company but there is one for Captain Fonda's Company and Conrad's name is not on it.
7. Major John Ross and Captain Walter Butler led a raiding party into the Mohawk Valley in October 1781. After fighting a Battle at Johnstown on October 25th, Major Ross and his raiding party marched thru the woods towards Canada on Indian trails in what is now Fulton, Montgomery, and Herkimer Counties. On October 30th, Willett and his troops caught up with Ross's retreating troops near and at West Canada Creek. The rear guard under Lieutenant John Ryckman was quickly killed or captured by Willett's forces. Captain Butler's detachment became the rear guard and attempted to stop Willett and his troops from crossing the fording spot on the West Canada Creek. Butler and some of his men were killed or captured and the rest were dispersed. Willett gave up the pursuit for fear of being ambushed in the woods. He was right. According to Major Ross's official report he has set up an ambush for Willett and after waiting a short time Ross continued his retreat to Canada.
8. Conrad is referring to when Sir John Johnson had burned Schoharie on October 17, 1780 and proceeded to Stone Arabia. On October 19, 1780, Johnson's forces defeated Colonel John Brown that morning. Johnson then proceeded towards the present day Village of St. Johnsville, Montgomery County. Later in the day of October 19, 1780, Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer with Albany County Militia, Tryon County Militia, Levies and Oneidas caught up with Johnson and another battle was fought until darkness fell. The Battle of Klocksfield as it is known today was fought on Klock's and Failing's Flats and Orchard near and in St. Johnsville. Conrad with others from Forts Herkimer and Dayton had been sent in different direction to discover which route

Johnson was using to retreat and to see if any of the Indian forces were heading for Unadilla or the Butternuts area.

9. The German Flatts was destroyed on September 17, 1778 by Captains William Caldwell and Joseph Brant.
10. On July 15, 1782, Captains George Singleton and Joseph Brant attacked Forts Herkimer and Dayton. Augustinus Hess was killed and Valentine Staring died on July 17, 1782 from his wounds.
11. Captain Andrew Moody of Colonel John Lamb's Second Regiment of Continental Artillery.