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**Pension Application for Joseph Crouse**

S.29.101

State of New York

Montgomery County

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1838, personally appeared before the Hon. Stephen Yates, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said county & of the degree of Counselor at Law in the Supreme Court of Judicature of said state, Joseph Crouse now a resident of the Town of St. Johnsville in said county aged eighty-four years on the first day of January last past, according to the best of his information & belief.

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 in the War of the Revolution under the following named officers and served as hereafter stated, viz.

That on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1776, he enlisted as a private in a company of boatman whereof one Evert Van Eps (1) was the capt., for this period, he thinks, of 9 months & that he served said time, unless an injury he received in his arm at Schenectady while in said service, prevented him from so doing.

That he cannot recollect how that fact is, that relies upon the documentary evidence that may exist & probably on file in the pension office Depart to show how long he served under the said enlistment.

That he enlisted as a boatman in a company of boatmen commanded by Robert Simmons (2) of Schenectady for the period, he thinks of one year. That he is not positive that the name of his capt. is given correctly. That while in this service he was at Saratoga at the time that Genl Burgoyne (3) was taken & recd a slight wound in a skirmish that he served out, he thinks the period for which he was enlisted.

That in this service he lost his brother, Jacob who was drowned in attempting to get from the boat for shore & who belonged to same company of Capt. Simmons that he thinks but is not certain that he enlisted into this company in the spring of 1777.

That on account of his defective memory he cannot state the precise period of his said enlistment, but believes that same as well as the length of his service and period of enlistment can be easily found & ascertained from the company rolls or other evidence thereof on file probably in the pension office Depart.

That he enlisted he thinks for the period of nine months in the company where of Andrew Finck (4) was capt. in Col. Willett's Regt. And that while in this service he was engaged in the Turlock Battle. (5)

That he enlisted, he thinks in to this service in the winter or spring of 1781.--& that in this Engagement he shot an Indian and striped him of some of his Clothing & believes he served the period for which he was Enlisted.

That the evidence of this service can be found on the rolls of this company, no doubt on file in the pension office Dapart.

That from the beginning to the close of the war he served a great deal in the service of his country but on account of his age and consequent loss of memory he cannot at this late period give the particulars of his services with the date of each service & may therefore be mistaken in some parts & further states that he served in the militia Company of infantry whereof Christopher Fox (6) was capt. for sometime--& also John Hess & perhaps John Klock were respectively for some time Captains thereof in Colo Jacob Klock's Regt of Infantry --& that he thinks he served as a private in said company under these officers thereof but to give

the time & date of each time of service with the name of the officers thereof he will not undertake from memory, but is informed that the rolls of said company are on file & therefore would respectfully refer the Department to them for evidence of those services, but would state from recollection that he served among others, on the following tours of duty while, he thinks, he served in said company viz-to the Royal Grant, to Sharon, to the Susquehanna river at the time that Genl. Herkimer & Brant (3) had an interview at said place -- Little Falls -- Herkimer -- Fort Stanwix -- Fort Plank -- Fort House &c that he was engaged in the battle at Stone Arabia when Col. Brown (8) was killed--

That he served also on scouting parties & sometimes with Capt. Christian House, (9) the rolls of which company may perhaps furnish evidence thereof. That he verily believes on examination that the rolls of the companies mentioned in this declaration will furnish evidence of more than 2 years service rendered by him, that his fellow soldiers who served with him are nearly all gone, but a few still remain by whom he might show & prove some of the services mentioned by him, but on account of his lameness infirmity & age (able to walk but a little distance & poor & nearly blind) he cannot personally procure any testimony required in support of his services and in that respect would have to depend upon the charitable if any evidence then to be required, to be it trouble of procuring it for him--

That in the said war he considered Palatine his place of residence, that he served only as a private in said war. Served under said Enlistments sometimes volunteered & that other times was ordered out or drafted by his officers of the Co. in which he served. That he has no documentary evidence he knows of, of his said services--& hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

That about six years ago he applied to John Nellis to make out his pension papers for a pension. That for that purpose he attended the Court of Common Pleas in & for said county that on account of the crowd of persons applying for pensions attending before the Court he left concluding then to make no application--& and left the County on a visit to his children, in the State of Michigan & only recently returned to this county (Montgomery) & being poor, lame, nearly blind & infirm, his friends & neighbors advised him to apply now for a pension, which he accordingly hereby does--& says in answer to the interrogatories put by the said Judge & required by the rules of the depart.—that he was born January 1, 1754 according to the best of his information and belief, having no record of his age. When called into the service he resided in the then Town of Palatine, he lived since the Revolutionary War principally in the said Towns of Palatine, Oppenheim & St. Johnsville in said county, while two latter towns were taken from the Town of Palatine--has resided some time temporarily in Ann Arbor in the State of Michigan

That he enlisted under Captains Van Eps, Simmons & Finck as aforesaid--& the residue of his service were rendered as Volunteer, drafted & called out by his officers, that he has no recollection he ever recd a discharge from the service & if any it has been lost. That he has been & is well acquainted with the following persons in his neighborhood viz, Daniel F. Nellis and Daniel Lodowick who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution & that no clergyman resides in his neighborhood with whom he is acquainted and that he has stated the names of officers &c & further states that Denis Augustinus Flander served with this deponent in the company of Capt. Evert Van Eps, is still living and as he informed & drawing a pension. He cannot write his name.

(Signed with his mark) Joseph Crouse

Sworn & subscribed to the day & year aforesaid before me, Stephen Yates, Judge of Montgomery County Courts of the degree of Counsellor in the Supreme Court.

End Notes—S.29101—Joseph Crouse

1. Evert VanEpps was a captain of a company of bateaumen in 1776 and was attached to the Quartermaster General's Department. So far a muster roll for this company has not been located.
2. Reuben Simons, Simmons or Simonds also was a captain of a company of Bateaumen and part of the Quarter Master General's Dept. So far a muster roll for this company has not been located.
3. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne commanded a 7,000 man army from Canada into New York via Lakes Champlain and George to the Hudson River and valley towards Albany. Burgoyne reached an area called Saratoga-Stillwater where Major General Horatio Gates with his American forces fought two major battles on September 19, 1777 and October 7, 1777 and finally surrendered the remnants of his army on October 17, 1777. There were numerous skirmishes before, during and after this campaign and from Joseph's account it is difficult to pinpoint when he was wounded. He claims to have been wounded by a sword which may mean that he was struck by one of the German dragoons but most officers carried some kind of sword as well. In his September 1, 1834, declaration he states as follows: "at the taking of Burgoyne and in the battle was wounded by the cut of a sword in the small of the back which laid him up for three or four months and he was confined in the hospital at Albany".
4. Andrew Fink who served as the captain of the third company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Continental Regiment from November 21, 1776 to January 1, 1781 when he retired from the Continental Service. On September 1, 1781, he was appointed brigade major in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. He was not part of Willett's Regiment before that date. So far no record of Joseph has been found for serving in Willett's Regiment.
5. The Battle of New Dorlach was fought on July 10, 1781. The New Dorlach settlement is the present day Town of Sharon and the Village of Sharon Springs, Schoharie County, New York. Besides Willett's Regiment in this battle militiamen from the First, Second, and Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia were with Willett in the beginning and several arrived near the end of the battle. "*Dep. Comptroller Philip Phelps on October 17, 1844 sent the following 1779 Dec 4 1271 £2. . 9. . 9; Aug 6 1359 £ 0. . 17. . 8 2/4; Dec 4 1313 £ 0 . . 14. . 2 2/3.* All of which was for service in Captain John Hess's Company in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The payment was by November 14, 1784 and witnessed by George Schultheis.
6. On August 26, 1775 William Fox Jr. was appointed captain in Klock's Regiment and John Hess was the first lieutenant. By sometime in 1776 Hess was appointed captain in place of Fox and was commissioned on June 25, 1778. On August 26, 1775 Christopher P. Fox was appointed captain of the second company and Christopher W. Fox was appointed captain of the third company both in Klock's Regiment. Christopher P. Fox was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777, and so far a muster roll for this company has not been found. For Christopher W. Fox there are only one roll and a list both for 1776 and Joseph is not on it. Perhaps a draft from companies was made and Christopher W. Fox had been the captain of the detachment.
7. On June 27, 1777, Captain Joseph Brant and Nicholas Herkimer, the brigadier general of the Tryon County Militia Brigade met at Unadilla.
8. The Battle of Stone Arabia was fought on October 19, 1780. Colonel John Brown of the Massachusetts State Levies commanded the American troops in this battle. It was Colonel Brown's 36<sup>th</sup> birthday and his last.

9. Christian House was appointed captain of the seventh company in Colonel Klock's Regiment on August 26, 1775. Joseph's name does not appear on any roll for this company. A Joseph Crouse does appear on a roll for Captain John Breadbake's Fifth Company in Colonel Klock's Regiment.
10. In Joseph's declaration of 1834, he also states "*and was under Gen. Herkimer—that he was in the Rensselaer battle [sic, Oriskany]—that Gen. Herkimer was wounded there below now Rome.--*" Also In this declaration he claims to have enlisted in Captain Fink's Company for 2 years In 1776, the lieutenant was Harris and one Pier was the orderly sergeant in the area from Ticonderoga to Lake George. In 1776, Captain Fink served as a captain in Colonel Goose VanSchaicks New York Continental Regiment. The regiment was raised to reinforce the American Army still in Canada. After the American forces retreated from Canada, Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment was stationed at Fort George at Lake George, Fort Edward, Schenectady and Albany. Joseph serving in the batteau service undoubtedly would have seen or been under his command while in that area. John Ernest Pier served as a corporal in Captain Fink's Company In 1776. Joseph also states "*That this declarant is a Dutchman, never received any education.*"