

Pension Application for Hannes Dachsteter or John Dockstader

S.29121

State of New York
County of Herkimer

On this Eleventh day of October one thousand Eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting John Dockstader, a resident of Herkimer in the County of Herkimer & State of New York aged Seventy two 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 when he attained the age of sixteen years which was the latter part of the year 1777, as he now believes he was enrolled in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Henry Harter (1), Lieut John Damuth, in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Peter Bellinger & Lieut Col. Frederick Bellinger (2), Nicholas Herkimer (3) was their General. That by the orders of his commanding officers he provided himself with a gun and the usual equipage (4) and at all times kept himself in readiness to march at a minutes warning from the time of his enrollment until the close of the Revolutionary war. That he was called into service in the fore part of the year, 1777 in the company aforesaid, in Herkimer, then Tryon County & now in the County of Herkimer & State of New York where he then resided and was ordered to Fort Stanwix in the present town of Rome, Oneida County having been drawn out of the company in which he was. Does not recollect that any officers attended the march after he with deponent arrived at Fort Stanwix he was placed under the Command of Lieut. John George Weaver (5) and was employed constructing roads and bridges near said Fort, some length of time and while thus engaged, he with the company in which he then was, fell in contact with a party of hostile Indians & Tories who after a short but spirited resistance, yielded to the company in which he this deponent was, on examination letters were found with said Indians & Tories written from Canada as this deponent thinks and addressed to several Inhabitants along the Mohawk River who were in favour of the British cause.

The finding of their letters afterwards proved to considerable advantage to the Militia, as many who severally assisted in the British cause were discovered. He was out in this service about a month. And further said that he was afterwards ordered back to Fort Dayton at Herkimer when he was placed on guard and ordered or volunteered on Scouts by turns till sometime in the summer. He was then ordered to proceed to Fort Stanwix, commanded by Capt. Henry Harter and Lieut. John Damuth aforesaid in the Regiment under Col. Peter Bellinger's command as aforesaid and under the Command of General Herkimer when an engagement took place in which Genl. Herkimer was shot near Fort Stanwix commonly called the Oriskany battle (6) in which he this deponent was, Lieut. Col. F. Bellinger was taken prisoner in the said battle and further says he was afterwards marched back to Fort Dayton at Herkimer & was then on guard and building & repairing Fort Dayton some length of time until ordered to Ticonderoga does not recollect his officers attending the march towards that place, but he well recollects that he did proceed on this march with the company almost to Schenectady when the news came that Burgoyne (7) had surrendered to the United States forces and his company was ordered back to Herkimer where he served on Scouts and on guard and also further says that he afterwards volunteered under Ensign Bellinger on a tour south from Herkimer about fifty or sixty miles near & across the Unadilla River where a party of hostile Indians & Tories had killed some of the inhabitants. There took one prisoner, the Indians had a camp or castle there near the Carr place as it was then called, this last mentioned. This last mentioned tour was as this deponent thinks late in the fall of the year but is certain it was in the fall of the year, from the last part of their potatoes out of the ground which were not then gathered and shortly after the Oriskany Battle and also at another time he volunteered under Captain Damuth (8) who commanded a company of Rangers to Oneida & Brothertown to check the progress of the hostile Indians and Tories. That they passed along the Brothertown, Indians the last named Indians he believes were neutral was accompanied in this expedition by a company commanded by Capt. McGee (9) which he believes were nine months men. At another time volunteered to and at Frankfort on a Scout when an engagement took place between us and the enemy and a soldier of ours was killed, one of our party, I and killed an Indian. And at another time he volunteered on a tour north some distance to the Mount Place (10) so called where two persons had been killed, there by Indians. Volunteered on a tour East, served sometime does not recollect how long nor does he recollect the officers if any that attended. That he often volunteered & was called out on Scouts when no officers went along. That he was in service as above stated and guarding Fort Dayton until in the fall of the year 1780. He believed he removed from Herkimer to Schenectady where he resided during the winter & in the spring of 1781. He removed to Greenbush when he was immediately called into service under Col. Henry K. VanRensselaer (11) does not recollect the company officers, but refers to Mr. Cornelius Van Deusen, affidavit annexed by whom he can prove the service in part and officers names. That he was then ordered to Tours at Half Moon he and a party were sent to take a party of Tories in the neighborhood proceeded in said [?] in the night time and two of the party were shot by the Tories, proceeded to Half Moon and on his march passed through

Lansingbergh to Half Moon where he stayed some length of time about a fortnight as he now believes then marched to Niskayuna & to Schenectady where he also served some time about a month, then marched to Albany & from there he returned to GreenBush and says that he then served on Scouts several times was ordered out by the officers and also says that he served on guard by times at night during the times that he resided there which was nearly one year or thereabouts as near as he can recollect. And he then returned to Fort Dayton at Herkimer, which he thinks was in the latter part of the winter or first part of Spring in 1782. Recollects there was snow on the ground. And days after he arrived at Fort Dayton Herkimer he was in service at fort Dayton on guard and other service most of the time till the close of the Revolutionary war. That he volunteered in pursuit of the Indians and Tories after the engagement between them and Mr. Shull (12) & his family at that time two of Mr. Shull's sons were taken prisoner by the Enemy and further says that he escorted a prisoner to Canajoharrie on his way to Johnstown, and was also ordered to carry officers and soldiers to Johnstown as was engaged a number of days.

Thinks Fort Dayton not occupied till after Oriskany Battle. (13)

And further says that during the whole of the war from the time of his Engagement in the service aforesaid after this Fort Dayton he resided at [?] was occupied Fort Dayton except when he resided at Schenectady and Greenbush as aforesaid and that at Fort Dayton in Herkimer he was much engaged guarding Fort Dayton or on volunteered service or called out by his commanding officers and further says that he was wounded (14) near Fort Dayton by a shot received from a hostile Indian in the Revolutionary War the ball went through his shoulder. And also says that he volunteered to Andrewstown (15) when the Indians had killed four people & I went to bury them. And further says he is certain that he did much service in the Revolutionary War that he has not stated but positively believes that this service which he recollects would amount to about or near three years actual service exclusive of the time he worked on the farm.

And further says that after the Lieutenant Col. Frederick Bellinger was taken prisoner in the battle at Fort Stanwix, Col. Peter Bellinger was left in command of the militia at Fort Dayton, as he believes and that he was at another time ordered out to guard boats with provisions to Fort Stanwix does not recollect the officers under whom he then served but thinks he can prove the service by John Frank for boat. That he was born at Canajoharrie in Montgomery County ninth March 1760. Has no record of his age, resided at Herkimer as before stated when called into service. Has resided at Herkimer since the Revolutionary War and now resides at that place.

Was called into service by his commanding officers & was frequently drafted out of said company or ordered out by the officers on expeditions. Each company giving so many men. Volunteered many times on Expeditions and on scouts as before stated in the declaration that he has no documentary evidence or writing of any kind that he can refer to for particular dates, but knows that from the time of his commencement in 1776 or first part of 1777 until the close of the Revolutionary war he was always kept in readiness at a minutes warning as before stated and was continually in service during said war that 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) Hannes Dachsteter

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Julius C. Nelson, Clerk

End Notes—S.29121—Hannes Dockstader

1. Hannes served in Captain Henry Harter's (Herder, Herter, etc.) company in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The other company officers were: John Demuth as First Lieutenant, Peter James Weaver as Second Lieutenant and John T. Bellinger as Ensign. Hannes (John, Johannes, etc.) is listed as a corporal on June 1st, 1779 at Fort Dayton and listed as serving 3 days in June, 11 in July, 14 in August, 1 in September, 6 in October and none in November. Hannes is again listed as a corporal in 1780 and served the following: 1 day in March, 5 in April, 8 in May 16 in June, 6 in July, 4 in August, 1 in September and for October, November and December 0. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Frederick Bellinger served as the Lieutenant Colonel under his brother Colonel Peter Bellinger.
3. Nicholas Herkimer was appointed Brigadier General of the Tryon County Militia on September 5, 1776.
4. In Provincial Congress, Militia Law, New York, Aug 22d, 1775. "*6th that every man between the ages of 16 and 50 do with all convenient speed furnish himself with a good Musket or firelock & Bayonet Sword or Tomahawk, a Steel Ramrod, Worm, Priming Wire and Brush fitted thereto, a cartouch Box to Contain 23 rounds of Cartridges, 12 flints and a Knapsack agreeable to the directons of the Continental Congress*" FROM: Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York ed. Bartold Fernow, Vol XV, State Archives, Vol .I, Weed Parsons and Company, Printers, 1887, Page 31.
5. George Weaver served as a Second Lieutenant under Captain Henry Staring in Colonel Bellinger's Regiment.
6. The Battle of Oriskany was fought on August 6, 1777. Lieutenant-Colonel Bellinger was taken prisoner and he was exchanged in 1778 for a British soldier.

7. Hundreds of militia were on their way to join the American Army at Stillwater under Major General Horatio Gates. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered his British forces on October 17, 1777. At that time there could have been 18,000 American Militia and another 4,000 to 5,000 Continental troops there.
8. Captain Marcus Demuth's company of Tryon County Rangers were raised on August 1, 1776 and they were discharged on March 27, 1777.
9. Hannes is probably referring to Robert McKean who had a company of levies in 1779 that served in the area. This company was in Colonel Henry K. VanRensselaer's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1779.
10. According to The Frontiersmen of New York by Jephtha R. Simms, pages 555-556 Vol. II, Geo. C. Riggs, Publisher, 1883, the Mount homestead was attacked in October of 1777 and two of his three sons were killed. Mr. and Mrs. Mount had gone to the mill at the Little Falls before the raid had taken place. The Mount family abandoned the settlement in what is now the Town of Salisbury, Herkimer County.
11. Hannes enlisted as a private in Captain Jacob DeFreest's (DeForrest, etc.) Company in Colonel Stephen J. Schuyler's Sixth Regiment of Albany County Militia. Henry K. VanRensselaer was the Lieutenant-Colonel of this regiment.
12. Captain Donal McDonald with a raiding party attacked the home of Christian Schell on August 6, 1780, at Schell's Bush. Christian had built a blockhouse near his home for protection. All but the two sons that were captured made the blockhouse and fought off the attackers. In Simm's The Frootiersmen of New York Vol. II, pages 480-484, contain information on this raid and the one on June 24, 1781. Christian was wounded in this attack and he died of his wounds on July 8, 1781. Simm's source for the Schell family story was from "*The account of the Schell family were obtained at interviews with Lodowick Moyer and John Dockstader, corroborated by other old people of Herkimer County. They were mainly from Dockstader. He was a son of George Dockstader's and at our interview was living a mile above Herkimer Village. He was in the Oriskany battle under Capt. Henry Harter, and was near Gen. Herkimer when he fell. He said that at New Germantown, opposite Frankfort, Herkimer propped to wait for tidings from Fort Stanwix, where some of his officers told him that his family was nearly all in Canada and taunted him beyond endurance. This staunch old patriot died within two years of our interview. I was surprised to learn that Gen. Herkimer's wife, at the beginning of the difficulties, went to Canada and remained there. This fact should increase our veneration for the old hero's memory.*"
13. Fort Dayton was usually garrisoned by the local militia. During the winter it was often hard to get the militia to man the fort. At other times Continental troops and or levies guarded the fort.
14. According to Doctor William Petry'[s account of those he treated for wounds etc., printed on page 283, Vol. II of The Frontiersmen of New York by Simms states the following. *1780 Aug 8 John Dachstader and Conrad Vols, both wounded with buckshot.*" 15 [Aug.] AndrusTown and Henderson Town. [These are near present day Jordanville, Otsego County, and were destroyed on July 18, 1778.]