

Pension Application for Adam Van Ness

S.11627

On this 4th day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before the Mayor's Court of the City of Troy now sitting Adam Van Ness a resident of the town of Schodack in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York aged eighty two years next January 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 sated viz.

That in the year 1776 he received a commission as Lieutenant in the Militia of the State of New York signed by George Clinton then governor of the State of New York -= but at what time in [?] year he has forgot.

That about one year since he lost said commission it being enclosed in his chest some person destroyed the [?] and all other papers in said Chest. That previous to the time he received said commissions he was on duty and in the service of the United States at different periods during the term of eighteen months as a private militia man.

That when he received the commission of Lieutenant he resided in the Town of Kinderhook in the county of Columbia and state of New York in a company of which Bergen Clew was Captain in said Tour.

That soon after he got his commission he was called into service in a regiment of which one Abraham J. Van Alstine was Colonel and his company marched from Kinderhook aforesaid and went by the way of Albany west up the Mohawk River to Cagnawaga [Caughnawaga] on said river and in the State of New York. L Captain Bergen Clew being for some misconduct in his office had been silenced by the commanding officer the duty of Captain fell onto the said Ada Van Ness and he continued to do the duty of a Captain through the war as the County Committee did not [???] the said Clew or appoint [?] in his stead.

The whole Kinderhook Regiment went up to Cagnawaga at this time. Philip Van Alstine was Lieutenant Colonel then. The major was Isaac Hoos and Van Buren and he this said Adam Van Ness was engaged at Cagnawaga about three months but does not remember in what part of the year of 1776—

Does not remember of any new duty being done by him until the following spring when the regiment was called into service in the north part of New York and in the Spring 1777 they marched under the same officers they had before when they went to the west to Albany and from there they marched to Fort Edward where they were detained for considerable length of time and from they [there] marched to Fort Ann on Lake Champlain in New York.

Had Burgoyne Army came down from Canada and the Regiment to which he was attached retreated back, down the river as well as the whole army. During this retreat they had small skirmishes with the enemy and with the Indians. They retreated back to Fort Edward and then evacuated that Fort and came back as far as

Snake Kill a place opposite the river from Fort Miller, where they stayed a short time and then crossed the river to Fort Miller. The enemy in a short time crossed [crossed] the River at Fort Edward and they were ordered up to Fort Edward again but did not get in any action. From Fort Miller he with the troops retreated down to Saratoga and from there to Stillwater. At this place he was ordered by Colonel VanAlstine to go down back again to Kinderhook in the County of Columbia and there raise a company of men to go march down the North River towards New York. This was a short time before the Battle of Stillwater. From the time he marched to the north to Fort Edward until his return to [?] Troops in Kinderhook was about nine months. He commanded the company as captain during this time and left his company at Stillwater where he was ordered to return to Kinderhook as aforesaid.

He further declares that in pursuance of the Colonel orders he [?] or mustered a small company in Kinderhook and marched them down as far as the City of Hudson when hearing that General Burgoyne's Army were taken he returned home to Kinderhook.

In the winter following winter [sic] a company of Robbers came from Canada and were stationed in the Town of Nassau in the Country of Rensselaer, Colonel Abraham J. Van Alstine ordered the said Adam Van Ness, Captain Isaac Van Valkenburgh and Captain Aaron Ostrander to take twenty men each and to march [?] these Robbers. They went with Sixty men and found them so well fortified these could not safely attack them without cannon in the opinion of the said Isaac Van Valkenburgh and the said Adam insisted that they could take them and demanded volunteers. Valkenburgh refusing the said Adam Van Ness and two others stranded the [???] and took six of the Robbers all that were in at that time, and took eleven muskets and a half bushel of cartridges and service goods that they had robbed and taken from the Americans and all the rest of the company of Robbers but one were taken afterwards by the said Adam VanNess and the two persons before mentioned who are now both dead. The robbers were taken to Albany and being tried were hung and numerous instances might be mentioned where the said Adam Van Ness has been successful against the Enemy when the other officers have refused or delayed to make exertion.

He further declares that when in Sir Johnson's Expedition as it is called he marched with his company by the way of Albany, Schenectady up the Mohawk River until they [?] when Sir John's Army had crossed the River when General VanRensselaer ordered Colonel Brown the American Commander to attack Sir John's Army at precisely nine o'clock in the morning.

And he would attack him in the rear. The Kinderhook and Claverack Regiment with which he belonged then crossed the River and pursued the enemy and got ahead of them and the Indians this left the British Army and he [?] they were passing them shot at them and killed seven of them and some of the Americans were wounded. Adam Van Ness was [?] engaged in this skirmish, General VanRensselaer then ordered a retreat.

The next morning General VanRensselaer was arrested for misconduct in this affair and General Clinton took the command. Adam Van Ness and several others were ordered by General Clinton to follow the enemy and are their commanded and given information and followed them as far as the German Flatts in Herkimer County New York where Sir John[‘s] Army turned south towards Oneida Lake where the men with him became wearied and gave out in this expedition, he was in service three or four months.

He further declares that during the War the Committee of Columbia being a kind of Court Colonel Abraham J. Van Alstine ordered him to attend before and do duty for said committee in catching Tories bringing up [?] take the acts of Allegiances and various other duties in those times requisite further prove duties of the war and was in service in this way two or three months. Adam Van Ness further declares that either before or after the Sir John Expedition and which he cannot tell he was ordered by Colonel Van Alstine to march and the Kinderhook regiment went by the way of Albany Schenectady and up the Mohawk River to German Flatts in the Town of Herkimer in the County of Herkimer, State of New York from Kinderhook aforesaid that he was a Lieutenant and acted as Captain and James Van Ness the brother of him was ensign and acted as Lieutenant and they were stationed and garrisoned there two or three months and they returned without having any engagement with the British or Indians.

That before he received a commission as above stated he did duty and was engaged in the service of the Revolution not less than one year as a private militia man in and about the year 1775. Abraham J. Van Alstine was the Colonel Robert Van Rensselaer General Van Buren and Isaac Hoos Majors.

The said Adam Van Ness further declares that while at [?] in the County of Columbia State of New York under the direction and orders of Col. Van Alstine was almost constantly engaged in the service of his country after he had rec’d from Governor Clinton his commission of Lieutenant in protecting the country then infested with Robbers and taking them to Justice and execution, in arresting Tories and causing them either to be confined certain laws by giving bail and to be sent to Ne York and that in the meantime he and his family and his father’s family were robbed and one brother killed and that he was shot at eight times by the Robbers and missed, that he has no documentary evidence of his service and believes his company to be all dead except those mentioned in the affidavits here attached and one Jacob Van Valkenburgh and further saith that during the revolutionary war he has been in actual service as a private and acts as an officer for more than the term of five years. (Signed) Adam Van Ness

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Archibald Bull, Clerk

He herby 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) Adam Van Ness

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Archibald Bull, Clerk