

Pension Application for Michael Hess

S.13353

State of New York

County of Columbia SS.

On the twenty fifth day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Justice Court of the City of Hudson, now sitting, Michael Hess, a resident of the Town of Claverack in the County of Columbia 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832—That he was born in the Manor of Livingston in the County of Columbia aforesaid, in the month of October 1752, that he states from tradition as has been related to him by his parents—as he has no other record of his age—

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein Stated—The he removed from the Manor of Livingston to the Town of Claverack in said County of Columbia, previous to the Revolutionary War—and resided in said Town of Claverack, until the Commencement of the said war and on the 15th day of January 1776 he resided in the Town of Claverack aforesaid and was drafted, and ordered out into the service of the United States and marched with others of the Militia from the said town of Claverack under the command of Capt. Peter Bortle, (1) Michael Horton 1st and Henry Platner 2d Lieutenants and Jacob Best Ensign and marched through Albany and Schenectady and so on to a place called Cohnewaga [Caughnawaga] on the Mohawk River and joined that part of the Army Commanded by Genl Schuyler and Col. Robert VanRensselaer and after organizing, marched under command of Gen'l Schuyler to Johnstown, expecting to have an engagement with Col. Johnson's Indians & Tories—but no fighting took place in consequence of some arrangement between the Americans & British Gen'l as he understood—was absent from home on this tour about two week—then returned & continued at home until the next summer when in the course of the season he was ordered out at three different times, upon alarms, and went, each time to Albany out about one month & in the fall of same year, 1776. Then called out again, the same as before, and went, to Schenectady under the command of Lieutenant Michael Horton absent from Home about two weeks on this Tour, then came home and remained at home until the following June 1777. Then said applicant was again ordered out and marched under the command of Capt. Peter Bartle whose company formed part of Col. Robert VanRensselaer's Regiment. Said Col. went himself with the Regiment to Albany to HalfMoon Point, StillWater, Saratoga, Fort Miller, & Fort Edward, here they halted and rendezvoused and was stationed here at Fort Edward, and from thence went to different place as he was commanded by his officers, frequently as a guard to Fort George, absent from home on duty, this time two months, then returned home and stayed at home til the last part of Oct., same fall, very soon after the surrender of Gen'l Burgoyne (2) he was again ordered out and went in pursuit of Robbers and Tories to Dutchess County, &c, Poughkeepsie under the command of Capt. Abraham Fonda. (3) Said Capt. had his place of head quarters at a place called the Hollow, near Dover and continued there scouring different parts of the Country until they had collected about 140 Robbers and Tories and then took their departure and marched to a place Called Exeter in the State of New Hampshire was absent from home about six week[s] on this expedition, then came home and stayed at home until the next June (1778) then ordered out again after the Tories. Went to Dutchess County out about two weeks, then returned home stayed sometime, then ordered out again after Robbers & Tories in the Town of Claverack and Livingston's Manor and continued out on duty two weeks—by day and by night. This was in the summer & fall of 1778. Then the last part of Sept. 1778 was ordered out and marched under Capt. Horton to GreenBush & stayed there 3 or 4 Days, then went through Albany to Schenectady there lay sometime, about one week, then went on to a place called Warren's Bush to prevent the Indians from burning that place, or the property of the Inhabitants of that place, then returned home, was absent from home on duty this

time about one month, stayed at home until the next Fall, then was called upon and ordered out and marched under the command of Capt. Horton, through Albany to Schenectady, and from thence to a place called Fort Hunter, where the Schoharie Creek empties into the Mohawk River, and from there went up above Fort Hunter some distance, near a place called the Nose, on the Mohawk River, and crossed the same—Next day recrossed said river and marched to Fort Herkimer commanded by Gen'l Robert Van Rensselaer (4), Col. Henry Van Rensselaer was there, Militia [?] was about one month from home on this tour, during the expedition.

Said applicant was in the Battle in which Brown (5) was killed and VanRensselaer succeeded brown in command & fought against Col. Johnson & routed said Johnson. This concludes all the services said applicant performed except some time within and during & after the above time he was frequently called upon and ordered out after Robbers & Tories in the Town of Claverack and the adjoining Towns, does not recollect how often nor how long out but was always considered as one of the number to turn out and pursued the Robbers & Tories and did actual duty as such hunter, that other from the year 1777 until the year 1779 or 1780. Said applicant never received any written discharge. Said applicant resided in the Town of Claverack when called into service and lived in the Town of Claverack aforesaid, County of Columbia & State aforesaid ever since—the persons to whom he is well know in his present neighborhood are John J. Miller, first Judge of the Court of Common Please [Pleas] for the County of Columbia aforesaid Stepehn Miller, Jehoiakim A. Van Volkenburgh Post Master in Claverack, John Shoemaker, Nathaniel Rowley, Richard Sluyter, Clergyman, all of whom will testify as to his being entitled to credit and a man of truth and veracity.

And further said applicant says that Jacob M. Ginnis & John Volkenier both residing in the town of Claverack will testify of their personal knowledge of his services in the Revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not [rest of this is covered by the page being folded].

Reply to letter of inquiry dated November 19, 1928.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.13353, it appears that Michael Hess was born in October, 1752, in the Manor of Livingston, Columbia County, New York.

While living in Claverack, New York, he served as a private at various times from 1776 until sometime in the fall of 1780, amounting to at least ten months in all, under Captains Peter Bortle, Michael Horton and Abraham Fonda and Colonel Robert Van Rensselaer of the New York Troops and he was engaged in the battle of Stone Arabia.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 25, 1832, while living in Claverack, New York.

End Notes—Michael Hess S.13353

1. Captain Peter Bartel (Bartel, Bartee, etc.) was in the Eighth Regiment of Albany County Militia commanded by Colonel Robert VanRensselaer, First Lieutenant Michael Horton was commissioned captain of this company on February 28, 1778 as Captain Bartel had resigned. Second Lieutenant Blatner (Platner) was promoted to First Lieutenant, Ensign Jacob Best was promoted to Second Lieutenant and Joel Talmadge was the Ensign. All commissions were dated the same date as Captain Horton's.
2. General John Burgoyne surrendered his British Army at Saratoga (now present day Schuylerville) on October 17, 1777.
3. Captain Fonda was also in the Eighth Albany.
4. On June 16, 1780, Colonel VanRensselaer was appointed Brigadier General of the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia. On July 1, 1780 Henry J. VanRensselaer was appointed Lieutenant -Colonel Commandant of the Eighth Albany.

5. Colonel John Brown was killed on the morning of October 19, 1780 at Stone Arabia. General VanRensselaer with his Albany County Militia, Tryon County Militia and New York State Levies caught up with Sir John Johnson in the afternoon of October 19, near present day St. Johnsville, Montgomery County and a second battle ensued. This is the battle Michael was in, he was not at the Battle of Stone Arabia.