

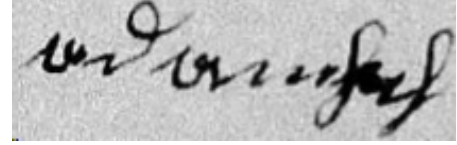
Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Adam Koch S4484

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Adam Koch makes application to the war office of the united States for one Hundred acres of Land for his Services in the Revolutionary war [signed in German adam hoch]

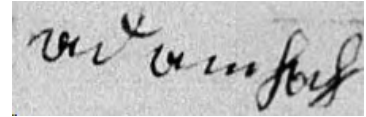


Somerset County SS

Pennsylvania

Personally came Before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said county Adam Koch and he Being sworn according to Law Did Depose and say that he is the same Person who did serve for and During the Revolutionary war and that he has not Received his Land and further Saieth not Swarn and Subscribed Before me this 29<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1823

John Mitchell

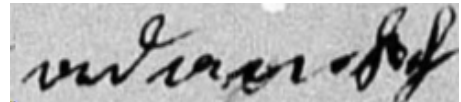


State of Pennsylvania }

County of Somerset }

I, Adam Koch aged eighty four year, do, upon oath, testify and declare, that, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six I enlisted for the term of “during the war,” and served in the regiment No. Six under the command of Colonel Harmar [Josiah Harmar, pension application W3246] of the Pennsylvania line; and that I continued in the service aforesaid until the close of the war [sic: see first endnote.], when I was regularly discharged from the said Sixth regiment, commanded by Colonel Harmar

I further declare, that I have never received a warrant for the Bounty Land promised to me on the part of the United States; nor have I ever assigned or transferred my claim in any manner whatsoever: therefore, [power of attorney to Alexander Thomson follows]



Alex’r Thompson Esq

Bedford County

Pennsylvania

War Department

Bounty Land Office

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 1829

Sir In the month of Feby 1826, an application for Bounty Land, with the proofs in support of it, was presented by you to this Office, as the Attorney in fact of Adam Koch who was a soldier of the Pennsylvania line, in the Revolutionary War, and Land Warrant No 1160 issued on the 7<sup>th</sup> Feb’y 1826, in the name of the said Adam Koch, and was delivered to you. An application for Bounty Land is this day received from the Heirs of Adam Koch [pension application S39828] of Reading, Berks County, Penna, who, it is stated was a private of Von Herrs [sic: Bartholomew Von Heer’s] Dragoons, and died on the 22<sup>d</sup> May 1827. A further examination of the case, leads to the impression that some mistake may have occurred in the issue of the Warrant on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb’y 1826, and thinking it probable that your recollections of the case, might enable you to throw some light on it, I have, respectfully to request that, you will inform me, whether the individual, for whom you obtained the Warrant, was personally known to you, and where he resided at that time, and whether he is now living

Your compliance in these particulars will oblige me and perhaps have the effect of explaining an existing difficulty. With great respect/ your Obt Servt/ Wm Gordon

Chambersburg 16 Oct 1829

Sir [Wm Gordon Esq] I have no recollection on the subject of the land warrant to which you refer in yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst except what is suggested to me by the papers in my possession. These are the letters of Charles Ogle Esq of Somerset in this State to me on the subject, and a copy of the warrant with a memorandum, signed by Mr McCormick, then in the Post office of the House of Representatives, that a letter Containing the original warrant directed to Charles Ogle Esq at Somerset Pa was put into the office by me to be sent by mail, on the 27 of March 1826

I have no personal knowledge whatever of Adam Koch. From the circumstance that the papers were transmitted to me by Mr Ogle from Somerset I presume he lived in that County at that time. Mr Ogle will no doubt be able to furnish full information on the subject to what you refer.

Judge Smith of the Supreme Court, who lived in Redding, has this day informed me, that a man of the name of Adam Koch once lived in the neighbourhood of that place, where some of his family still reside; but that he left it a number of years ago. He could give no information of where he had gone when he left Berks County. I am very respectfully/ your obt servt/ A Thomson

War Department/ Bounty Land Office/ Octo. 22<sup>d</sup> 1829

Sir [Samuel Levan, Reading PA] In answer to that portion of your letter addressed to the Secretary of War, enquiring into the right to Bounty Land of the Heirs of Adam Koch, I have to inform you that Land Warrant No 1160 issued on the 7<sup>th</sup> Feby 1826 in the name of Adam Koch, who was a soldier of the Pennsylvania line, in the Revolutionary War, and was delivered to the Honb'l. Alexander Thompson – I am informed by Mr. Thompson that the papers in this case were transmitted to him in this City, by Mr Charles Ogle of Somerset County Penna. to whom the Land Warrant was sent.

It is therefore taken for granted that the Land Warrant issued to Adam Koch of the Penna. line, was received by the same Adam Koch, whose heirs are now making the inquiry through you, and, who state that their Father belonged to Von Herrs Dragoons

Your are perhaps acquainted with Mr Charles Ogle of Somersett, if so, he will be able to give your satisfactory information on the subject Respectfully Yours/ Wm Gordon

Penna Reading November 19<sup>th</sup> 1829

Ho. William Gordon

Dear Sir receive my sincerest thanks for your kind Letter bearing date the 22<sup>d</sup> October 1829 for and in behalf of the Heirs of the Adam Koch who was a Soldier in the Compa of Dragoons commanded by Captn Van heer Permit me to ask your assistance in endeavouring by all honourable means to recover the Land warrant 1160 issued 7<sup>th</sup> Februa 1826 in the name of Adam Koch aforesaid have the kindness to send such written instructions as in Justice the Case will admit I have this day received by mail a Letter of Mr Charles Ogle of the Borough of Somerset Pena the following is the Contents of his Letter truly Copied verbatim est. Somerset Novr 13<sup>th</sup> 1829

Samuel Levan

Dr Sir On the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1826 the Hr Alex Thompson then Member of Congress transmitted to me the Land warrant of Adam Koch numbered 1160 dated 7<sup>th</sup> Februa 1826 for 100 Acres, which warrant was Obtained by Mr Thompson on the papers of Adam Koch that had been forwarded to him by me. Adam Koch at that time lived in Somerset and received the warrant from me immediately after it came to hand and held it untill the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 1827 when he sold it to me. He executed a Deed for the same in the presence of Jacob Mantz[?] & Jacob Chrise, the first named a Justice of the Peace of this County, and the latter the Son in Law of Koch, and the administrator of his Estate since his Death which took place not long after. I purchased the warrant not as a matter of speculation but as an act of kindness to Koch who was poor and at that period out of money & unable to work. I hold the warrant yet, and will gladly sell it for the amount I paid for it, without Interest

The above being the facts of the case you may judge of my surprise at the receipt of your Letter yesterday I shall be much pleased to hear from you again Very Respectfully Charles Ogle

Permit me here to state that, Mr Samuel Briner of the Borough of Reading Berks County Pena is Administrator of the Rights and Credits which are of Adam Koch decd late of the said Borough & County aforesaid who was the Identical person that served in the Revolutionary War a Dragoon in Captain Vanheers Compay & was duly Enlisted for & during the said War, and that the necessary steps he has engaged me to effect the Object as regards the Land warrant I have not directly or indirectly any Interest in the same. permit me to mention that Adam Koch of Somerset as appears has given Mr Chs Ogle the power of Receiving the Land mentioned with down Right afore thought fraud, permit further to remark that due proff can be produced that Adam Koch of Reading Berks Cty was asked about 15 hours before his decease if he had parted with his Bounty Land he answered that he had never assinged nor given any person power to receive the same in his name it thus appears evident that the act of Adam Koch of Somerset was an outrageous fraud. Adam Koch of Vanheers Dragoons has since the return of his Countrys services resided in Reading County & State aforesaid & has never changed his place of Residence except at the time that he served his Country as a Soldier Mr. Saml Briner administrator of said Estate is fully determined to pursue the Case for & in behalf of the Heirs of said Estate in the name and in behalf of said Estate. I humbly ask the fine[?] advice & counsel of the Ho William Gordon in order that this abominable fraud may be brot to Justice. I would ask the following is Adam Koch of Somerset County. is his name entered on the Revolutionary Roll Books no never  
The Ho Willam Gordon will find in the pension Office that Adam Koch of Reading Berks County Pen Received a pension Anuity of 96 Dolls payable semianually for service Rendered to the United States during the Revolutionary war and that he was a member as aforesaid of Captain Vanheers Dragoons  
The Ho Wm Gordon is humbly requested to send me a Letter giveing such good Council as the Case will admit. as we are ready to prove that Adam Koch of Reading was the Identical person to whom the Land warrant belonged or to whom the said warrant belonged for real services Rendered to the United States during the [war] with Great Britain In the Revolutionary

I am Respectfully your/ Obedient/ Humble Servt/ Samuel Levan  
Adam Koch of Reading Departed this life some time in the month of may AD 1827  
have the kindness to answer the Contents of my Letter so soon as Time will permit

War Dept Bounty Land Office/ May 5<sup>th</sup> 1830

Sir [Geo. Graham Esq, Commissioner of the General Land Office]

On the 7<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1826, a Land Warrant for 100 Acres issued from the Bounty Land Office to Adam Koch of the Pennsylvania line No. 1160. It appears now, that the Warrant was wrongfully issued; and that it belonged to another of the same name and who was in a different Corps, to wit, the Dragoons. Thus were there two of the same name, the one entitled to Bounty Land, the other not. The one not entitled has received the Warrant, and now the heirs of the rightful claimant, are asserting their claim

Under this state of things another Warrant must issue, I have accordingly to request of you, that the first Warrant on coming into your Office for a Patent, be stopped, and no grant issued until it be considered of  
Respectfully/ J. H. Eaton

War Dept Bounty Land Office/ Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1829

Sir [Mr Saml Levan, Reading PA] Your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst came duly to hand, and in reply I have to observe that, a renewed investigation of the case of Adam Koch, serves but to confirm the opinion, expressed in my letter to you of the 22 Ult'o., namely, that, the Warrant issued to Adam Koch of the Penna line, and which is now in the possession of Mr Chas. Ogle of Somerset County Penna, must have been intended for Adam Koch deces'd, late of Reading; whose pension papers shew that he belonged to Von Herrs Dragoons, whilst on the other hand, the Records of the Penna line, on file in this Office, shew that no person of that name and line was returned at the close of the War, as entitled to Bounty Land

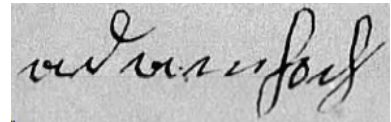
The Gentleman who conducted the business of this office at the time the Warrant issued in Feb'y 1826, has retired from it for more than two years past, and I have no means of ascertaining correctly, why the Warrant was issued to Adam Koch of the Penna line, but am inclined to think, it may have been caused

by some representations, other than those, found in the papers filed in the case. As the Warrant has gone into the hands of persons not entitled to it, and through the immediate instrumentality of Mr Chas Ogle of Somerset, I can scarcely entertain a doubt, but that, his sense of justice to the indigent heirs of the rightful owner, will induce him (without a resort to coercive measures on their part) to surrender it to them, regardless of the small loss he may sustain by the purchase, now that, he is fully apprised, that the original issue was made under a misapprehension of the rightful claimant      Respectfully Yours/ Wm. Gordon

Somerset County Ss [no date]

Personally came Before me a Justice of the peace in and for Somerset County Adam Koch Before named and on His oath taken according to Law Did Depose and say that he served in Capt Jacob Bowers [Jacob Bower W3212] Company Sixth Regiment commanded by Col Harmer and Second Birgade in the Pennsylvania Line and further sayeth not

Swarn and Subscribed Before me  
John Mitchell



The State of Ohio }  
Stark County      } Ss.

On this 5th day of August 1833 personally appeared before the Court of Common Plea of Stark County aforesaid Adam Koch a resident of Bethlehem Township in the County and State aforesaid aged 77 years the 20 day of October next following, 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 some time in the Spring of the year 1781 – he at that time residing in the Township of Unity in the County of Berks and in the state of Pennsylvania – he enlisted, as a private, for the term of eighteen months into the Army of the United States at Reading in the said County of Berks – that the company to which he belonged was under the command of Captain Jacob Bower – that he with the Company to which he belonged remained after his enlistment at Reading for some weeks – that he thinks there was not a full Regiment raised at Reading and consequently that there was no Colonel, but he cannot distinctly recollect – that at the expiration of a few weeks – how many he can not recollect – from his enlistment they marched near to Philadelphia, when his Company was attached a Regiment or Battalion commanded by Colonel [Thomas] Craig – that they remained at this place some time, how long he cannot recollect, when orders were received to march Southward to meed Lord Cornwallis – that thereupon the troops raised at Reading – and he thinks more but whether the whole of the forces there assembled or not he cannot recollect – went on Ship-board at Philadelphia and sailed to the South, but had not proceeded far, when they were overtaken by a storm and obliged to land and landing they marched the remainder of the distance to York Town, where he remained until the capitulation of Lord Cornwallis [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. After the surrender of Cornwallis the Regiment to which this declarant belonged, under the command of Colonel Craig as aforesaid, and also another Regiment or Battalion from the State of Maryland but whether there were others or not this declarant cannot recollect marched to the South to join the Army under the command of General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]. the reason why he can recollect so distinctly that a Corps from Maryland marched at the same time and cannot recollect whether any other did or not, is, that during their march to the South Col. Craig and the Colonel of the Maryland Corps fought a duel in which Colonel Craig was wounded so as to be obliged to remain behind, and when they joined the Army of General Green, which was, as near as this declarant can recollect about the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1782 and at his encampment, about fifteen miles from Charleston, the Regiment or Battalion to which this declarant belonged was put under the command of one Colonel Minger [possibly Francis Mentges]. This declarant does not recollect the names of many places through which they marched while on their way to join the Army of Gen'l. Green, but among others there were Guilford and Salisbury in the State of North Carolina, and a Moravian town the name of which he cannot now recollect, [undeciphered word] two or three months after joining General Green's army this declarant was

principally engaged with others as a Scout in watching the movements of the enemy at the end of which period of two or three months he was attached to a Light Infantry Company, the Captain's name he cannot now recollect, but the company with some other Light Infantry Companies, how many he cannot recollect, was under the command of Major Hamilton and were engaged as scouts, flanking parties &c. during the remainder of his term of eighteen months. He was in no regular engagement but was in some skirmishes He was in the neighborhood of, and in, Green's encampment all the time after he joined it. If he recollects right Green did not during that time remove his quarters to any great distance from where it was when he joined it, though owing to sickness in the camp he was obliged to remove occasionally short distances. At the expiration of the eighteen months for which he had enlisted he left the army and returned to his house. This was in the autumn of the year 1782, but what month he cannot recollect. He received no written discharge from the service consequently has no documentary evidence thereof and knows of no person by whom he can prove the same He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State

Adam hisXmark Koch

NOTES:

Warrants for bounty land were given only to soldiers who served to the end of the war, taken to be 11 April 1783. In his pension application Adam Koch stated that he served only until the fall of 1782. As subsequent correspondence makes clear, the present Adam Koch received his land warrant in error.

The file contains a letter dated 27 March 1876 by Rachel Faith of Moundsville WV inquiring about the service of her father, Adam Koch, who was "a member of Capt Bowers Company General Wayne's command," and who died "18 or 20 years ago." Also in the file is a note stating that Adam Koch was buried at Navarre OH, and that the inscription on his tombstone reads as follows: "Adam Koch/ A Revolutionary Soldier/ Died Dec 31 1844/ Aged 88 yrs 2 mo. & 10 Days." There is a photo of this tombstone at [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com).