

Pension Application for Marlin, Brown Marlin, Roorback Marlin

R.6978 (Col. written in pencil on starting document, indicating colored.)

State of New York

County of Orange SS.

On this third day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred & thirty four personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of common Pleas in & for the County of Orange aforesaid Marlin a coloured man, a resident of the town of Montgomery in said County of Orange aged eighty four 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 enlisted in the army of the U:nited States in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy six in the month of October & as he thinks in the latter part of that month & remained In the service until the last of May or first of June in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy eight. He was as he believes enrolled among the regular continental troops Colonels John Fisher & Barney TenEyck were the highest officers of the regiment in which he was enrolled but which was superior in rank he does not know.

When applicant first entered the army General Schuyler was his immediate commanding General during the following spring or summer General Gates arrived & took the command. General Gates arrived & took the command. General Gates met the army at VanSchaick's Island near what was there called the new city now Lansingburgh. Several other general officers were there about the same time among whom according to the best recollection of applicant were Generals Lincoln, Sullivan, Putnam, Glover & McDougal.

Applicant served all the time of his enlistment as a waiter or servant of Colonel Fisher, but his name was on the muster roll of the regimen t& he drew the pay of a soldier of the line once too on muster day he took his station in the ranks with his musket & answered to his name but never afterwards.

He was present in attendance on Colonel Fisher at the battle of Stillwater where Burgoyne was taken prisoner General Gates commanded & General Arnold was wounded either in or just before the battle. The main battle was fought on Friday beginning about noon & continuing till near midnight. There were other battles & skirmishes afterwards before the surrender.

When he first entered the service he was stationed at Albany for a short time. He then went to Ticonderoga where he remained till the Spring of 1777 when the army retreated before Burgoyne. In one of the skirmishes on the retreat Colonel Hendrick or Henry Rensselaer was severely wounded in the thigh by a musket or grape shot—after the surrender of Burgoyne applicant came to Albany where he reined through the winter & until his discharge. The greater part of the army wen to the south in the fall after the surrender.

Applicant was the slave of John Roorback of Wallkill, then Ulster now Orange County & State of New York at the time he entered the service. About the beginning of June 1778 he was to be transferred to Frederick Roorback the brother of his former

master. He enlisted with the permission of his master John Roorback during all the time he was to have remained in his service & he served out all the time of his enlistment.

He was in the service in all at least one year & five months. He never received any written discharge & he knows of no person now alive who can testify as to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed with his mark) Marlin

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid by making his mark in open court. Asa Dunning, Clerk

Letter in folder dated September 9, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.6978, that Marlin (the name also appears as Marlin (Roorback and Marlin brown), a colored man, was a slave and was owned by John Roorback, of Wallkill, Ulster (later Orange) County, New York.

He applied for pension September 3, 1934, at which time he was aged eighty-four years and resided in Montgomery, Orange County, New York and alleged that he enlisted the latter part of October, 1776, while residing in said Wallkill, and served until about June 1, 1778, as a waiter to Colonel John Fisher, under Colonels John Fisher and Barney (probably meant for Barent) ten Eyck in the New York Troops, and that he was present as Colonel Fisher's servant at the battles of Stillwater and capture of Burgoyne.

His claim was not allowed as the act of congress under which he applied provided only for service of six months in an embodied military corps. The service of waiter did not come within the provisions of said Act.

There are no data as to his family.