

Pension Application for Abraham Masten or Mastin

S.29312

State of New York

Seneca County SS.

On this fifth day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Seneca now sitting Abraham Masten a resident of the Town of Junius in the County of Seneca and State of New York aged eighty 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 7, 1832.

That he was born in the Town of Shawangunk in the County of Ulster and State of New York on the 15th day of September 1752 and is eighty years of age and has in his possession a record of his age copied from the family record of his father into his family Bible.

That according to the best recollection of this deponent he entered the service of the United States in the twenty fourth year of his age as a volunteer in a company of Malitia [Militia] for the term of nine months in the Town of Shawangunk when he then resided with his Father in the latter part of the Winter or early in the Spring of 1776 under the command of Lieutenant Smedes; he recollects they were billeted in small parties some weeks before they marched & that there was still snow on the ground that they crossed the North river at Bulls ferry and joined the regiment then in the City of New York commanded by Colonel JohnHardenberg.

That this deponent was posted as a Sentinel during the whole of the battle on Long Island and was relieved by the Brigade Major after the Americas Army commenced the retreat and on the following evening joined this company on York Island.

From thence the army fell back upon Kingsbridge when a second engagement took place in which the Americans were forced to retreat towards White Plains. At White Plains at [?] battle took place in which the company to which this deponent was attached was driven from a redoubt they had thrown up the preceding night – After this battle both Colonel Hardenburgh and Lieutenant Smides were cashiered and sent home (he thinks Hardenburgh was cashiered for cowardice) recollects that both Generals Washington & Lee were in command during this time of this deponent's service recollects the capture by the enemy of several forts in the vicinity of New York about this time. That he cannot recollect the names of the Captain under whom he served as he was never heard of after the battle on Long Island which took place soon after this deponent or Capt. joined the company. After the expiration of this term of service he was discharged. He returned to his father's in Shawangunk.

This Deponent further says that according to his recollection that immediately after his return home he again enlisted as a volunteer for the terms of six months in the company of Malitia under the command of Captain (Jacobus) James Hosea & served therein as a noncommissioned officer and in the fore part of December 1776 marched to Haverstraw, and a few days after marched to [Cachiat?] when his

company and there others kept guard as well as at Ramapo & Smith Coves to protect the inhabitants and present intercourse between the British and the Cowboys thinks he remained at Cachiat until the last of April 1777 when the term of his enlistment having expired he was discharged and returned to his fathers in Shawangunk cannot recollect the names of the commanding officer.

This deponent further says that immediately after his return home he again volunteered for the terms of four months as a Corporal in a company of Malitia commanded by Captain Jacobs Conklin he thinks that in the last of April or first of May was marched to Fort Montgomery about five miles below West Point and was employed in erecting that fort under the immediate command of Colonel Dubois and Lieutenant Colonel Jacobus (James) Brown recollects that Governor of General Clinton was in command and had a aid de camp by the name of James Clinton he thinks this term expired about the first of September 1777 when he was discharged and returned home.

That the day after his arrival at home he again enlisted as a sergeant in the volunteer corps commanded by Captain Jacobus Rose for ;the terms of three months and returned to Fort Montgomery—That on the sixth day of October 1777 according to the recollection of this Deponent the British took the fort and this Deponent was in the battle and with some others escaped and joined a regiment of Malitia commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Johnson & Colonel Jonathan Hasbrouck and was attached to a company under the command of his brother Lieutenant Cornelius Masten laying at Murderers Creek near New Windsor when a detachment of regular troops were stationed soon afterwards this deponent with the company to which he was attached marched up the river for the defence of Kingston (or Esopus) but did not reach there until after the British had burnt the town and retired they then returned to New Windsor where he remained until the expiration of his term when he was discharged and returned home to his fathers in Shawangunk. [pronounced *Scha-wan-gunk*]

This deponent further says that according to his best recollection in the months of March 1778 a classification of the Malitia took place when he volunteered for ;the class to which he belonged and served one month as Orderly Sergeant under the command of Lieutenant James Lawrence at Mamakating when they erected a small fort on the expiration of the month was discharged and returned home.

That immediately on his return home he again volunteered for another part of the class for one month and was attached to a small company commanded by Captain Shoemaker a resident of Pinepack adjoining the Town of Minisink when the detachment were stationed that he was the only sergeant in the company. That on his discharge this deponent at the request of another class immediately volunteered for another month and served as orderly sergeant under Lieutenant Cuddiback who was stationed at Barber's land near Miniskink on the Delaware river to protect the settlements from incursions of the Indians at the expiration of this month he was discharged and returned to Shawangunk.

This deponent further says that the militia of the neighbourhood in which he resides were required to detail every fourth man to work one week per man at the forts

at West Point in the autumn of 1778 according to his recollection as the weather was cool that General Wisner was the engineer who had charge of the works. That he served one week for himself as orderly sergeant and carried his own provisions from home that he continued a second week at the request of one of his brothers for whom he served and who furnished him with provisions on the expiration of this week he was discharged and returned home soon afterwards he went out again and worked a third week on the fort upon his own account and then returned again to Shawangunk.

This Deponent recollects that towards the close of the war he was called out several times by alarms at one time when so called out he served one or two weeks at West Point at another occasion he served one or two weeks at Warwarsing when the Indians had burnt several buildings again at [Vantiru's?] kill for several days or a week when the Indians were destroying [destroying] property.

This deponent further says that on another occasion he volunteered for the term of four months and served a part of this time as a Corporal and the remainder as a Sergeant under one Captain Smith. That he kept no memorandums of his services while in the army and has no means of stating the year but recollects the weather was warm or hot he thinks that he was not attached to any regiment and was stationed along the North river that they worked on a small fort at or near Peekskill and received orders from general Clinton's. That according to the best recollection of this deponent he was in the service of the United States during the revolutionary war in all about three years.

This deponent further says that before the close of the war he married and settled in the Town of Shawangunk where he resided sixteen years when he removed when he resided about twelve years from thence he removed to the fourth ward in the City of Schenectady where he continued to reside about eleven years and then removed to the Town of Junuis in the county of Seneca where he lived about two years and then removed to the Town of Wolcott in the (then County of Seneca) now Wayne County after living there three or four years he returned to Junius where he now resides with one of his daughters.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his services that I am well acquainted with Samuel North & Rover Harper of the County of Seneca who can certify to his credibility.

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) Abraham Masten

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me Seba Murphy,
Clerk