

Pension Application for Gerardus Riker

S.11293 Abigail Riker, widow of above soldier was pensioned as the former widow of her first husband, Jacob Willsey, Wilsie, or Woolsey, New York and Continental. W.28001

State of New York

City and County of New York SS.

On this twenty seventh day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in Court before the Honorable John T. Irving first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the City and County of New York now sitting Gerardus Ricker a resident of the City and County of New York aged seventy six years of age, 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 at Closter in the State of New Jersey where he was born, and then resided, he was aged about nineteen years, he was born in April 1757, he has a record of his age in the family bible, he enlisted in the Spring of 1776 in the Company of Captain Blauvelt of Col. VanCourtlands Regiment of New Jersey Militia attached to the Brigade of General Heard enlisted for six months but continued nine months, Major Dey belonged to the Regiment, they were marched to New York and from thence to Flatbush Long Island he was engaged in the Battle of Long Island under General Washington, on their return to New York they were marched to Fort Washington and from thence to White Plains, from White Plains the army went of Fort Lee in New Jersey when that place was evacuated deponent went to Hackensack and from thence to Trenton, New Jersey and in January 1777, he was discharged at Trenton, but received no written discharge.

In the Spring of 1777 he volunteered at Tappan, Rockland County State of New York, with Captain King to proceed ton New Windsor and work on; the Chevaux de Frise, at which place he continued six months, and then returned to Closter.

In the latter part of the autumn in 1777 he enlisted at Closter in Captain Herrings Company of New Jersey Rangers for 9 months and continued on duty guarding the lines of New Jersey, this was an arduous duty and he was frequently engaged in Skirmishes with the refugees, in the latter part of the summer of 1778 he was discharged at Hackensack, but received no written discharge.

In the autumn of 1778 he enlisted for 9 months in another company of New Jersey Rangers commanded by Captain Geryches at Closter and continued for that period engaged in similar services as that last mentioned.

In the summer of 1778 he was discharged and after that period was engaged as a guide between the part of the army at Dobbs Ferry and West Point and other places in which employment he continued until the end of the war, and his name was registered as a guide, at West Point. He continue to reside at Closter New Jersey until the year 1802 or 1803. He then moved to the City of New York where he has since resided.

He never received a written discharge and has no documentary evidence of his service. He perfectly recollects Genl Washington, Genl Clinton, Genl Putnam, Genl Green, Genl Wayne, Genl Lee, Genl McDougal, and Col. afterwards Genl VanCourtland, George Hadley, Stephen Hadley and Isaac Hadley know of his serviced in the Revolutionary War.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except he present and declares that his name is onto on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Gerardus Riker

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Abm Asten,
Clerk