

Pension Application for Abraham Riker

R.8822

State of New York

City and County of New York SS

On this 22nd day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Marine Court of the City of New York, Abraham Riker, now in the City of New York, a resident of what is called Rikers Island situated in the East River between the City of New York and Long Island Sound in the town of New Town, Queens County;, in the State of New York, aged eighty four years, being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers as an artificer, and served as herein stated, that is to say.

In the spring of the year 1776 he resided with his father in the City of New York of whom he had previously learned the trade of a Blacksmith, he enlisted under Captain Anthony Post of said city to serve one year, and entered upon his duties in said City and Continued to work at the Blacksmiths trade until the Enemy took possession of New York on the Sunday the fifteenth of September 1776, Capt'n Post with him company had, on the previous Friday retreated to Kings Bridge, leaving this deponent and a Sergeant with twelve men, to take the Baggage and other utencils with them and joined their company at Kings Bridge, they having left New York at Eleven and the enemy entered at one Oclock on the day above mentioned.

Their work was executed In the City of New York, in the Bridwell Yard, where the iron work &c was made for the cannon and other things necessary. From Kings bridge, he retreated to White Plains, at which place he was drafted out for the space of two days into the Heavy Artillery and was at that place during the Battle in 1776, he then was ordered to Fishkill, where he continued work with the rest of his company in the Public Shop during that winter, and until the spring of the year 1777, at which time his enlistment for one year expired.

He then entered again into the same service under Col. Hughs, Montaigne was head Foreman at that time, Lieutenant Carner also attended to orversee the workman, this last enlistment was for and during the war. He was ordered to Whappings Creek to work when there were flat bottom boats and other craft building at that place, and continued to work there during that summer until late in the fall when he returned back to Fishkill, where he continued to work at the same business intil [until] the next spring, at which time the campaign opened, he was then called under General Gates in the company commanded by Captain Anthony War who went with them to White Plains, at which place Captain Ward was put under Guard for some improper conduct relative to shewing horses and Two General Officers came there, at which time Captain Ward, surrendered his commission and went to Philadelphia, Lieut Tyler then had charge of the company of Artificers and sent order &c relative to repairing wagons and shewing horses &c. They had orders from Col. Hagels to go down to Tarrytown and

shoe Colonel Sheldon's Right horse, from thence they were ordered back to Fishkill when they continued to work In the Public Service until the close of the war under Abraham Lalslear who had charge of the shop, Genl Gates army then went into winter quarters.

He further declares that he has made server efforts to obtain his pension before, having placed his certificate from Captain Anthony Post in the hands of Richard Rider Esq late Recorder of this city, soon after the act of 7th June 1832 passed for that purpose, which certificate is now lost or mislaid, that he has resided on Rickers Island where he now resides for the last fifty three years.

That he was married at Fishkill to Mary Delancy on the 9th of March 1779, after their marriage his wife cooked and washed for the workman and drew the same pay and rations that this deponent did, for the term of eight months, and further this deponent saith not. (Signed) Abraham Riker

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above mentioned. John Byron, Justice of the Marine Court.