

Pension Application for Frederick Merrill

R.7132 (Widow: Sarah)

State of New York

City and County of New York SS.

On this twenty sixth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four, personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the City of New York now sitting Frederick Merrill, at present a resident of the said City, and late of the Town of Northfield in the County of Richmond and State aforesaid, and from which he removed on or about the first day of October last, aged seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his part 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 entered the American service, during the American Revolution about the age of sixteen years, as a volunteer soldier, with several others, and was one of a company formed and placed under the command of Martin Post, as its Captain, and as deponent believes, having Cornelius Oatley as its Lieutenant. That the company was called and known as the "Washington Guides". That the deponent then lived at Yonkers in the County of Westchester, and state of New York, and when the said company was organized went to Crompond where he found Captain Martin Post and was put under his command and subject to his orders.

That he entered the said Company sometime in the month of November, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and continued actively engaged in the duties of a volunteer soldier of the said company, and under the command of the said Martin Post from November, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, until the ninth day of November one thousand seven hundred and eighty two.

That during the said period, the head quarters of the said Company, was at the Guard house, at a place called Croton Bridge in said County of Westchester. That deponent was on duty during the said period, by night and day, as the circumstances of the army required.

That he marched through the said County, to the different posts, on the lines of the British and American Armies, and most frequently under the command of the said Captain Post. That he frequently made one of a scouting party for the purpose of ascertaining the situation of the British Army and its officers, and the information was communicated by Captain Post, to the commander of the Regiments, that were encamped at—Peekskill hollow, or other places in the said County.

That deponent was not in any pitched battle during the said time, but was marched to Westchester, to Tarrytown to Cortland place, to Sing Sing, to White Plains, through Yonkers to [Spitendint?] Creek and other places, including the Country from Croton River to the British lines—and this deponent further saith that some time in the month of November, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty tow. He with Nathan Wood, Edison Taylor, Henry Taylor, Peter Tibbets and John Crawford volunteered as part of the Company of Washington Guides to go and endeavor to

capture the British Colonel Delancy, who then had his quarters at Morrisania in said County of West Chester.

That while on their march and when they had reached Tibbets House, near [Spitendeni?] Creek, the said party (with the exception of Tibbits), was taken prisoner by some British Cavalry, who had been pursuing Deponents party, several hours on their track[s] over the snow and through the woods.

That Deponent with the other prisoners was taken to Morrisania, and after being there several hours, was sent with the others to Head quarters at New York and put in prison under the charge of the Provost named Cunningham where he was detained between three and four months.

That while there deponent was visited by an agent for American Prisoners by the name of Pritard, he thinks, who took his name and the name of the other prisoners and furnished them and deponent each with two blankets and afterwards with a suit of regimentals, consisting of Blue Coat, with red facings & pantaloons and also a cocked hat, bound with yellow and also gave deponent some good provisions.

That as nearly as deponent can now recollect, he remained in prison, three or four months, when he receive a Parole and immediately returned to the American lines in Westchester, and soon after was regularly exchanged and returned to his duties as a member of the said Company under the command of the said Martin Post, and to which he was attached until the close of the war and the proclamation of Peace, and when the said company was disbanded.

And, this deponent further saith that when the said company was disbanded he did not as for nor receive any written discharge, nor did he think it necessary as he acted as a volunteer. That about two months after the close of the American War this deponent came to the City of New York, where he continued to reside until he went to Richmond, Staten Island, in the said State, and from which place he has recently returned to the City of New York.

And he further saith that he has no documentary proof or evidence of his services as a volunteer soldier in the war of the revolution excepting that furnished by the deposition of Mary Decker and John Crawford heretofore furnished to the War Department.

That all the members of the said Company of Washington Guides excepting John Crawford, including its officers, are dead and "that he knows of no one who can testify as to his services as s soldier, in the said company but the said John Crawford.

That deponent is unable to go or send to procure any further particulars from the said John Crawford, who deponent is informed lives at Saugerties in the State of New York—and he further saith that he always understood and believes that the same Martin Post was employed under and by the direction of the Commanding Officer of the American Army, on the said several services performed by him and the said company. And this deponent further saith, that while he was performing the said services herein before mentioned as [a] member of the said Company.

He was not engaged in any civil pursuit—

And he hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares—that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

And the said Frederick Merrill doth furhte swear and declare in answer to the several interrogatories presented by the War Department and put by the said court to him.

That he was born at Yonkers, in the said County of Westchester and state of New York on the fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and sixty four.

That he has no record of his age, and that he has been informed and believes that the book in which he age was entered, was taken away or destroyed, some time during the Revolutionary War, as the house where his family residence was often plundered.

That he entered the army as a volunteer, he resided at Yonkers aforesaid, that since the said war he resided at the City of New York, until about the year, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, when he removed to Richmond aforesaid,-- where he has continued to reside, until October last, when he came to the City of New York where he now resides, and further saith—

That he volunteered his services in the army and was not drafted, nor did he act as a substitute.

That Martin Post, was the officer under whom deponent whom deponent served, and was Captain thereof, and as deponent believes Cornelius Oakly was Lieutenant thereof, and that the general circumstances of his service are herein before particularly detailed and he further saith that he did not receive, a written discharge from the service at the close of the war,--

And deponent further saith –

That William VanWort of the City of New York is well acquainted with deponent and can testify as to deponent's character for veracity and his belief of deponent's services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed with his mark) Frederick Merrill

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Abm. Asten, Clerk