

Pension Application for Abraham G. Vanaken

W.16454 (Widow: Maria) Abraham died in the year 1802.

State of New York

Cayuga county SS.

On this twelfth day of April 1837 personally appeared before me Joseph L. Richardson first Judge of the court of Common Pleas of said County being a Court of Common Pleas of said County being a Court of Record Maria Vanaken of Mentz ins said county aged 77 years & upwards widow of Abraham G. Vanaken late of Esopus in Ulster County deceased who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836.

That she as lawfully married to the said Abraham G. Vanaken a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War at Kingston in the said County of Ulster on the 13th day of October 1778 and continued to live with said Abraham G. VanAken as his wife until about thirty six years ago when the said Abraham departed this life since which time she the said Mariah has remained & still is his widow.

She further says that her name previous to her said marriage was Mariah Low, that she & the said Abraham were both brought up in the same Town of Kingston about one mile apart until the time of said marriage.

She further says that she recollects in the Spring or Summer of 1776 the said Abraham G. Vanaken was absent from home & was said to be in the service for the United States and continued absent a term of about six months.

She further says she remembers that in the season of 1777 the said Abraham was absent from home and was said to be in Service at Fort Montgomery a term of four months, that said service was in tours but whether said last mentioned service was all in one tour or different tours she is unable to state.

She further says that she also understood that said Abraham was in service one month at the time Burgoine was taken. She further says that after he said marriage & before the time of Sullivans expedition in 1779 she remembers that said Abraham was frequently absent from home in service on the frontiers in tours of one month and in shorter tours that he was said to have been stationed at the Great & little Schandaken [Shandaken?] the latter of which places was afterwards called Woodstock, at [Brabant?] & at Warwasing and that he was also out in such tours at said places or some of them after said expedition.

That he was absent from home a great part of the time but she is unable to state the precise term from memory. She further says that from her recollection she has no doubt but he was in monthly tours at Great & Little Schendaken over six months but she can not now specify times. And at Brabaut more than one month and at Warwasink more than one month but she is unable to give particulars.

She further says that in the year 1779 she remembers that said Abraham was absent when it was said he had gone to join General Sullivan, and that he continued absent one month as she believes. She furthers says that said Abraham was a Lieutenant during said war in the militia and served as such all the time. That he had

a commission as such Lieutenant which with his other papers was left with his son at Kingston after his decease, and when she applied for it the last winter she learned that it had been torn to pieces & destroyed except the seal and so mutilated & torn that is it impossible to put the same together so as to read or decipher its contents.

She further says that he also had written discharges & other papers in relation to said service all of which were left & have been destroyed in the same manner so that she is unable to produce them.

She furthers syas that as she was informed the said Abraham always informed the said Abraham always served in the militia. That he was some times under Capt. DeWitt & sometimes under Capt Snyder and under Capt Sweet who as she believes a part of the time Capt of the militia company in which he lived at the time. She further says that the accompanying affidavits establish the services of said Abraham for which she claims a pension. (Signed with her mark) Mariah Vanaken

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year first above written.

J. L. Richardson, first Judge of Cayuga