

Memorandum of my Service and Hardship that I endured
At the Battle of Fredericksburg under the Command of
Colonel Markoe on the 14th and 15th of Dec^r 1862 While out
As Schirmishers I was ordered By Colonel Markoe to select
Two Reliable men from my own Company to take a
Position in front of the enemys Rifle Pits in front of
Maries Heights to make observations I stood for about two
Hours in a cold Swamp up to my knees and ^{with sent} one of the men
To inform Colonel Markoe that there was Picking in front
Colonel Markoe came and found it as I informed Him
Colonel Markoe then Directed me to take another Position
Which took me above my knees in order to discharge my
Duty I was about four hours in that Position During that
Time I observed Picking to the Right in front I then Despatch^{ed}
The other man to inform Colonel Markoe he came and found
It was so he then Despatched me with a message to Major Smith
Then commanding the Left wing as Schirmishers which Duty
I performed in front of the enemys fire from their Rifle Pits
Colonel Markoe then detailed me with six men to make
Observations from the gable end of the Building at Loopholes
While there I observed that Picking in front had enabled
The enemy to extend their Rifle Pits and flanked our Left
Wing then on the Schirmish line the Picking to the Right
In front had enabled them to make an Embrasure
And Post Cannon which swept the Road to Fredericksburg
And which flanked our Right wing then on the Schirm
ish Line about 9 o'clock AM Adjutant Rush brought a
Few of his old Comp^y 4 men to make some Picked shots
Through the Loopholes which annoyed the enemy they
In Return saluted us by sending a messenger in the shape
of a Cannon shot through the gable end of the Building
and which exposed ^{the} eye of the enemy from their

Breast works my distinguished companions soon made
them selves scarce after that and in the Rush to get down the
Stairs four of my Detailed men went with them it
certainly was not a very Desirable Place to be in
But by Persuasion and ^{threats} I was Enabled to keep two of them
With me and by my indefatigability ^{wearied} through in Body
I was Enabled to keep Colonel Markoe apprized of the
Movements of the Enemy about five O'Clock P.M. Lieut
Templeton came and informed me that the Regt had
Retired as it was impossible to withstand the Raking
Fire of the Enemy and informed me if I thought
Proper I might Run the Gauntlet as soon as I wished
I waited until the Twilight of the Evening and then
Made my Exit and crossed the Pontoon Bridge two
Hours after the Regt and though wearied and fatigued
I arrived at the Camp the next morning Tuesday Dec^r
16th after Been under arms Night and day from
Thursday the 11th Enduring for Six hours on the night
Of the 14th Excruciating Pain with Cold by been above
~~above~~ my knees in the Swamp in order to discharge
My Duty Enjoined upon me to Perform and which do
Impaired the Muscular nerve of my Limbs and added
To it the Previous hardship I had Endured I did not
Even then give up for when we Returned back to
Camp we found we had not a single Noncommissioned
Officer left in our Corps² But myself 3 Serg^t 2 Corps
And 2 Privates taken Prisoners therefore the Orderly
And Commissary Duty devolved on me I held up until
The 27th Dec^r when I was entirely Broke down then I
Took to Discharging great floods of water I should
Suppose by the Cold settling on my kidneys and as
now turned to the Diabetes and now my system

I so impaired that I am not able to work so that I am under
the dire necessity to apply to the government for a Pension
Dear Sir if you think me worthy of a Pension will you be
so kind to Recommend me for a Pension and believe me
Sir you will confer an unlimited favour toward me and
Please believe me Sir I am with Respect your obedient
Servant.

John Masland
Late Sergeant
71st Regiment
Pennsylvania
Volunteers

I hereby testify that as far as my
memory now serves me that the
in the main the facts above mentioned
are true.

John Masland was an excellent
good soldier and is I think
warranted to full consideration from
the United States Government.

Nov 1900

John Markoe
formerly Lieut Col 71st P.V.

I fully concur with what is above stated by
Lieut. Col. Markoe. Masland was a good reliable
soldier always, & to the best of my belief is now a
respectable & worthy citizen. J. M. Markoe
Phila. Nov. 11. 1880. late Col. 71st Regt. Pa. Vol. & B. G. Vols

Asunciontown Philadelphia Penna }
Corner of Green & Seymour Streets

To the Commissioners of Pensions

Sir in addition to the Medical Testimony and other Evidence which I have
writⁿ transmit to you in order to Establish my Claim for a Pension
I would state that my financial Circumstances would not of me Contracting
a Doctors Bill I was able to work only at short intervals and only
engaged the Service of a Physician when I could not obtain Relief by
Home Remedies I would further state that the Private nature of my
Disease would not admit of me speaking of it unless I was compelled
to do so as far as able I endeavored to earn my own living But now that
I am entirely Disabled I hope you will consider my Claim favorably
I never flinched from my Duty in the Army as the Officers of my Regiment
have so testified in the first statement which you have
to
John Mustard

Given & Subscribed before me a Notary Public of Penna^t of Permit
to residing in the City of Philadelphia this 14 day of April A.D. 1881
and I there no interest direct or }
indirect in the presentation of this }
claim }
Joseph Bouchard
Notary Public

certificates from the Court on file in the Pension Office