

Pension Application for Nathaniel B. Gardner

S.15131

State of Pennsylvania

County of Erie SS.

On this 21st day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Erie and State of Pennsylvania it being a Court of Record—Nathaniel B. Gardner a resident of the Township of Conneautee in the County of Erie and State of Pennsylvania aged sixty six years 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he resided in the Township of Stephentown in the County of Albany (now Rensselaer and State of N. York.

In the month of August 1780 he went into the service of the United States as a substitute for John Cranston (1) (who had been drafted in the militia) and was placed in the company commanded by Capt. Turner. We marched from Stephentown to Albany and joined the regiment there under the command of Col. VanRensselaer and Major VanBuren of Kinderhook; (2) the Lieutenant of our company was ____ Peas— (3)

We remained four or five days at Albany and were then marched to Schenectady and thence to Johnstown. We went on this expedition against the Indians—Tories and Canadians under Brandt and Butler. (4) At Cognawaga [Caughnawaga] (four miles from Johnstown) –on the Mohawk River—our regiment was divided –one half crossed the river and the deponent with them. When we crossed the river we cooked breakfast near to where a house had been burnt the night prior by the Indians and Tories. Col. VanRensselaer and Major VanBuren commanded us.

We marched up the south side of the river and on the next day reached Fort Plain this was called a forced march for we marched both night and day as the Indians were ravaging the country through which we were passing.

The next day we marched to Fort Plank (5) which had been just demolished by Brandts party—it was night when we reached there.

The next day we marched very early about six miles when an express arrived notifying us that the other division on the north side of the Mohawk were then engaged with the Indians under Brandt (6) and to hasten to their assistance.

We marched immediately to the vicinity of Fort Schuyler there intending to cross the river to join the other division. We did not cross the river as an other express arrived stating that the Indians were defeated and to continue our march on the south side of the river.

We then marched to Fort Stanwix and remained there about a week when orders came to return down the river—we marched thence to Fort Schuyler and from thence to Fort Plain and layed there about two weeks and thence to Schenectady which (the deponent believes) was about the last of September or first of October. At Schenectady we were billeted upon the citisens [citizens] and stationed there while we scouted out and took prisoners of Tories and one or two Canadians.

We were kept there as a standing guard until it became too cold for our summer clothing. We marched sometime in the end of November or beginning of December to Albany guarding the prisoners we had taken whom we placed in jail there and we were dismissed and went home.

About the first of September 1781, one half of the militia were drafted and I went into the service in the company commanded by Capt. Stephen Miles (7) and Lieutenants James Jones and Alexander Hobbs—we were marched to Albany and there joined the regiment; Major VanBuren was in the regiment (he does not remember who the Colonel was)— we marched to the Mohawk at the Sprouts and forded the river there; from thence we marched to Niskyauny there we laid about 18 hours as we had learned a party of Indians and Tories were in the neighbourhood a scout of 25 men were immediately sent out; the men returned with the information that the Indians had gone up the Mohawk River; we marched up the river for a few miles and crossed over to the south side.

We from thence marched into Schenectady and there quartered to guard the city and scout the country. We staid there until the month of December and very cold we were then marched back to Albany with some Tory prisoners, we were then dismissed and returned home.

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

He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove his services in the revolution.

In answer to the interrogatories put by the Court he further saith—That he was born in the town of Exeter, in Kings County and State of Rhode Island in the year 1765—(8) I have a record of my age taken many years prior from my Father's Record which is herewith presented to the court—

At the time I was called into the service I was living in the Town of Stephentown, in the State of New York—about the year 180[?] I removed to Johnstown in the State of New York – about the year 1818 I removed to Canandaigua in the same state—about the year 1820 I removed to Conneautee Township of Erie County, Pennsylvania where I reside. In addition to the names mentioned I recollect the names of Lieutenant Hubbs and Captain Turner for the answer to the 4th & 5th Interrogatories he refers to his statement.

He had no written discharge. In testimony of his character he refers to Walter Palmer, Abraham Smith Zophar Davis and Edward Briggs. (Signed) Nathaniel B. Gardner.

Sworn & Subscribed this 21st Sept. 1832 in open Court. Edwin J. Kelso Pro
Letter in folder dated May 5, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.15131, it appears that Nathaniel B. Gardner was born in 1765 in Exeter, Kings County, Rhode Island.

While residing at Stephentown, Albany County, New York, he enlisted in August 1780 and served as a private in Captain Turner's Company, Colonel Van Rensselaer's New York Regiment until December 1, 1780.

He enlisted September 1, 1781 and served as a private in Captain Stephen Niles' New York Company until in December 1781.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 21, 1832, while a resident of Conneautee, Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania.

It is not stated whether soldier was married.

End Notes—S.15131—Nathaniel B. Gardner.

1. On the pay receipt roll of Captain Ichabod Turner's Company in Colonel Killian VanRensselaer's Fourth Regiment of Albany County Militia, John Cranston's name nor Nathaniel B. Gardner's name appears on the roll under any spelling of their surname. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783. Series M-246, Roll 77, folder 161, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

2. Cornelius Van Buren was the first major in Colonel Van Rensselaer's Regiment.
3. Joel Pease was the first lieutenant in Captain Turner's Company.
4. Nathaniel has a lot of this military tour incorrect. Captain Walter Butler nor Lieutenant Colonel John Butler participated in this raid. Captain Joseph Brant and Cornplanter commanded the raiding party that destroyed what is now the Village of Fort Plain and the Town of Minden, Montgomery County.
5. Fort Plank was not demolished but Fort Walrath was destroyed.
6. Captain Brant took his force south to Albany County [now the part that is Schoharie County] and arrived at Vroomansland on August 9th and destroyed that settlement.
7. Stephen Niles not Miles was a Captain in Colonel Van Rensselaer's Regiment. The other officers of the company were Oliver Bently as the first lieutenant, James Jones as the second lieutenant and Isahel Sheldon as the ensign. Nathaniel's name does not appear on Captain Niles pay receipt roll. The source is the same as End Note 1.
8. Nathaniel would not turn 16 until 1781 upon which by militia law he would have to enroll into the local militia company. In Captain Niles' pay receipt roll only Simeon and Howland Gardner are listed. Nathaniel's pension application is about 37 pages, but there was no testimony of anyone that served with him and there appears to be very little proof of service but yet it was approved on September 21, 1832.