

Pension Application for John Gardinier (Gardinier)

R.3903

Conn.

New York

State of New York

Rensselaer County SS.

On this twenty ninth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before one Abiel Buckman, Esquire, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Rensselaer, John Gardinier a resident of the town of Schodack in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York aged Eighty one years, who being by me 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 is to say, in the latter part of February or first of March in the year one thousand seventeen hundred and seventy five he enlisted as a corporal in a company commanded by Captain John Quackenbush (1) First Lieutenant Jonathan Pearsey and Ensign Garret Van Waggoner, which company belonged to Alexander McDougall's regiment, commonly known and designated "the hairy caps". That he first enlisted for the term of six months. That the regiment and company to which he belonged remained in the City of New York where he enlisted for the space of two or three months or more—when after having procured their uniforms, the Regiment to which he belonged were embarked on board a sloop and taken to the City of Albany up the Hudson River, after arriving at the City of Albany, they were joined by three other regiments, one of which was commanded by Colonel Van Schaick, (2) but he cannot recollect by whom the other regiments were commanded—That after having remained at Albany a short time the troops were paid off and were then all put under the Command of Generals Schuyler and Montgomery (3) and were marched up the Hudson river to Fort George at the South end of Lake George where they were embarked on board of boats and were taken to Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain where he remained with the troops until the twentieth day of September of the same year. When he received a discharge from General Schuyler as unfit for duty by reason of a wound which he had received in his left leg whilst assisting in landing some cannon from the boats in which they had been conveyed to the spot & which cannon as he believes belonged to Captain John Lamb's (4) Artillery who according to his best recollection arrived there about that time.

That after having received his discharge as above mentioned, from General Schuyler he returned to the City of New York after having remained in the service for the full term of seven months. That as soon as the wound in his leg was sufficiently healed to enable him to ride on horseback and sometime in the month of December in the same year he enlisted as a waggon master under Captain Steers, and Col. Hughs, (5) of the waggon master department for the term of nine months, that during the winter he remained in the discharge of his duty in the City of New York until the opening of the season when he was engaged in assisting in works of defence in the City of New York in and about Corlear's Hook and elsewhere, on the island that he was also engaged in constructing Fort Greene on Long Island. By drawing fascines, sod & other materials for its erection, and continued on Long Island until the latter part of August in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, when he left there after the battle (6) with the British and retreated, with the army under General Washington to the City of New York—where he remained with the whole army until about the middle of September when about four o'clock in the afternoon he received orders from Colonel Hughes to git the wagons loaded and in readiness for a retreat from the City that thereupon he made all possible dispatch in getting the wagons loaded with Iron, flour &c, and was proceeding out of the city about day light in the following morning and after having arrived just out of the City to what was then called the tea water pump, he was met by General Putnam (7) who ordered him back to the liberty pole and to there load six of his wagons with flour, he returned accordingly and after having loaded his wagons, proceeded to the northward but when he arrived at the two mile stone he discovered the British Troops approaching from the north, by reason of which being unable to get off with the loaded wagons, he separated his horses from the wagons & proceeded on the Bloomingdale road in company with General Putnam and several others, that whilst they were passing through the woods, back of the three mile stone to the west of the Bloomingdale road, General Putnam's horse was killed by a grape shot, discharged from a battery constructed on what was then called the "Inklin bough" That about the same time one of the horses that he was leading was shot down dead by the enemy from the same battery as above mentioned, which horse belonged to him and was worth at least one hundred dollars, and further that by reason of his being engaged in removing the public property he was obliged to neglect his own house & furniture was entirely consumed burned & destroyed by the enemy after they took possession of the City, which property there destroyed by the enemy was worth, including house & furniture at least sixteen hundred dollars. That he undertook the American Army on their retreat at Harlem heights and then proceeded on to King's bridge, and remained there some length of time, perhaps about a month, when he went with the army to White Plains, (8) and was present with the army during the battle with the enemy at that place, that after the battle he proceeded to Peek's Kill and was then ordered to return with wagons to transport General Lee's (9) baggage from Valentine's Hill, which duty he performed and returned with it to Peekskill, where he remained until after Fort Washington (10) was taken, when it was as he can recollect in the latter part of November he was discharged, after having served between eleven and twelve months as Waggon Master.

That immediately after being discharged as last above mentioned he went to Danbury in the State of Connecticut and after remaining there a short time went to New Haven and on the first of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven or within a day or two of that time, he enlisted as a corporal in a company of Artillery commanded by Captain Samuel Mansfield, (11) which belonged to the State Troops of Connecticut but as there was only one other company of Artillery raised at New Haven at the time he enlisted he cannot remember

what regiment his company belonged to, he remained at New Haven with said company until an alarm was given that the enemy were intending an attack upon Danbury (12) to destroy the public stores of provisions deposited there; when he was marched directly to Danbury and arrived there just as the British were setting fire to the place, that he was engaged in the battle with the British, there where General Wooster (13) was killed that he understood at the time that General Arnold commanded the American forces engaged in that battle and upon the retreat of the British his company pursued them with an Iron six pounder mounted upon an ox cart, that immediately after the battle he returned, with said company to New Haven where they arrived as near as he can remember about the first of May; he remained there until sometime in June when he, together with said company was marched to Peekskill, and joined General McDougall's Brigade; That after remaining at Peekskill a short time, his company was marched to a place called White Marsh in New Jersey, and from thence they were ordered to Red Bank on the Delaware—but whilst on their way to Red Bank—and when they arrived at Hattonfield they received orders to return, they then returned to White Marsh, that after remaining at White Marsh for sometime, they received orders to join the Army under General Washington, in Pennsylvania, which they effected at a place called Chestnut ridge near German town, and was engaged with the British in the battle at that place in the beginning of October of that year, and after the battle he went into Winter Quarters in huts at a place called Valley Forge to the west of the Schuylkill, that after remaining at this place until sometime in the latter part of November or first of December, when his leg which had been wounded at Ticonderoga as above stated, became so painful as to prevent his performance of duty with the artillery he received a Furlough to return to Danbury where his father then lived. That on arriving at Peekskill he was requested by Colonel Hughs to go as an express to Mr. Gerardus Duyckins of New Haven, sail maker, which service he performed, and then returned with an answer to Colonel Hughs—That he continued constantly in the performance of the last mentioned duty as an express rider, for the space of two years, and in the discharge of which duty he received a pass from General Washington, under the hand and seal of General Washington whereby he was to be permitted to pass to any post or place in American, that he was often times engaged in carrying letters for General Washington, and in particular to General Lee to whom he had delivered a parcel from General Washington and received an answer, and had proceeded about a mile from the house where he was quartered in New Jersey. When he, General Lee was taken, (14) by the British; That on a certain time whilst employed in the duty of express rider as aforesaid and whilst he had letters in his possession from the commander in chief, he was attacked by the Tories, knocked from his horse and robbed of his saddlebags containing the ordinary letter from the officers to their family & friends in Philadelphia, but the letter from General Washington being secreted within the saddle escaped & were safely delivered—That he was discharged from his service as an express rider about the first January in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty—That his first tour of duty under Captain Quackenbush lasted seven month during whole of which time he served as a corporal. That he served upwards of Eleven Months as a waggon Master, after which he served as a corporal in Captain Mansfield's Company of Artillery—Eleven Months and more—and he afterwards served as a carrier of Expresses for the term of two years, constantly; and that he never received any pay for his services except what he received at Albany when he belonged to the company of Captain Quackenbush as above stated, In answer to the Interrogatories propounded by the War Department he says;

First that he was born in the City of New York on the twenty eighth day of August one thousand seven hundred and fifty one—

Second he has a record of his age made by himself in his family bible, from the records of the Low Dutch Church in the City of New York—That the said bible is now in the possession of Susan Roorback his granddaughter—in the town of Schodack aforesaid.

Third, he was living in the City of New York when first called into service as above detailed. That immediately after he left the service he came to reside in the town of Claverack in the County of Columbia and State of New York—where he removed one year and then removed to the town of Kinderhook in the same county where he lived between one & two years from thence he removed to Livingston's Manor, where he resided about five years, he then removed back to Claverack aforesaid where he lived a year or more, and then removed to the town of Schodack in the County of Rensselaer and State aforesaid where he has resided ever since with the exception of about three years when he resided in the City of New York and about two years in Kinderhook aforesaid, that he now resides in the town of Schodack aforesaid.

Fourth, that when he first went into the service he volunteered or Enlisted in the company of Captain Quackenbush as above stated.—

Fifth, That he cannot now remember any other of the Regular officers belonging to the Army, than those above stated except General Knox (15) who had the command of the Artillery at Valley Forge—and at the Battle of Germantown, (16) & General Lord Sterling (17) at Peekskill, that the circumstances of his service are as above stated in detail.

Sixth, He has received several discharges, the first was from General Schuyler and was given in September 1775, and is now at the City of Washington on file in the War Department as he verily believes. That the second discharge was from Colonel Hughs of the Waggon Master Department, which is lost, as is also the certificate above mentioned from General Washington, That he has no documentary evidence whatever of his service, except the discharge above mentioned from General Schuyler in the files of the War Department where it was sent sometime in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, with an application for a pension under the law of Congress of that year—

Seventh, That he is known to most of the old inhabitants of the town of Schodack in the County of Rensselaer and in particular to John Roraback and William Canfield both of Schodack aforesaid who can testify as to his character for veracity and as to their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution—That owing to the

fact that he now is totally blind and has been so blind for the last four years & upwards and also by Extreme old age, and the effects of the wound so received by him at Ticonderoga as above stated, he has been almost exclusively confined to his house, during the whole of the period last mentioned, and therefore is not acquainted with any of the clergymen of the town where he resides inasmuch as those with whom he was formerly acquainted and who could have certified to his character for veracity & of his services as a soldier of the revolution, have either died or removed to parts unknown to him, and he further states that there is not to his knowledge any person now living who can testify to his services, or any part thereof or whose testimony he can procure for that purpose.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) John Gardinier (18)

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid A. Buckman a Judge of Rensselaer County Court.

End Notes—John Gardinier—R.3903

1. John was appointed corporal on July 1, 1775 in Captain Quackenboss's Company (Eighth Company) in the First New York Continental Regiment of 1775 commanded by Colonel Alexander McDougall according to the company muster roll dated "Camp at Ticonderoga 28th Sept 1775", John is listed as sick. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 65, folder 1, National Archives, Washington, DC.
2. Colonel Goose VanSchaick of the Second New York Continental Regiment of 1775.
3. Major General Philip Schuyler of Albany, NY, appointed on June 19, 1775 and Brigadier General Richard Montgomery appointed on June 22, 1775 and appointed Major General on December 9, 1775.
4. John Lamb Captain of the Independent Company, New York Artillery June 30, 1775. Wounded and taken prisoner in the storming of Quebec on December 31, 1775. Appointed Colonel of the Second Continental Artillery on January 1, 1777.
5. Hugh Hughes was appointed the Commissary of Military Stores on February 15, 1776. He was appointed Assistant Quartermaster General on May 11, 1776.
6. The Battle of Long Island was fought on August 27, 1776.
7. Israel Putnam was appointed Major General in the Continental Army on June 19, 1775.
8. The Battle of White Plains, NY was fought on October 28, 1776.
9. Charles Lee was appointed Major General in the Continental Army on June 17, 1775.
10. The Battle of Fort Washington was on November 16, 1776.
11. Captain Samuel Mansfield was appointed Captain on January 1, 1777, in the Second Continental Regiment. Mansfield resigned on November 7, 1778.
12. The Danbury, Connecticut Raid was from April 25 to the 27, 1777.
13. David Wooster was appointed Brigadier General in the Continental Army on June 22, 1775. He was wounded at the Battle of Ridgefield, Connecticut on April 27, 1775 and died of his wounds on May 2, 1777.
14. General Lee was taken prisoner December 13, 1776 at Baskenridge. He was exchanged on May 6, 1778.
15. Henry Knox was appointed Brigadier General and Chief of Artillery in the Continental Army.
16. The Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania was fought on October 4, 1777.
17. William Alexander, also known as Lord Sterling, was appointed Major General in the Continental Army on February 19, 1777.
18. A daughter, Mary Turck on May 11, 1853, of Schodack, Rensselaer County, NY, applied for her deceased parents pension benefits. In her statement she states a brother had been born on August 28, 1772 and that he had died in New York City on August 23, 1773. Mary also stated she had been born on September 19, 1783. She also stated that her parents had married in 1770. She stated that her father John had died on February 4, 1833 and that her mother Cornelia had died on October 26, 1837.