

Pension Application for Abraham Garrison

Wife Elizabeth
W.16583
State of New York
Rockland County SS

On this Thirtieth day of November in the year AD 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] now sitting, Abraham Garrison, a resident of the Town of Clarkstown in the County of Rockland and State of New York aged seventy five years, the third day of May, 1832, as appears by the family record, 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 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the United States services under the following named officers, and served as herein Stated. That in the month of July on or about the first of the month in a company commanded by Capt. John Blauvelt (1), Rumsey & Cure (2) officers in said company, in a Regiment commanded by Col. Drake (3) in Genl Scotts (4) Brigade, Nicholas Fish (5) was Brigade Major, and went to New York then to Long Island and was near Genl Starling (6) when he was taken prisoner by the British Army, then retreated with Genl. Washington's (7) army to New York—then to Kings Bridge, then to White Plains, then to Peekskill where he was discharged, then in the spring of the year 1777, he volunteered for three months in a company commanded by Capt. Gardner (8) for three months, and served that time a guarding along the Hudson river from Nyack to Haverstraw, then after that time was expired I entered the service in a Company commanded by Capt. Jacob Onderdonk (9) (both of said capt was in a regiment commanded by Coll A. Hawkes Hay) and served therein until the Spring of the year 1782 and served that time in guarding along the west shore of the Hudson River as aforesaid and in scouting through different parts of the now County of Rockland and the County of Bergen, in the state of New Jersey, which services was performed as follows. The company had to send a forth [fourth] part of the men to be on guard and the men belonging to the same had to take their turns and in that manner he served being out full one forth [fourth] of his time during the said years. Then early in the spring of the year 1782 he enlisted in the now town of Clarkstown aforesaid for nine month, in a company commanded by Capt. Prentice Bowen (10), in a regiment of Continental troops commanded by Coll Wisenvelt as will appear by the rolls in the war department, and served that time as a guard part of the time at Clarkstown and part at Tappan Town, and after that term was expired served under Capt. Onderdonk as aforesaid until the close of war, that he has no documentary evidence of any of his services as he does not recollect that he ever received a written discharge that from his infancy he has always resided in the town of Clarkstown aforesaid, that all but his service under Capt. Bowen he is unable to prove by some of his fellow soldiers in the war that he is well known to Judge Peter D. W. Smith, Piter Stephens, Capt. Abraham Van Houten, Thomas Howard Esq, and almost all the citizens of the town of Clarkstown who can testify to his Character for veracity. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that her name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

(Signed) Abaham Garrison

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

We Abraham Van Houten and Cornelius Depew residents of the town of Clarkstown who being first duly sworn, do depose and say that they was well acquainted with Abraham Garrison the above deponent and personally know that he served in a company commanded by Capt. John Blauvelt and a company commanded by Capt. Jacob Cuddeback as by him stated in the above declaration, that he was faithful as he was ever present at every time the company was on duty, that he is a man of unblemished reputation and his statement is entitled to the utmost credit.

Abraham VanHouton, Cornelius Depew

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter, and putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states. And the Court further certifies that if appear to them that Abraham Vanhouten and Cornelius Depew, who have subscribed and sworn to the above affidavit, are credible persons and that their statement is entitled to credit. And also that they are well acquainted with the said Abraham Vanhouten and Cornelius Depew and know them to be credible persons, and that their statement is entitled to credit. And also, that all the above proceedings were in open court.

Per Curiam, David Pye Clerk

[A "per curiam" decision is a decision delivered via an opinion issued in the name of the Court rather than specific justices. Most decisions on the merits by the Supreme Court (and other appellate courts in the U.S.) take the form of one or more opinions signed by individual justices (and joined in by others). Even when such signed opinions are unanimous, they are not termed "per curiam." "Per curiam" decisions are given that label by the

Court itself and tend to be short. Usually, though not always, they deal with issues the Court views as relatively non-controversial.]

State of New York
Rockland County SS.

Personally appeared before the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for said Abraham Garrison of said County aged 76 years and being duly sworn saith as follows Viz:

I am the same Abraham Garrison who on the 30 day of November 1832 made a declaration before the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] to obtain a pension under the Law of Congress June 7th 1832 which declaration has been returned as defective in its specification, and also in the part of the interrogatories. That he was questioned in open court on the 31st day of November 1832 and answered by him, that he was born in the precinct of Haverstraw County of Orange (Now Clarkstown, County of Rockland) in N. York 1757. That he entered the service of the United States under Capt. John Blauvelt in June 1776 and not in the month of July as by him before stated for five months. That he entered the company of said Blauvelt at the Court House in Clarkstown from the company of Capt Jacob Onderdonk while "on parade". That some five days afterwards Captain Blauvelts company rendezvous at Clarkstown chose some inferior officers and made an arrangement for embarking for New York that some days apart that he with the company to which he belonged embarked on bord [sic, board] of a vessel belonging to Capt Augz [Arie, Owen?] Smith at Nyack and arrived in the City of New York. That they were in the City of New York some time Previous to the declaration of American Independence, but how long he cannot recollect.

That on the fourth day of July 1776 he assisted in taking down or destroying the British representation of George the 3d erected and represented as on horseback in an enclosure called the Bowling Green in the City of New York. That he served the five months as a private and he remaining mostly [?] four months Sergeant. That he was regularly sworn and duly authorized to act as such & performed duty accordingly. The regiment was commanded by Col. Drake, Genl Scotts mostly Brigade, we crossed to Long Island and there was stationed for some time. At the landing of the British on Long Island and at the battle fought between the Americans & British the Americans were forced to retreat and the deponent with his company also retreated in the night across the East River to the City of N. York and from thence to Kings Bridge near fort Washington, where some time was spent in building barracks. From thence they retreated to White Plains, where some intrenchments were thrown up for defence. Here the battle of White Plains (11) was fought after it was over Genl Washington with the main army retreated to Kings Ferry and there crossed and the regiment to which the company in which deponent was Commanded by Colonel Drake. Marched to Peek's Kill where they remained some time, they were then marched to Kings Ferry crossed the river to Haverstraw at which place the term of enlistment expired, he was honorably discharged.

He was honorably discharged. When in the spring of the year 1777, he volunteered in a company commanded by Captain Gardner for three months & served that time doing guard duty along the shores of Hudson river between Haverstraw and Snedens ferry near the Jersey line. Having performed the duty for which he entered he was discharged, but the remainder of the Company remained in actual service. That the said deponent relinquishes the service rendered under Captain Jacob Onderdonk except that part hereafter stated. That in the year 1779 he volunteered under a Capt'n Handley (If he correctly recollects the name) as a guide to lead him to Stoney Point that after the retaking Stoney Point he was informed by his Capt'n that his services were no longer required he was discharged. The above service was 18 days. Which was omitted but be inserted in his declaration made in open court by the drawer thereof.

Also that he perfectly recollects of serving two months under Capt'n Jacob Onderdonk and Col. Anhawkes Hays Regt in the summer of 1779. After the abandonment of Stoney Point by Genl. Wayne (12), doing guard duty along the shore of Hudson river in Haverstraw Clarkstown and Orange in now Rockland County which service he will prove by two respectable surviving witnesses.

That early in the spring of 1782 he enlisted at Clarkstown for nine months in a company commanded by Capt'n Prentice Bowen in a regiment commanded by Col. Wisenfelt, and served that time as a guard at different places, Viz, Tappan Town, Liberty Pole — Scrawlen borough, and along the shores of Hudson river between Haverstraw and Nyack & Snedens? Ferry having served the term of enlistment he was discharged.

From the great length of time which has elapsed and also from a long bodily infirmity since he before recited services were rendered, many particulars must have escaped the memory of this deponent he has related all he can remember as connected with his services and which are calculated to explain them. In the order of time, he may in some instances have fallen into mistakes. He asks a reasonable allowance for frailty of human memory, which he has faithfully endeavored conscientiously to adhere in the truth in all the events and acquiesces of which he has spoken and he verily believes that he faithfully served his country in the war of the revolution the full

periods as above stated. Being in actual service in the field for each term alleged and was not employed in any civil pursuit—and for which services he claims a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

(Signed with his mark) Abraham Garrison

Sworn and Subscribed before me the 26th day of October 1833. (13)

John Stagg, Justice

End Notes—W.16583—Abraham Garrison

1. John J. Blauvelt was the Captain of the Southern company in Colonel Abraham Lent's Second Regiment of Orange County Militia.
2. James Rumsey was the first lieutenant in Captain William Kiers' Haverstraw Company in Colonel Ann Hawkes Hays Third Regiment of Orange County Militia. Walter Cure was the second Lieutenant in Captain Arie Smith's Company in Colonel Hay's Regiment under Provincial Congress of March 14, 1776.
3. "(6thly) Resolved and Ordered, that the Colonels of the Regiment in Orange County on the Southside of the Mountains do draft out of the r Regiments at least one hundred men in the following proportions, to wit 65 privates out of Colonel Hays Regiment and 35 privates out of Colonel Lents Regiment and as many more Men out of these two Regiments all will turn out Volunteers for that service, to be immediately sent to this City armed and accoutred in the best Manner possible, who shall be entitled to receive the same pay and provisions, as the other Continental forces in this Colony. (7thly) Resolved and ordered, that Colonel Joseph Drake and Colonel Thomas Thomas of Westchester County do draft out of their Regiments 200 men in the following proportions, to wit two companies of 65 privates each beside the Captains and other inferior Officers [lieutenants and ensign] out of Colonel Joseph Drake's Regiment which was the First WestChester Regiment, and one company of 65 privates with the Captain and other Inferior Officers of Colonel Thomas's Regiment which was the Second WestChester Regiment and as many more men out of those two Regiments, as will turn out Volunteers for that service to be immediately sent to the City of New York armed and accoutred in the best manner possible and to be joined to Colonel Samuel Drake's Regiment which was the Third WestChester, and to receive the same pay and provisions as the other Continental forces in this Colony." FROM: Documents Relating To The Colonial History of The State of New York, ed. Bertold Fernow, Vol. XV, State Archives, Vol. I, Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers, Albany, NY, 1887, p 84.
4. On June 7, 1776, 3,000 militia were to be raised to be sent to reinforce "The Army at New York". "Therefore the remains of the quota of Albany, 175; New York 1200; Richmond 57; Kings 58; Queens 175; Suffolk 200; Westchester 300; Dutchess 335; Orange 200; Ulster 300. Makes for reinforcing The Army at New York 3,000". FROM: Documents Relating To The Colonial History of The State of New York, ed. Bertold Fernow, Vol. XV, State Archives, Vol I, Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers, Albany, NY, 1887, p 109. As per the Provincial Congress of June 7th—"That one Brigadier Genl be appointed by this Congress. On June 9th, 1776, John Morin Scott was appointed brigadier general.
5. Nicholas Fish was appointed brigade major on June 21, 1776. He was appointed major on November 21, 1776 of Colonel Philip VanCortlandt's Second New York Continental Regiment.
6. Brigadier General William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, or more commonly referred to as Lord Stirling. He was taken prisoner on Long Island on August 27, 1776.
7. General and Commander-in-chief George Washington.
8. John Gardner or Gardinier was the second lieutenant in Captain William Kiers' Company in Colonel Hays' Regiment. Gardinier was promoted to captain in place of Kiers on May 28, 1778.
9. Jacob Onderdonk, Captain of the King's Street Company in Colonel Hays' Regiment.
10. Prentice Bowen was appointed on April 10, 1782 as a Captain in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Frederick Weissenfels Regiment of New York State Levies. Abraham served as a corporal in this company.
11. The Battle of White Plains, N.Y. was fought on October 28, 1776.
12. Brigadier General Anthony Wayne. He led the American forces that stormed the Stony Point, N.Y. fortification on July 16, 1779. He was also wounded during the attack.
13. Elizabeth Garrison aged 82 years widow of Abraham on January 28, 1837, of the Town of Clarks Town, Rockland County, N.Y. applied for a widow's pension. They were married on March 9, 1775 and Abraham died July 9, 1835. Her brother Cornelius DePew also made out an affidavit in support of hers and was present at their wedding.