

Pension Application for Nathaniel Reynolds

W.17527 (Widow: Hannah)

State of New York

Westchester County SS.

On this first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me Ezra Lockwood one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Westchester, Nathaniel Reynolds of the town of Couth Salem in the said County of Westchester, aged seventy eight 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 is to say—That on or about the first of April in the year 1776 the declarant entered the service in the New York State troops so called, in the company of Capt. Henry mason and regiment commanded by Col. Samuel Drake.

That the declarant was marched with his said company to New York and joined the said Regiment and remained then in the service until the British forces took possession of the City of New York, when the declarant with the said company and Regiment retreated to Kings Bridge and threw up some barracks near Kings Bridge that sometime during the summer of the year 1776 the British forces landed in East Chester in said County and thereupon the Regiment aforesaid and the American forces under Genl Washington retreated to White Plains—and the declarant was in the engagement at that place.

That after the battle at White Plains, the declarant with the Regt & Brigade to which he was attached, under command of Genl Scott retreated across the North River and the declarant continued in said company in actual service until the expiration of eight months and was honorably discharged near Stoney Point on or about the first of December 1776.

The declarant recollects Genl Washington, Genl Scott, Major Fish, Col. Drake, Genl McDougalls and the declarant believes Col. Malcomb was with the troops some part of the said Campaign—That the declarant enlisted as a volunteer and was verbally discharged.

And the declarant further testifies that on the 25th day of June 1778 he was commissioned as second Lieutenant in a company commanded by Capt. Samuel Lawrence in the Regiment of Col. Samuel Drake in the Militia of Westchester County., which said Commission is hereunto annexed.

That while a Lieut as aforesaid, the company to which the declarant was attached was frequently called into service for short periods, for the purpose of repelling the incursion of the enemy and guarding the line of said County.

That while ordered into service and while in actual service as aforesaid at or near Crompond in s'd County and while on duty as a Guard with others., the declarant with about twenty others were taken prisoner by a party of British Light

Horse under command of Col. Simcoe, and were taken prisoners to New York and confined in the Sugar house. The said Guard was under command of Lieut Keeler who was wounded at the time the said guard were taken prisoners as aforesaid in the engagement with the enemy.

After remaining some days in the sugar house, the declarant was taken out of prison and conducted by a British officer on to Long Island and permitted to board with a farmer at a place called FlatBush and was under the orders and directions of the British officers in regard to the place of his board and had certain limits pointed out to him by and which the declarant was not permitted to pass.

That during the period aforesaid the declarant was frequently solicited to join the enemy and enter into the British service, and also was ordered to hold himself in readiness to go on board a British ship and depart for England as a prisoner. But neither threats nor persuasions could induce the declarant to violate his engagement to his country and he remained a prisoner as aforesaid until he was exchanged which by a memorandum in his possession and his own recollection he knows to be the 24th day of October 1781.

That at the time the declarant was exchanged aforesaid he was conducted by and in custody of a British officer to Elizabethtown in New Jersey and delivered up to an American officer whose name was Skinner, and as this declarant understood was an agent or commissary and was concerned in the exchange of prisoners, and after being thus exchanged was permitted to return home to South Salem aforesaid where the parents and family of the declarant then resided.

That the declarant was in custody of the enemy as aforesaid from the 24th day of June 1779 when he was taken as prisoner as aforesaid until he was discharged on the said 24th day of October 1781 being a period of two years and four months and then returned home.

The declarant further saith that before the last period of service above mentioned he was frequently called into service as a private in the company of Capt Henry Slason and others and was in the engagement at Ward's house in East Chester at the time a British Major Camell was killed and a number of the American Soldiers were taken prisoners.

That the declarant was a volunteer and in a company as the declarant believes Commanded by Capt Gideon July and then under the command of Lieut Lawrence and in the engagement at Ridgefield in Connecticut and recollects Co. or Genl Arnold was in the engagement and his horse was shot by the enemy—and after the engagement the American forces retreated to Wilton and was in the engagement shortly after at Compo, near Saugertuck [Saugerties] where a number were killed and wounded.

And from December 1776 until the time the declarant rec'd his commission aforesaid he distinctly recollects that he served at one period as a private soldier the term of one month during which time the engagement took place at Ward's house—and several other times amounting together to upwards of one month.

And in answer to the several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, the declarant further maketh oath and says that he was born in the town of Greenwich in Connecticut on the 22d day of February 1754 and removed with his parents to a place called Cortlandt's Manor when one or two years of age (now South Salem ever since) except about three years the declarant was an apprentice to one Stephen Reynolds & resided at a place called Nine Partners in Dutchess County.

That the declarant has a record of his age in his family Bible and now present before him.

That he lived at South Salem (then Salem) aforesaid at a place called Cross River, where he lives when called into service as aforesaid has resided there ever since.

The declarant was never drafted. He always volunteered or enlisted as aforesaid and never served as a substitute.

That he the declarant recollects the following regular officers who were with the troops where he served as aforesaid viz, Genl Washington, Genl McDougal, Col. Malcomb—also he recollects, Genl Scott, Col Drake, Col Thomas, Col Crane, Major Fish and their respective regiments of Militia.

That the declarant never received a written discharge from the service.

Had a Commission as Lieut aforesaid signed by Geor Clinton which is hereunto annexed.

That the Declarant has no other written or documentary evidence of his service other than is hereunto annexed.

That he was always a true friend to the Independence of the County and is known in his present neighbourhood to Col. Joseph Benedict and Abraham Todd who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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) Nathaniel Reynolds

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Ezra Lockwood one of the Judges of Westchester Com. Pleas.

Letter in folder dated May 23, 1938, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Noah Hoit, a Captain of the Vermont Rangers, who died February 13, 1811, also, the record in that same war of Lieutenant Nathaniel Reynolds, born January 27, 1715 [1754] and died about 1790, who served with his sons, all from Greenwich, Connecticut.

There is no claim for pension or bounty land on file based upon service of any Noah Hoit, under any spelling of that surname. The record of Nathaniel Reynolds, who was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, and served as lieutenant in the Revolutionary War has been found. The data which follow are found in pension claim, W.17527, based upon his service, and may aid you in your research.

Nathaniel Reynolds was born February 22, 1754, in Greenwich, Connecticut, and was taken by his parents at the age of about two years to live at Cortlandt Manor (called later South Salem), in Westchester County, New York. The names of his parents were not given. They all resided during the period of the Revolutionary War at Cross River in said county.

Nathaniel Reynolds volunteered April 1, 1776, served as a private in Captain Henry Slasson's company, Colonel Samuel Drake's regiment of New York troops, as at New York when the British took possession there, retreated to King's Bridge, was in the battle of White Plains and continued until December 25, when he was discharged. He enlisted in 1777, and served as private in Captain Gideon Seely's New York company and was in engagements at Ridgefield and at Crompo, specific dates not given. He was commissioned June 25, 1778, (his name borne Nathaniel Reynolds, Jr.) 2nd Lieutenant, Captain Samuel Lawrence's company, Colonel Samuel Drake's Regiment of Westchester County, New York Militia, and June 24, 1779 while on duty as Crompound under Lieutenant Isaac Keeler was taken prisoner by the British as confined in the old Sugar House in New York, after which he was held prisoner at Flat Bush on Long Island, and was exchanged October 24, 1781. He returned home then.

Nathaniel Reynolds was allowed pension on his application executed January 1, 1833, at which time he resided in South Salem, Westchester County, New York. The officer had resided there ever since the War with the exception of about three years during which he was an apprentice to one Stephen Reynolds who resided at Nine Partners, in Dutchess County, New York; no relationship between Nathaniel and said Stephen Reynolds was stated.

Nathaniel Reynolds died September 21, 1843 in Westchester County, New York.

He married October 15, 1778 in South Salem, New York, Hannah Coley, who was born May 26, 1759; they were married by the Presbyterian Minister of South Salem.

In 1840, Nathaniel Reynolds' daughter, the wife of Aaron Morehouse, resided in Saratoga County, New York; her given name is not shown.

In 1843, one George Reynolds, of Lewisboro, made affidavit in behalf of the above widow's claim for pension, but did not state any relationship to the family.

In 1853, Nathaniel Reynolds' brother, Benjamin Reynolds, was a resident of Greenville, Greene County, New York; Benjamin was then in the seventy-second year of his age, and stated that he was in the battle of White Plains with his brother, Nathaniel.