

Pension Application for Richard Weaver

S.11726

State of Vermont

Rutland County SS.

On this 14th day of July A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Probate Court of Rutland now sitting, Richard Weaver a resident of the County of Rutland and State of Vermont, aged 81 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. In 1775 he lived at a place called [Sacajo?] near Poughkeepsie, New York, & in May or June of that year he enlisted for five months in Capt. DeBois' (1) Company, Col. Schuyler's (2) Regt & marched to Albany thence to Lake George thence to St. Johns under Genl. Montgomery (3) & assisted in taking St. Johns (4) after which he was sent back to Albany as a part of the guard with prisoners & was discharged at Albany in December having served about seven months—he received no written discharge. In April 1776 he enlisted at Dover, New York for nine months & was appointed sergeant & was put on the recruiting service in Dutchess County & about [?] May the company being filled up & mustered marched to Poughkeepsie, thence took water & went to the City of New York where he joined the Regt of Col. Ritsman's (5) Regt, Genl M.Dougal's (6) Brigade & remained there until after Long Island was taken when he retreated to Harlaem Heights & after the battle thence retreated across Kingsbridge to White Plains—thence to Peekskill—thence through New Jersey to Pennsylvania & was discharged in Bucks County in January 1777—he was in the battles of White Plains, Harlaem & Trenton (7). He immediately returned to [Sacajo?] N. York, where he was hired by a class to go into service for six weeks & served in Capt. Vail's Company, Col. Van Rensselaer's Regt (8) & marched to White Plains and was dismissed at White Plains after serving six weeks. In April 1777 he came to Vermont, & on the news of Burgoyne's approach he volunteered & served in Capt. Cook's Company & was chosen Ensign & marched to Ticonderoga, and when the British troops came down he retreated to Castleton & was there when the battle of Hubbardton (9) was fought, thence retreated near Rutland to Pownal and dispersed, having served about six weeks as Ensign. He afterwards volunteered and was on the way to Bennington (10), but did not arrive in time to be in the battle. He afterwards served about four weeks in Capt. Sawyer's (11) Company at Shelburn in guarding the frontier. He knew Genl. Washington, Putnam, Lord Sterling, Sullivan, Starks, St. Clair (12) & many others – He has no documentary evidence, & he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He was born at East Greenwich R. Island, the 18 May 1751 O.S.—but knows of no record of his age—Since the revolution he has lived in Vermont until about 29 years ago he moved to Tioga Point where he lived a year or two—thence to Queensbury & last spring removed to Clarendon where he now lives with his daughter—he never received a written discharge—he is known to Eden Peck, Hatter Green & many other inhabitants of Clarendon.

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) Richard Weaver

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [?]

Letter replying to a request for information dated March 2, 1926.

In response to your letter of the twenty-fourth instant, you are herewith furnished the history of the only soldier of the Revolution named Richard Weaver, found on the records of this Bureau.

From the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.11726, it appears that Richard Weaver was born May 18, 1751, (old style) at East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

While living near Poughkeepsie, New York, he enlisted in May, or June 1775, served seven months as a private in Captain Dubois' Company, Colonel Schuyler's New York Regiment and was at the Siege of Saint Johns.

He enlisted in April 1776, served nine months as a Sergeant in Captain Nathaniel Pearce and Captain David Baldwin's Companies, Colonel Ritzema's New York Regiment, and was at the battles of Harlem, White Plains and Trenton.

He enlisted immediately after and served six weeks in Captain Vail's Company, Colonel VanRensselaer's New York Regiment.

In April 1777 he went to Vermont, and there enlisted and served six weeks as Ensign of Captain Cook's Vermont Company and was at the battle of Hubbardton, and he afterwards served four weeks in Captain Sawyer's Company of Vermont Troops, dates not stated.

In 1824 he was living in Queensbury, Warren County, New York and had a wife aged sixty years, her name is not stated.

He was allowed pension on his application executed July 14, 1832, at which time he was residing in Clarendon, Rutland County, Vermont, with a daughter, whose name is not given.

He died at Clarendon, Vermont, June 4, 1842, leaving no widow, but the following children survived him: Joseph, Richard, Benjamin, Peter, William, Mrs. Betsy Baxter and Mrs. Sally McCoy.

End Notes—S.11726—Richard Weaver

1. Richard enlisted as a private on July 6, 1775 in Captain Lewis DuBois' company in Colonel James Clinton's Third New York Continental Regiment. On the muster roll dated September 28, 1776 recorded in the camp at Ticonderoga, Richard is listed as "Deserted September 16". FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 69, Folder 38, National Archives, Washington D.C..
2. There was no one by the last name of Schuyler who was a Colonel in the Third New York. It is possible he was referring to Major-General Philip Schuyler, the overall commander of the New York troops.
3. Brigadier General Richard Montgomery, was appointed on June 22, 1775. December 9, 1775 he was appointed major general.
4. General Montgomery started the siege of Fort St. John on September 18, 1775 two days after Richard deserted. The fort surrendered on November 3, 1775. There is no proof that Richard returned from desertion. There appears to be no muster roll after September 28, 1775 but as late as this date he is still listed as deserted.
5. Rudolphus Ritzema was appointed Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment on March 28, 1776.
6. Alexander McDougall was appointed Colonel of the First New York Continental Regiment on June 30, 1775. He was appointed brigadier general August 9, 1775 and major general on October 20, 1777.
7. The Battle of Harlem Heights was fought on October 16, 1776, the Battle of White Plains on October 28, 1776 (both in New York), and the Battle of Trenton, New Jersey was fought on December 26, 1776.
8. There were two Colonel VanRensselaers. Kilian of the Fourth Regiment of Albany County Militia and Robert of the Eighth Regiment of Albany County Militia. There does not appear to be a Captain Vail (Veal, Viele, Ville, Etc.) serving in either regiment. The Captain Vail's—Benjamin, Isaiah and Israel all served in the Second Regiment of Ulster County Militia under Colonel James McClaughrey.
9. The Battle of Hubbardton was fought on July 7, 1777. This was the only battle fought in Vermont during the War of Independence. The Hubbardton Battlefield is a Vermont State Historic Site.
10. The Battle of Bennington (Walloomsac, NY) was fought on August 16, 1777.
11. Either Thomas or Joseph Sawyer, Captains in the Vermont Militia.
12. Generals George Washington, Israel Putnam, William Alexander (Lord Stirling), John Sullivan, John Stark, and Arthur St. Clair.
13. Captain Nathan Pearce of Ritzema's Regiment was dismissed from the service by General McDougall. Lieutenant David Baldwin was then appointed captain in his place. *A weekly return of ye 3rd Regiment of New York Forces Commanded by Colonel Ritzema. Sept^r 20th 1776.* FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 69, Folder 39, National Archives, Washington, D.C.