

Pension Application for Nathan Durkee, Durgy, etc.

S.22743

State of New York

On this 4th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court before us the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Washington and State aforesaid now sitting Nathan Durkee a resident of the town of Fort Edward County of Washington and State of New York aged seventy two years the first day of May last 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 while he lived in the town of Fort Edward aforesaid, and in the month of June A.D. 1775 the Militia were called out in mass under the direction of a town committee and under the command of Alexander Campbell who was appointed by the inhabitants of the said town for the time being as the Militia were not organized at that time and he was ordered to march for Ticonderoga he with the rest did march about twenty miles and was discharged by the said Alexander Campbell (1) who shortly after went over to the enemy and remained there and he this declarant was out four days at this time.

And he further states that while he resided in Fort Edward aforesaid and in the month of August and on the first day August A.D. 1777 he with all the inhabitants fled and left the Country from before Gen. Burgoyne's (2) Army and with his Father's family moved to the town of Washington County of Litchfield and State of Connecticut and on the 15th day of November A.D. 1777 he and all the family moved back to Fort Edward aforesaid and while living at fort Edward and in the month of May A.D. 1778 he volunteered and entered the service under the command of Lieut Noah Payn (3) commandant on the account of storms which was almost continually during the spring and summer and by the order and command of Col. Seth Warner (4) and his officer who were stationed at Fort Edward he was imployed [employed] and sent out in Scouting parties to the several places where the necessities of the same required as those parts of the country was harassed by the Indians and Tories constantly he continued in the service until in the month of September when he was discharged by parole.

And he further states that he was in the service at this time four months and performed his duty as a private soldier that during this campaign & in August [Parkes?] family were killed by the enemy.

And this declarant further saith that while he lived in Fort Edward aforesaid and immediately after his return and in the month of Sept. A.D. 1778 the same year as above he was drafted in the New York Militia for three months and entered the service under the command of Capt Stockwell (5) and Lieut Thomas Boggs (6) and was marched to Skeensborough near WhiteHall where he was stationed and sent out in Scouting parties to & about Lake George—Ticonderoga, Crown Point on Lake Champlain that the British kept a guard ship about five miles below Crown Point on Lake Champlain and he was sent there very frequently to watch their movements and he continued in the service until the last of December when his time expired and was discharged by parole. That he served at this time three months as a private soldier.

And this declarant further saith that while he lived in Fort Edward aforesaid and in the month of January following A.D. 1779 he was again drafted in the New York Militia for three months and entered the service under the command of Lieut Thomas Bradshaw (7) commandant and was marched back to Skeensboroug [sic] now WhiteHall and stationed as a

guard and remained there until the month of April where he had served and performed his duty as a private soldier three months and was discharged by parole.

And he further saith that while he resided at Fort Edward aforesaid and immediately on his return in the month of April A.D. 1779 he volunteered and entered the service as one of the new Levies or State Troops York Line under the command of Capt. Shipman (8) and Joined Col. Warners Reg. in the Continental Line and was stationed at Fort Edward that he was generally employed in the scouting service as a guide and frequently commanded the party having a more correct and General knowledge of the wood and Country.

And some time the latter part of August 1779 he with fifteen others were detached and sent up the Hudson river to make some discoveries of a party of Indians and Tories that were there committing their inhuman murders and to give them battle or take them prisoners of war they pursued and traced [sic, tracked] them twelve miles up the river where they crossed over to the opposite side of the said river. That they were so near them that the water was still muddy as they arrived.

The party or detachment was ordered to return he was marched back and on his way with others called at a house near Roger's Ferry and found that the family had left and gone to some other place for safety as the alarms had occasioned much excitement and they were Whigs and the husband and Father Isaac Doty (9) was then and at that time a Lieut. In Col. Warners Reg. and as he entered the house he found Milk and being thirsty he drank it and immediately was taken very sick was not able to make the Fort about a half a mile he was therefore carried into the Fort when relating the circumstances the remainder of the Milk was sent for and brought Doct'r Washburn (10) the surgeon of Col. Warner Reg. soon discovered it had been poisoned and gave a portion of it to a calf and it died immediately, it was generally believed the enemy had poisoned the milk to destroy the family—it was afterwards ascertained that even in the field cucumbers on the vine were also poisoned. He was sick and put in the hospital from the effects of the poison and was not able to do his duty for seven months he then went to his duty but was feeble and unwell, he remained in the Levies until in the month of July A.D. 1780 and found he was so much out of health and feeble he sought to be discharged & was discharged by parole.

And he further saith he was in the service at this time fourteen months and returned home sick and did not recover his health so as to do a days work for two years. Afterwards and he verily believes has not been entirely well & free from the effects of the poison since.

And this deponent further saith he lived in the town of Fort Edward in the revolutionary war and has lived there ever since where he now lives.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except by the affidavits of Soloman Durkee and Lydia Bristol who are now dead and whose are hereto annexed affidavits which was taken in their life time and accompanied his testimony to Congress and Lydius Durkee (11) whose affidavit is also annexed.

That there is no clergyman residing in the neighborhood where he lives and knows his character as a soldier.

1. That he was born in the town of Washington County of Litchfield and State of Connecticut in the year of 1760.
2. That there is a record of his age in his bible [sic] and does not know of any other record.
3. That when he was called into the service he lived in the town of Fort Edward and since the Revolutionary War he has lived in the town of Fort Edward and still lives there.
4. That he entered the service as a volunteer and was drafted.

5. That the names of the officer and regiments he has mentioned in the body of his declaration as fully as he can remember with particular recollection and that there were but his regiment in these parts.
6. That he never received a written discharge.
7. That he is known in his present neighborhood by Nathaniel Pitcher, Esqr., John F. Gendall, Timothy Eddy, Samuel Bennet, Warren Bell, Esqr., and many others who can testify to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He herby 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 or Territory [Territory]. (Signed) Nathan Durkee

Subscribed and sworn the day and year aforesaid the day and year aforesaid. J.S. Leigh, Clk

End Notes—S.22743—Nathan Durkee

1. Alexander Campbell was appointed Captain of the Argyle District Company on September 29, 1775 in Colonel John Williams First Regiment of Charlotte County Militia. Campbell was then appointed the Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment on February 19, 1776. Sometime there after he fled to Canada.
2. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne commanded an invasion force of about 7,000 men from Canada via the Hudson River Valley towards Albany.
3. Noah Pain was the first lieutenant in Captain John McNeal's Company in Colonel William's Regiment. McNeal's appointment was annulled, because he had joined the enemy in 1777, and since returned to the state. Lieutenant Pain then served in Captain Edward Long's Company in Colonel Williams' Regiment.
4. Seth Warner was the Colonel of one of the sixteen additional Continental regiments. The regiment was un-numbered and served from the Fort Edward area to Fort George area. Lieutenant Pain was not part of Warner's Regiment but as a Continental Officer he would be the senior ranking colonel most of the time and the militia would be serving at those posts with his regiment.
5. Levi Stockwell was not commissioned a Captain in the First Regiment of Charlotte County Militia until April 12, 1782. He may have been appointed as early as 1778 as a captain but as he served as a captain in the levies in 1779 and 1780 he would not have been in the militia.
6. Thomas Boggs served as a lieutenant in Captain John Barnes Company of Rangers in the Fort Ann area in 1776. He was appointed a lieutenant in Captain Elijah Tozer's Company on April 4, 1778 in Colonel William's Regiment. He was appointed lieutenant in 1779 in Colonel Henry K. VanRensselaer's Regiment of New York State Levies. Lieutenant Boggs served under Captain Stockwell with about 15 men that were paid as levies to guard Skeenesborough and the surrounding area from January to April of 1780.
7. Thomas Bradshaw was appointed the first lieutenant in Captain Nehemiah Seely's Company on February 6, 1779 in Colonel William's Regiment. On June 6, 1780 he was appointed as lieutenant in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies.
8. John Chipman was appointed Captain in Harper's Regiment in 1780 and then was appointed major of the regiment on June 16, 1780. In late August, John was appointed Captain in Colonel Seth Warner's Continental Regiment. Nathaniel's name was not found in Harper's or Warner's Regiments.

9. Isaac Doty was commissioned second lieutenant on June 22, 1778, in Captain Peter Winne's Company in Colonel John McCrea's Thirteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia. Fort Edward would have been in McCrea's Militia district. Doty was not in Warner's Regiment. Doty was appointed to command pilots or scouting parties from August 29 to November 25, 1779. Besides Doty there was Sergeant Daniel Park, Privates Elijah Dunham, Samuel Stewart, and Nathaniel Fuller. FROM: Audited Accounts, Vol. B., Page 245, Special Collections and Manuscripts, New York State Library, Albany, New York. Doty and Parks were from Colonel McCrea's Regiment and the remainder were from Captain Edward Long's Company in Colonel Williams' Regiment.
10. Dr. Azel Washburn was appointed surgeon on October 1, 1776 in Colonel Warner's Regiment.
11. Lydius or Leddius, Durkee served as a private in Captain Long's Company with Nathan in Colonel Williams' and then later Colonel Webster's Regiment. Nathan had one certificate No. 8373 for £1. . 19. . 1 on Colonel Webster's Receipt Roll. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 77, folder 168, National Archives, Washington D.C.