This is the story of a young patriot during the founding of America. He served as a Minute Man (1775), a Militia Man (1776-1777-1779), as a member of the NY Line (1778), and in the Levi's (1780).

Joseph Elder was of Scotch Irish ancestry...who his father was, is something our family has looked for for over 75 years... without success. Our best guess was that he was born in 1757 in Ulster County New York. He died in 1829 and his gravestone still exists today, not far from Montgomery, New York. The Medallion above is the one pictured below on the gravestone in a 1944 picture.

Update 9/11/13
Recent DNA testing has shown the Joseph Elder is a descendant of the Paxtang Elders of Paxtang PA. One of their notable descendants is "The fighting Parson" John Elder who likely was an uncle. Joseph Elders maternal side included the Scotch Presbyterian Minister Joseph Houston (d1740) of the Goodwill Church in Montgomery NY. So a church connection is not unsurprising.

http://elderfamilytreednablog.blogspot.com/
Memory of
JOSEPH BLIDEROSE
who died
March 19, 1829.
aged 71 years
9 months &
26 days.
The War of the Revolution

Most people don't have the chronology of the War of the Revolution at their fingertips. George Washington, Paul Revere, Benedict Arnold, and "The British are coming"....are back in our school years. While tracing Joseph Elder's footsteps during this time it has also created a fine illustration of the sequence of events during the War.

"Go he must or be called a tory....."

1775

The year of Paul Revere and "the British are coming".... The British are in Boston along with the local inhabitants, some loyalist, some patriot. As hostilities erupt with Lexington and Concord, one of the early American organizations was Minutemen...first responders made up of 20-25% of the local Militia troops. As word of hostilities in Boston spread other states took up the idea of minutemen even though there were no British troops in their area. Additionally, local communities were splitting up accordingly whether they were going to be loyalists or patriots. In lower New York State there were "Committee's of Safety". There were members of the communities who signed up to Committee of Safety and those who did not sign were noted as well. This was an early indicator of who was going to be either Patriot or Tory.
Joseph Elder

Appears with the rank of

List

of those Who Turned out of Cap' Jackson's Compy
for Minute men & Served 4 months in Said
Duty & Likewise those Belonging to S' Compy
who Did Not turn out as minute men

(Revolutionary War)

dated, Not dated

.........................................., 1775,

(under the head of, "those who turned out minute
men & Did not Serve at N. windsor—Viz")

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List of those who turned out of Capt. Jackson's company for Minutemen. Served 4 months on said duty and likewise those belonging to company who did not turn out as minutemen. Turned out minutemen served month...the names that follows... Cpt William Jackson *
????? 2
Lt ? James McBride *
Ensign Andrew Neely
James McCloughry *
Sgt William Walton
Sgt William Graham
Sgt Robert Shuler
Sgt Thomas Barkley *
Private
Abraham Neely *
Joseph Houston *
James Houston *
Charles Young
William Barber
James Monell sr *
? Moor
James Monell *
?re ? Conger
? Me Beef *
John Trimble
David Johnson
Alex Bodie *
John Mead
Thomas MccAllen
David Yeoman *
? Latta
Wm Buchanan *
Henry Patterson
? McBride
Zacharia Covington
Nathan Campble
Robert Anderson
Wm Davis
John Blake *
John Black
Bob Black
David Monnel *
James Straham
Jacob Be?*
Thomas ?aroch
Robert Samplo
Andrew Hast
Thomas McKellum??
James Gibson
Daniel Reed
Robert McGleughghan
Robert McCuthan

Adam Douglas
John Milbourne
Robert Milbourne
Johanas Miller
James Master
John Davidson
James McMaster??
John Owen *
Tunis Van Andale *
Charles Hains

Those who turned out Minutemen and did not serve New Windsor NY

Henry Neely
Robert Munell (Monnel) *
Wm Moor
Andrew Wilson
George Smith
Joseph Elder *
Paul Yachell
Thomas Yeats
Samuel Campbell
John Harris
Hugh Sutherland
Sam McCollum
John ???brook
Zoesty Hass
Robert McCulchan?
Samuel Miller

* thought to be in Joe Elder family tree

From a handwritten muster list in the National Archives

Those following are those belonging to said Company who have not as yet turned out for minutemen

Capt Jackson Minuteman Roll
Joseph Elder is the 11th name counting from the bottom center. The column he is listed under is "Those who turned out minutemen and did not serve at New Windsor NY". The upper left header is "those who turned out and served", and the right is "those who haven't turned out for minute men". These records are contained in the national archives in Washington D.C. There was no particular military activity in New York in 1775, the British were still in Boston.

1776
The red line follows Joseph Elder's travels in 1776, it is possible he made it as far south as Long Island.

In March of 1776 the British left Boston. They knew they could not win the War being based in Boston. Their grand plan was to take New York City, have their forces move up the North River (now called the Hudson), and have their northern forces (mainly Burgoyne) come down from Canada through Lake Champlain and come south down the North River. Once the forces met this would effectively divide the colonies, splitting New England from the everything southwest of New York City, and thus the rebellion in the colonies would fail.

The British landed their forces in Staten Island and Long Island in late June and early July 1776. They gathered in Brooklyn across the East River from lower Manhattan. On August 27, 1776 the largest battle of the war called Battle of Long Island left George Washington with most of his troops trapped in the area of the present day Brooklyn Bridge. Washington managed to evacuate all of his troops across the East River at night without losing a man. On September 15, the British Commander General Howe \textit{landed about 12,000 men} on lower Manhattan, quickly taking control of New York City. The Americans withdrew to Harlem, where they \textit{skirmished the next day}, but held their ground.\footnote{http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_New_Jersey_campaign} Rather than attempting to dislodge Washington from his strong position a second time, Howe again opted for a flanking maneuver. Landing troops \textit{with some opposition} in October in Westchester County, he sought once again to \textit{encircle} Washington. To defend against this move, Washington withdrew most of his army to White Plains, where \textit{after a short battle} on October 28 he retreated further north. This isolated the remaining Continental Army troops in upper Manhattan, so Howe returned to Manhattan and \textit{captured Fort Washington} in mid November, taking almost 3,000 prisoners. Four days later, Fort Lee, across the Hudson River from Fort Washington, was also taken. Washington brought much of his army across the Hudson into New Jersey, but was immediately forced to retreat by the aggressive British advance.\footnote{http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_New_Jersey_campaign}

Joseph Elder, and the militias of Ulster County marched August 7th and proceeded from
Newburg New York, sailed on sloops to Peekskill, and then on foot to Kingsbridge.

Joseph Elder's wife was applying for a pension in the 1830's.... since actual muster/pay records were often incomplete or missing, it was common practice to have other soldiers provide affidavits of service to account for their time. These have been transcribed from their 1800 hand written format to what you see here. The one following here is from Robert McGlouchlan giving a deposition for Joe Elder covering the time from Newburg to Kingsbridge until leaving New York City to White Plains, and then discharge at Fort Constitution opposite West Point.
The following Muster Roll shows Joseph Elder in Harlem on August 26th 1776, a 5'11" Blacksmith from Ulster County. A detachment had left the Militia in Kings Bridge and marched south. It is speculation and a bit of an educated guess if Joseph Elder made it further south, however once one would have been
assigned to a detachment moving south of the main force, it would seem logical that they remained together as a unit.
Muster Roll

of Captain James Milliken's Co. of State Troops selected from the Militia of Ulster County for the defence of the State of New York by order of the Convention of said State dated the 16th of July, 1776,

Revolutionary War,

dated Kaesengen Aug. 26, 1776.

Joseph Elders

Ages

Co. enlisted out of Ulster

Where born Bessie

Trade Smith

Height 5' 11

Reg't out of Clinton

Complexion Fair

Colour of hair Light

Colour of eyes Blue

Time of enlistment July 2, 17

Marched July 7, 17

Remarks:

(5425)
The night of August 29th, was when Washington evacuated his troops from the Eastern side of the Brooklyn Bridge to Manhattan.

- from Wikipedia -
Washington and the army were surrounded on Brooklyn Heights with the East River to their backs.[74] As the day went on, the British began to dig trenches, slowly coming closer and closer to the American defenses. By doing this, the British would not have to cross over open ground to assault the American defenses as they did in Boston the year before.[77] Despite this perilous situation, Washington ordered 1,200 more men from Manhattan to Brooklyn on August 28.[76] The men that came over were two Pennsylvania regiments and Colonel John Glover's regiment from Marblehead, Massachusetts.

It is a guess if Joseph Elder made it south of Harlem as a reinforcement to the Battle of Brooklyn or as part of the evacuation, however one of his contemporaries in the same unit, Elnathan Sears, has an affidavit stating that he (Elnathan) made it to Long Island.

The following affidavit is one from Elnathan Sears for Robert McGloughlan and one from John McMicheal for Robert McGloughlan covering the same time period. Robert McGloughlan gave the previous affidavit (above) saying that Joseph Elder was with him. So this is two other soldiers saying that Robert was with them. They were discharged on Constitution Island on December 25th 1776 (from another affidavit) after serving almost 6 months on a 5 month callout. Elnathan Sears states "said company being stationed at or near Kingsbridge a detachment was taken from said regiment of which this deponent was on and taken to Long Island a few days before the retreat from Long Island"...
State of New York

Sullivan County 1 Elhanathan Sears of the town of Mamakating and County aforesaid being duly sworn deposeseth and saith that in the fore part of the year 1776 he enlisted for five months in a company commanded by Captain Milliken under Col Pauling and that he serve out said five months and also one month three or five days in addition hereto making in all six months and three or five days of service in one continuous term of service and that Robert McCloughlan personally and well known to this deponent served in the same company the same length of time with this deponent the circumstances of which being distinctly in the recollection of this deponent were as follows. The said company being stationed at or near Kingsbridge a detachment was taken from said regiment of which this deponent was one and taken to Long Island a few days before the retreat from Long island after which retreat said detachment being restored, said company was marched to White Plains with the rest of said regiment and was there at the time of the White Plains Battle, at which time or not varying more than two or three days or thereabouts said term of five months service expired which explained before said regiment left White Plains, that said regiment was marched thence from Peekskill where said regiment was detained and kept in service as a guard and protection against two British frigates and a tender then lying in the North River in sight until relieved by a body of militia which was ten days or more after their arrival at Peekskill. That from Peekskill said regiment was removed to Fort Constitution on the East side of said river opposite West Point where it was continued repairing the fort until the British ships returned down the river in consequence of ice making in the river at which time the men of said regiment being furnished with small boats proceeded according to orders to New Windsor where they were to be discharged and paid but in consequence of the ice were obliged to land at Murderers Creek a little below New Windsor where said regiment was discharged and paid for six months service and deponent well recollects that some of said men found fault because they were not paid for the odd days over six months.

And this deponent further saith that he served in Captain Wm Faulkner's Company under Col McCloughrey in 1777 at Fort Clinton adjacent or forming a part of what was called Fort Montgomery and so served at that place three months and some days next proceeding the taking of said Fort when he was taken prisoner. That during this time he was personally acquainted with said Robert McCloughlan who served as a soldier at Fort Montgomery for at least two months of the time above stated, under one Captain Barnet, that whether said Barnet was under Col McCloughrey or Col Dubois this deponent is not certain but well recollects that Col Dubois was stationed at Fort Montgomery strictly so called and that said Barnet was also stationed there at said Fort Montgomery as distinguished from Fort Clinton. That this deponent then and ever understood and was informed that said Robert was serving and did serve under an enlistment or engagement of three months — and deponent also say that for some portion of the three months service of said Robert he well recollects said Robert had a substitute (his father) by the two months service mentioned above performed by said Robert personally that this deponent in consequence of his former acquaintance and service with said Robert was at this time intimate with said Robert and more or less in company with him every day or two and is therefore the more clear and distinct knowledge and recollection of the matters above stated.
This deponent further state that in the Revolutionary War and until the death of Captain William Crop about or upwards of twenty years since he was well acquainted with said Crop and well recollect Crop serving as Captain under Col. Johannis Handenbergh in the Revolutionary war and that since death of said Crop this deponent has examined at the house of said Crop the old papers left by found on what purports to be and what this deponent believes to be the military papers of said Crop that by entries and memoranda made therein said Robert served at different times in the said Crop on what was called the frontiers that the dates and times of service were entered in which deponent can not now recollect or state and therefore this deponent is unable to state how long said last mentioned term or terms of service continued or were performed.

El Nathan Sears
August 12 1835

State of New York

Orange County John McMichael of Newburgh in said county being duly sworn says that he was five years of age in November last that he was a soldier and served as a private in a company the state of New York in the Revolutionary War that said Company was commanded by Capt Tilford, James Faulkner first and Alexander Beatty second lieutenants that said company belon McCloudy’s regiment, that this deponent was first called into the service of the United States month of March in the year 1777. That immediately after the taking of Fort on the Hudson River was on the sixth day of October in the year 1777, said company was called out to Fort Montgomery to defend the inhabitants in that section can that said company was in service in this tour one month during said time said company removed to New Windsor and was dismissed from this tour of the place last aforesaid. That this deponent has been acquainted with Robert McCloudhan from his childhood and is now acquainted with him. And that he knows that said Robert McCloudhan was a private soldier in the aforesaid company of militia and served thence the term of one month 1777 at Fort Montgomery along the Hudson River and at New Windsor and that said McCloudhan this deponent were both discharged at the same time and that this deponent knows by reputation said McCloudhan served at other times and places in the army during the Revolutionary War of his service was done in company with this deponent except the service before mentioned deponent while at Fort Montgomery aforesaid knew a Lieutenant Burnet?? Who was there a in the regular service and was attached to Col. Dubois regiment that said Burnet was afterwards promoted to be a Captain and that this deponent believes that said Burnet is the person referred to Robert McCloudhan in his declaration and affidavit made for the purpose of obtaining a pension said McCloudhan must have been mistaken in the name of his Captain that this deponent knows that Robert did serve at the places aforesaid on month in Captain Tilfords company of militia and not.

John McMichael

The Battle of Harlem Heights was September 16, as Washington retreated North up Manhattan.


Washington retreated north up Manhattan leaving 3,000 troops at Fort Washington (the western end of the present day George Washington Bridge), and took his main army and the New York, New England militias to White Plains. After the Battle of White Plains where Joseph, Robert, and Elnathan were, George Washington took his troops to Peekskill, on the east side of the river below West Point. George Washington split off the New England and New York state militias and left them to defend the river. George Washington crossed the river and headed to Trenton for his famous Christmas raid.


The militia men left behind guarded the river and assisted in building fortifications. Joseph and company were in Peekskill from mid November, and made their way to Constitution Island in December. As Elnathan states "to guard against two British frigates and a tender"... Robert McGlochlan, Elnathan Sears, and Joseph Elder were discharged here on Christmas Day 1776. Because of ice in the river they debarked at Moodna Creek, not New Windsor, and walked back to their homes. Hardy souls.

The following picture is looking east from the west shore of the North River (Hudson)...West Point is in the fore ground on the West side (Hence the name West Point)...Constitution Island is the wooded area surrounded by Marsh across the river. The white is ice in the river.
This is the West shore of the Hudson about 7 miles north of West Point looking North. They were supposed to debark from their small boats in New Windsor further north a few miles on the West side. Because of ice in the river they debarked at the Moodna creek which is just behind the tree in the foreground.
1777

At the end of 1776 the British were in full possession of New York City and they did not leave until November 25, 1783. Referred to as "Evacuation Day". It was celebrated in New York until World War I when America renewed their relations with the British. However in 1777, the British had New York City and had designs on controlling the North River all the way to Canada.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Montgomery_(Hudson_River)

This is Joseph Elders travels for 1777. After being discharged on December 25 1776, Joseph Elder serves in January, February, and March defending the New York / New Jersey border, then marching back through Ft Clinton presumably to assist in building fortifications.
In 1777 the British made a number of excursions north of the city in preparation for joining with their Canadian forces. The Americans
were going to defend the North River (the Hudson) at the narrow gap of the Peekskills. Forts Clinton and Montgomery on the West shore near present day Bear Mountain, and Fort Constitution on the east shore. Two chains were laid on floating rafts by Fort Montgomery, and the "Great Chain" went from West Point to Fort Constitution. There were a number of alarms during the summer of 1777 as the British came near the Peekskills.

The following is an excerpt from "Evacuation Day" (November 25 1783). It was written to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Evacuation Day. It is only about 55 pages, and a worthy read. It starts with the British taking New York City, describes how the patriots left the city and went to the countryside and their eventual return to New York City. This excerpt addresses their arrival in the countryside, and the Battle of Fort Montgomery, 3,000 British and Hessians vs 600 patriots.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moodna_Creek

Murdner's Creek, or Murderer's Creek, now called Moodna Creek (Dutch for Murder), is on the west side of the Hudson between West Point and New Windsor, and flows from the "W" in Windsor on the map above into the Hudson. The VanArsdale party sailed from the "N" in New York (City), to the mouth of the Moodna (north of West Point), and then up near the "W" in Windsor. It was then a 12 mile walk to Tuenis VanArsdales forge. It's the same creek referenced in the 1776 affidavit for their place of discharge for service in 1776.

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/33419/33419-h/33419-h.htm
"Evacuation Day,"
1783,
it's
MANY STIRRING EVENTS:
WITH
RECOLLECTIONS
OF
CAPT. JOHN VAN ARSDALE.
OF THE VETERAN CORPS OF ARTILLERY,
BY WHOSE EFFORTS ON THAT DAY
THE ENEMY WERE CIRCUMVENTED,
AND
THE AMERICAN FLAG SUCCESSFULLY RAISED ON THE BATTERY.
WITH ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

BY
JAMES RIKER,
Author of the Annals of Newtown, and History of Harlem; Life Member of the
New York Historical Society, Etc.

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.
NEW YORK
1883.
concentrating troops, in order to oppose the royal forces expected from Europe. Here he assisted his father on board the schooner in sinking the obstructions in the Hudson, as before noticed, and when the enemy captured the city, accompanied him to Orange County. It was on Sept. 16th, 1776, that the British forces landed at Kip's Bay, on the east side of the island, three miles out of the city. A great many of the citizens who were friends of their country, made a precipitate flight, and the roads were lined with vehicles of every kind, removing furniture, etc. The elder Van Arsdale, with difficulty, and only by paying down $200, got the use of a horse and wagon to take his family and effects from his house to the schooner lying in Stryker's Bay. While drawing a load, a spent cannon ball knocked off one of the wagon wheels, at which his little son Cornelius, but eight years old, was so frightened that he never forgot it. The schooner was crowded to excess with citizens and their families, all eager to get away, and for fear they might sink her, Capt. Van Arsdale was obliged to turn off some who applied for a passage. They left deeply loaded, and in their haste were obliged to take with them a lot of military stores which were on board. Arriving at Murhner's Creek, John, at his father's request, and taking his brother Abraham, set out afoot for Neelytown, to inform their brother Tunis of their arrival. The journey of twelve miles seemed short, and ere long the well-known farmhouse hove in sight, seated a little way back, and to which led a lane between rows of young cherry trees, and near it on the road the low, dusky smith-shop, with its debris of cinders, old wheels and broken iron-work strewn about. Entering, as Tunis, with his back towards them, stood at the forge heating his iron, and his assistant, Alick Bodle, lazily blowing the bellows, the first surprise was only surpassed, when after hearty greetings, they imparted the startling news of the capture of New York by the British, and that their father, having barely escaped with his vessel, had arrived at the Creek. At once out went the fire, and out went Tunis also to harness his horses, in order to go and bring up the rest of the family; but on second thought, as the day was far spent, he concluded to await the morrow. The next day there was a joyous reunion at the farmhouse, but tempered with many sad comments upon the dolorous situation.

John spent the winter with his brother Tunis, aiding in farm work and at the forge; he had just reached his majority, and found congenial spirits in Alexander Bodle and Joseph Elder, then serving apprenticeships with Tunis, and afterwards much respected residents of Orange County. Around the evening fireside they indulged in many a joke, when laughter made the welkin ring, or behind the well-fed pacers, were borne in the clumsy
box sled, with the gingle of merry bells, to the rustic frolic; but the bounds of decorum were never exceeded, and lips which could tell all about it, bore us pleasing witness to Van Arsdale’s correct habits and deportment at a stage of life so beset with syren snares for the unwary, and which commonly moulds the character.

But nevertheless the winter was one of great military activity, especially among the organized militia of Orange County, in which (in the town of New Windsor) was the sub-district of Little Britain, the home of the Clintons;* the menacing attitude of the enemy under Lord Howe, who had approached as near as Hackensack, and the protection of the passes of the Highlands, requiring frequent calls upon the yeomanry to take the field. The inhabitants of Hanover Precinct, which precinct joined on New Windsor, had from the first shown great spirit; their Association, dated May 8th, 1775, in which they pledge their support to the Continental Congress, &c., in resisting “the several arbitrary and oppressive acts of the British Parliament,” and “in the most solemn manner resolve never to become slaves,” is signed first by Dr. Charles Clinton and presents 342 names. The Precinct in the winter of 1776–7, contained four militia companies, under Captains Matthew Felter, James Milliken, Hendrick Van Keuren and James McBride, and these were attached to a regiment of which that sterling patriot, James McLaughry, of Little Britain, brother in law to the Clintons, was lieutenant colonel commandant; Tunis and John Van Arsdale lived in Capt. Van Keuren’s boat. The Captain was a veteran of the last French war, and it gave him prestige, in the command to which he had been recently promoted. He had “warmly espoused the cause of his country, and evinced unshaken firmness throughout the whole of the contest.” Col. McLaughry had taken the field with his regiment early in the winter, proceeding down into Jersey, and of which, on his return, Jan. 1st, he gave a humorous account to Gen. Clinton; but though highly probable, we have no positive evidence that John Van Arsdale went into actual service till the spring opened.

Forts Montgomery and Clinton, begun in 1775, stood on the west side of the Hudson, opposite Anthony’s Nose, at a very important pass, where the river was narrow, easily obstructed, and

* To avoid confusion, we speak here and elsewhere of Orange County as now organized. Previous to 1798, it embraced the present Rockland County, while the town of New Windsor, and all those towns lying to the north of a line running west from the southern boundary of New Windsor belonged to Ulster County. Of course, Little Britain, and the Precinct of Hanover were then in Ulster.

† James Clinton had been colonel of this regiment, till appointed a brigadier general.
from the elevation which the forts occupied, was commanded a
great distance up and down. Fort Clinton was below Fort
Montgomery, distant only about six hundred yards, the
Poplopen Kill running through a ravine between them; the
fortress was small, but more complete than Fort Montgomery,
and stood at a greater elevation, being 23 feet the highest, and
123 feet above the river. These posts were distant (southeast)
from the Clinton mansion only about sixteen miles. The two
fortresses required a thousand men for their proper defense, but
till early in 1777, had usually been in charge of a very small
force under Gen. James Clinton. The time of these soldiers
expiring on the last day of March, Col. Lewis Dubois, with
the Fifth New York Regiment was sent to garrison Fort
Montgomery.

A meeting of the field officers of Orange and Ulster, was held
at Mrs. Falls’ in Little Britain, March 31st, 1777, pursuant to a
resolve of the New York Convention empowering General George
Clinton, lately appointed commandant of the forts in the High-
lands, to call out the militia “to defend this State against the
incursions of our implacable enemies, and reinforce the garri-
sions of Fort Montgomery, defend the post of Sidham’s Bridge
(near Hackensack), and afford protection to the distressed inhab-
ittants.” It was there resolved, with great spirit, to call one-third
of each of the several regiments into actual service, to the num-ber of 1,200, and to form them into three temporary regiments,
of which two should garrison Fort Montgomery, under Colonel
Levi Pawling (with Lt. Col. McCloughry), and Col. Johannes
Snyder. As the men were raised they were to march in detach-
ments to that post, and were to serve till August 1st, and receive
continental pay and rations. Each captain was forthwith direct-
ed to raise his quota, and “in the most just and equitable
manner.”

John Van Arsdale was among those chosen from his beat, and
sometime in April, borrowing from his brother an old but trusty
musket, proceeded to Fort Montgomery. Being of a resolute,
active temperament, with a knowledge of tactics, and an aptness
to command, he was made a corporal; an evidence of the good
opinion entertained of him by his officers, flattering to one of
his years. It was also in his favor that he was a good penman,
and had acquired a fair English education for the times.
Drilling his squad, placing and relieving the guards, and
other daily routine duty, gave our young corporal enough
do to, while the courts for the trial of some notorious
tories, held at that post, during the spring and summer, added
to frequent alarms due to indications that the enemy from below
meditated an attack upon the forts, kept everything lively. On
July 2nd, Gen. Clinton, upon a hint from Washington that Lord Howe, in order to favor Burgoyne, might attempt to seize the passes of the Highlands, and "make him a very hasty visit," with which view, accounts given by deserters from New York coincided; immediately repaired to Fort Montgomery, after first ordering to that post the full regiment of Col. McClaughry, with those of Colonels William Allison, Jesse Woodhull, and Jonathan Hasbrouck. The militia came in with great alacrity, almost to a man. But ten days passed without a sign of the enemy. Parties went daily on the Dunderbergh (Thunder Mountain) to look down the river, but could not see a single vessel; then, as usual, when there was no immediate prospect of any thing to do, the transient militia became uneasy, and were allowed to go home in the belief that they would turn out more cheerfully the next time.

But as the term of service of those called out in April expired on August 1st, on that date another call was made by Gov. Clinton on the respective regiments, to make up eight companies, by ballot or other equitable mode, and to march with due expedition to Fort Montgomery, and there put themselves under command of Colonel Allison, with McClaughry as his Lieutenant Colonel. They were to draw continental pay, etc. In this instance no immediate danger being apprehended, the militia did not respond very promptly, although much needed to replace part of the continental force which had been withdrawn for other service. Again, on August 5th, Clinton, by virtue of threatening news from Gen. Washington, directed Allison and McClaughry to march all the militia to Fort Montgomery, except the frontier companies, which were to be left for home protection. But repeated orders to urge them forward were but partially successful. September closed, the quotas were far from complete, orders then issued by Allison, McClaughry, and Hasbrouck (by direction of Clinton) for half their regiments to repair to Fort Montgomery were but slowly complied with, and the delay was fatal! Van Arsdale had re-enlisted and held his former position. It was at this time that he made the acquaintance of Nathaniel Sears, and which ripened into friendship under very trying circumstances.

Forts Montgomery and Clinton at this date mounted thirty-two cannon, rating from 6 to 32 pounders. The garrison consisted of two companies of Col. John Lamb's artillery, under Capts. Andrew Moodie and Jonathan Brown (one in each fort) and parts of the regiments ofCols. Dubois, Allison, Hasbrouck, Woodhull and McClaughry with a very few from other regiments. Thus matters stood on Sunday, October 5th, 1777.

Hark! what bustling haste—of people running to and fro,—has suddenly disturbed the Sabbath evening's repose at Neely-
town? Tidings have just reached them that the enemy’s vessels are ascending the Hudson with the obvious design of attacking Fort Montgomery and the neighboring posts. The orders are for every man able to shoulder a musket to hasten to their assistance! This was grave intelligence for the inmates at the Van Arsdale home (and which may serve to represent many others), but the call of duty could not be disregarded. For most of the night the good wife was occupied in baking and putting up provisions for Tunis and his two apprentices to take with them, while these were as busy cleaning their muskets, moulding bullets, etc., that naught might be wanting for the stern business before them. Towards morning, taking one or two hours rest, they arose, equipped themselves, and made ready for the journey to the fort, which was full twenty miles distant. As the parting moment had come, the kind father kissed his three little ones tenderly, then uttered in the ear of his sorrowing Jennie the sad good-bye, and with the others hastened from the house, his wife attending him to the road, and weeping bitterly for she understood but too well that it might be the final parting. Her longing eyes followed them till they disappeared beyond an intervening hill. “Oh!” said she to the writer more than sixty years afterwards, as she related these facts, her eyes even then suffused with tears, “You may read of these things, but you can never feel them as I did. I wept much during those seven years.”

During the day, those whose kinsmen had gone to the battle met here and there in little bands to console with each other, and talk over the unhappy situation. Later, the boom of distant artillery awakened their worst fears, for now were they sure that those dear to them were engaged in a mortal conflict with the enemy. The shades of evening closing around, brought no relief to their burdened hearts; but, on the contrary, the most torturing suspense as to the issue of the battle. To make the situation more depressing, there came on a cold wind, and the dreariness without was a fit index of the desolate hearts within. At a late hour Mrs. Van Arsdale retired to her sleepless pillow; but her case found its counterpart in many an anxious household over a large section of country.

At length morning broke upon that unhappy neighborhood, and with it came persons from the battle bringing the appalling news that the Americans had been defeated, and many of them slain, or made prisoners, and that the enemy were in full possession of the forts. Then other parties arrived whose woe-stricken faces only confirmed the sad intelligence. Soon anxious inquiries sped from house to house where any lived who had escaped from the slaughter, to learn about this one and that, who had gone to the battle, but had not returned. Jennie could get no tidings of
her husband, though she spent the greater part of the day in watching on the road, and several times even fancied that she saw him coming; but alas! only to find it a delusion. It added to her fears for her husband, when a neighbor named Monsell, at whose house she called, met her with the sorrowful news that his brother, Robert Monsell, first lieutenant in Capt. Van Keuren’s company, had been killed in the battle. At length the apprentices arrived, their faces begrimed with powder, and one of them crying for his brother, who had been shot down by his side, and died instantly.* The other, who was Joseph Elder, before spoken of, a young man of giant frame, had narrowly escaped death, having his hat and jacket pierced with bullets in the engagement! But having been separated from Mr. Van Arsdale, they had not seen him since the battle, and so were ignorant as to his fate. The wretched woman was in despair; many of her neighbors had now returned and the prolonged absence of her Tunis seemed to forbid that he had either been killed or captured by the enemy. But now still others arrive, and she is led from their statements, to hope that Tunis has escaped, and is making his way homeward through the mountains. Her heart leaps with joy, and she returns to the house, and even indulges a laugh as her eye gets a sight of the mush kettle still hanging on the trammel, as she placed it there in the morning; no meal stirred in, and she having eaten nothing the whole day. Towards night Tunis arrived, on horseback, with his brother-in-law William Wear, who at Jennie’s request, had gone out some distance to look for him.†

He was fast asleep from exhaustion when they reached the house, (Wear behind him and holding him on the horse), and his face so

* Believed to have been James Thompson, whose brother John was killed at Fort Montgomery. Others slain in McCaughray’s regiment were Capt. James Milliken and Jacobus Rooza, Lieut. Nathaniel Milliken, and Privates Theophilus Corwin, David Benson, James Gage, David Halliday, etc.

† The Wears, respectable Protestants from the north of Ireland, were noted for longevity. William Wear, their ancestor, dying, his widow with two children, William and Jennie, emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1749, and thence in 1760 to the town of Montgomery. Mrs. Wear died at her daughter’s house December 3, 1803, aged 92 years. Her son William, named in the text, resided near Orange Lake, had a numerous family, and attained the age of 97 years. He died November 7, 1828, and was ancestor of William Wear, Esq. Mrs. Van Arsdale was born March 31, 1746, as maintained by her brother, who was much the oldest, and hence was in her 100th year at her decease, September 17, 1846. Her husband, Tunis, died April 9, 1813, aged 57 years. This worthy pair united with the Walkill Church in 1782. Mrs. V. was a woman of remarkable energy, and retained her faculties till the last, almost perfectly. Her memory extended back to the closing events in the life of Sta. Van Arsdale, her husband’s grandfather, and she lived to see his descendants of the sixth generation.
Joseph Elder came home with bullet holes in his jacket and hat........


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Montgomery_(Hudson_River)

Joseph Elder would have come from the north by the lake at the top of this map with Tuenis and another apprentice.....Tuenis escaped by getting down to the river and across to the east side. It is unknown how Joseph Elder escaped, however his apprentice partner was killed.

Orange County History - Russel Headly - 1908
The last paragraph describes Teunis VanArdsales forge as a meeting place for the patriots.
taken prisoner at the capture of Fort Montgomery; he lived at Ward's Bridge and afterwards built and lived in the house on Bridge street now owned by the estate of the late Jonathan M. Morrison.

Alexander Trimble was quarter-master of the Second Ulster Regiment in the War of the Revolution, and also a member of the Committee of Safety; he lived about two miles south of Goodwill Church on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. George VanAlst.

Johannes Moul (Mould), who lived about two miles north of Montgomery, where his great-great-grandson, Mr. John D. Mould, now lives, was a sergeant in the French and Indian War, and with his son, Johannes Moul, Jr., and his brother, Christopher Moul, were privates in Colonel McClaughry's Regiment in the Revolution. These three patriots also evinced their patriotism by loaning money to the Government when it was urgently needed to equip the army for the capture of Cornwallis.

James Milliken, a member of the Committee of Safety, lived on the east side of the Wallkill, where Mr. Harvey N. Smith now resides, was captain of one of the Hanover companies, and was killed at Fort Montgomery.

Hendricus Van Keuren was a veteran of the French and Indian War, who served throughout the Revolution as Captain, and according to family tradition, gratuitously lived on what is known as the Downs farm, between Montgomery and Goodwill church.

John Nicholson was Colonel of the Third N. Y. Regiment of the Continental Line, which was brigaded under General Richard Montgomery, and took part in the assault on Quebec when the brave Montgomery was killed. The privations and exposures of that campaign were so great that with impaired health he returned to his farm, near Maybrook, which is now divided, and owned by Mr. John Wiley and Mr. William H. Jewell.

Hamilton Morrison enlisted as soon as he was old enough, and served first as a private and then as a sergeant in Captain James McBride's company, Second Ulster County Militia. He lived about a mile south of Goodwill Church on what is known as the Morrison Homestead, now owned and occupied by his grandsons, Mr. George H. Morrison and Mr. John G. Morrison.

Tunis Van Arsdale lived on the adjoining farm (now a part of the homestead), and was a blacksmith. His shop was the rendezvous of the patriots in that vicinity. He was also a private in Captain Van Keuren's
company and saved his life at Fort Montgomery by slipping between the legs of a British soldier who was holding an American bayoneted against the wall of the fort, and escaped in the darkness.

John Van Arsdale, who lived with his elder brother, Tunis, enlisted in the Continental Army at the beginning of the war, and served faithfully until its close. He suffered intensely from cold and hardship in the Canada expedition, was severely wounded and taken prisoner at Fort Montgomery, languished many weary months in the "old sugar house" and in the foul hold of the "Jersey prison ship," was finally exchanged, and then braved the perils of Indian warfare in several campaigns. On November 25, 1783, he witnessed the evacuation of New York City by the British, which was the final triumph of the cause for which he and others had fought and suffered seven long years, and was present when the advancing Americans, following closely upon the retiring British, reached the Battery to perform the last formality in re-possessing the city, which was to unfurl the American flag over Fort George, but found the royal ensign still floating as usual over the Fort. The British had nailed their colors to the staff and taken away the halyards. In this dilemma John Van Arsdale ascended the flag-staff, partly by ladder, but mainly by shinning, tore down the British flag and rove the new halyards by which the Star Spangled Banner was quickly run up while the assembled thousands cheered, and the artillery boomed forth a national salute. While other localities may boast of those who struck the first blow for American freedom, Montgomery may justly claim for one of her sons the glory of removing the last vestige of British authority from this country.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN.

The town was originally organized under the name of Hanover Precinct in 1772. The present territory of Crawford was then included, the whole having been taken from the old Wallkill Precinct. In 1782 the name was changed to Montgomery Precinct, and seven years later it was finally changed to the town of Montgomery. This title was bestowed in honor of General Montgomery, who was killed in the assault upon Quebec in 1775. Major Colden was the supervisor of the old Wallkill precinct in 1768-69.

The record of the first town meeting, now on file in the town clerk's
As I write this it is Sunday October 7, 2012. I spent yesterday at the reenactment of the Battle of Fort Montgomery, held on its 235th anniversary. I have this picture in my files so I thought on the anniversary of Tuenis's return home from the Battle it would be appropriate to post it here.

The gravestone of Teunis and Jane Van Arsdale (dutch spelling Van Orsdol).
Jane is the person being interviewed by the writer of Evacuation Day. The writer was also related to some of the battles participants, and is of the same family that named and lived on Rikers Island.

from Evacuation Day ...

"Then Gov. Clinton told them to escape for their lives, when many fought their way out, or scrambled over the wall, and so got away. It must have fared badly with the rest, as the enemy after entering the fort continued to stab, knock down and kill our soldiers without pity. Favored by the darkness, Tunis attempted to escape through one of the entrances, though it was nearly blocked up by the assailing column, and the heaps of killed and wounded; but presently, as an English soldier held a militiaman bayoneted against the wall, Tunis, stooping down, slipped between the Briton's legs, and escaped around the fort toward the river. He said he had gone but a little way, when a cry of distress, evidently from a young person, arrested his attention. A poor boy, in making his escape, had fallen into a crevice in the rocks, and was unable to extricate himself. Tunis, at no little risk, crept down to where the lad was and drew him out, but in doing so hurt himself quite badly, by scraping one of his legs on a sharp rock. He then gained the river and found a skiff, in which he and two or three others crossed over. Then a party of them travelled in Indian file, through the darkness and cold drizzling rain, stopping once at the house of a friendly farmer, where they got some food, and as the day broke entered Fishkill; whence they crossed to New Windsor, and there met Gov. Clinton and many more who had made good their escape. All felt greatly dispirited, but the Governor tried to cheer them, remarking: "Well, my boys, we've been badly beaten this time, but have courage, the next time the day may be ours."

No wonder he was tired and fell off the horse at home on the Tuesday after the Battle. Thankyou Teunis, Elnathan, James, Alexander, John, Jane, Joseph et al....... Happy Anniversary..
Elanthan Sears and John Van Arsdale (brother of Teunis, Joseph's Blacksmith mentor) were captured at Fort Montgomery, Elnathan, after being shot in one leg and bayoneted in the other, they spent 10 months as prisoners of the British.

from Evacuation Day...

"When the battle had ended, and the enemy had set a guard, Corporal Van Arsdale, who had shown great spirit in the fight, and was among the last to cease firing, resolved not to be made a prisoner, and managed to escape from the fort; but he had only gone a short distance when he was shot in the calf of the leg, and seized by a British soldier while in the act of crossing a fence. He was conducted back into the fort, under a torrent of abuse from his captor, who threatened to take his life, and he himself expected instant death. His gun was demanded, and when delivered, the barrel was yet so hot from frequent firing that the soldier quickly dropped it, with another imprecation. Then the old musket, its last work so nobly done, was ruthlessly broken to pieces over the rocks. Van Arsdale and the other prisoners, two hundred and seventy-five in all, including twenty-eight officers, were kept under guard for a day or two at the forts, then put on board the British transports and taken to New York. "......Van Arsdale was taken sick about the 20th of December, and had the good fortune to be sent to the hospital, where he had some care, and soon recovered. Shortly after going there he was joined by Sears, who was in a suffering and helpless condition, his feet and legs having been badly frozen in the prisonship.

Fortunately Van Arsdale was getting better, so that he was of great service to his friend, and which also tended to divert his mind from his own misfortunes. "..." Words cannot portray the horrors of this prison, which was loathsome with filth and vermin, and where to the pangs of hunger and thirst, were aided the alternate extremes of heat and cold. Especially when the hatches were closed, as was always done at night, the heat and stench caused by the feverish breath of hundreds of prisoners became almost suffocating. Consequently dysentery,
smallpox and jail fever made fearful ravages. The ghastly faces of the starved and sick, and the pale corpses of the dead, the groans of the dying, the commingled voices of weeping, cursing and praying, joined to the ravings of the delirious; such were the shocking scenes to which Van Arsdale was a witness, and which added to his personal sufferings, made his situation one of the most appalling to be conceived of. Fitly was this dungeon described by one of its inmates as "a little epitome of Hell!" Kept near to starvation, Van Arsdale, when allowed with other prisoners, a few at a time, to go up on the quarter deck, was glad to eat the beans or crusts he skimmed from the swill kept there to feed pigs, that he might partially relieve the gnawings of hunger! But we forbear further comment upon a fruitful topic, the cruel treatment of the American prisoners, and which has fixed a stain upon the perpetrators never to be wiped out!.......Van Arsdale had dragged out some two months of miserable existence in the Sugar House, and in all nine months and a half as a prisoner, when the day of happy deliverance arrived. Gen. Washington had long been trying to effect an exchange of prisoners, but to overcome the scruples of the British commander took months of negotiation. Terms were at length agreed upon by which some six hundred Americans were set at liberty. On July 20th, Van Arsdale was released from his dungeon, and taken with others in a barge down the bay, and via the Kills to Elizabethtown Point, where they landed, and were delivered up to Major John Beatty, the American Commissary. In marching from the Point two miles to the village of Elizabethtown, Van Arsdale was obliged to support his friend Sears, who was too feeble to walk alone. Now breathing the air of freedom, they set out together for their homes in Hanover Precinct, where Van Arsdale was heartily greeted by his numerous friends who received him as one risen from the dead, and found a warm welcome in the house of his brother Tunis. Emaciated to a degree, and suffering from scurvy, he was for some time under the doctor's care, but finally regained his health."

The British took the forts, the Americans never surrendered 300 of the 600 Americans were captured or killed. However this was all to late in the year for the northern British forces proceeding southward. Realizing that Admiral Howe, and General Howe, were not going to make it further north than Kingston (then the capital of New York), the northern forces surrendered at Saratoga Springs, regarded as the first American victory during the War. However, without local opposition in the lower Hudson Valley, the outcome in the North may not have been so certain.

1778

Joseph Elder's travels for 1778 start on May 5 when the 2nd Ulster musters in Easton PA (20 miles east of present day Allentown). They march to Valley Forge (Dec 1777- June 1778), as reinforcements for Washington's troops who had wintered over. June 18th camp breaks and they had across New Jersey, paralleling the British. They meet at Freehold for The Battle of Monmouth Court House, the last major battle in the north.
Joseph Elder's muster roll for Camp Valley Forge
Joseph Elder


(Revolutionary War)

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above for the month of May, 1778.

Roll dated Camp Valley Forge, Aug., 1778.

Appointed
Commissioned
Enlisted

Term of enlistment

Time since last muster or enlistment

Alterations since last muster

Casualties

Remarks:

*This company was designated at various times as Capt. Charles Graham’s, 5th, 8th and 1st Captain’s Company.
This is an example of "keep doing your research". Joseph has a muster record from Valley Forge, his next official record is one from White Plains. That leaves a lot of undocumented time in between. However, Joseph gave an affidavit for another soldier's pension, and it connects the two nicely.

Orange County
State of New York

I, Joseph Elder of the Town of Montgomery Orange County being duly sworn deposes and saith that he is acquainted with Daniel McEvers a Revolutionary soldier in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary war, that on the fifth of May seventeen hundred and seventy eight this deponent and the said Daniel McEvers enlisted into the service of the United States for nine months in the town of Montgomery and County of Orange aforesaid, that this deponent and the said Daniel McEvers served together in one Company. The Company of Captain Charles Graham of Col. Van Cortlands Regiment being the second of the New York (Militia?) in the Continental establishment. That shortly after they were enlisted in aforesaid town they were put into the Company aforesaid at Easton Pennsylvannia and ordered from thence to Valley Forge where they remained till just before the Battle of Monmouth where this deponent was. That said Daniel was not in said battle being weak. (A)fter said battle they were ordered with the armey to White Plains where they remained till September when the were ordered to Peekskill where they remained till the last of November where they were ordered to Warsink Ulster County where this deponent was discharged about the middle of February. (T)he said McEvers having been previously discharged at the expiration of term. and this deponent further states that he knows said McEvers served the whole of said term of enlistment faithfully till he was discharged, this deponent being of the same ???? with him.

September 3 1822
sworn to before me
the 3rd of Sept 1822

Joseph Elder

Nathan White   First Judge of Orange County

Just to give you an idea what these affidavits look like in original form, below is what the above was transcribed from. Signed by Joseph Elder..... on his wife's affidavit it says "Margaret X Elder" and below it "her mark"......meaning the x ....so she could not write....I do not believe Joseph wrote this... I think it was done by a clerk of the court..... However Joseph's signature is unique to this document and I think its his.
George County
State of Mississippi.

Joseph Price, as the
Treasurer of Montgomery County,
being duly sworn deposits and
sworn that he is in good faith
with Daniel McPhera, a resident
of the said County in the possession
of the United States in the
Company of
any war, that on the first of
May, seven hundred and seventy
and that this instrument and the said
Daniel McPhera entered into the service
of the United States for were respectively
in the town of Montgomery and county
of George, and the said Daniel McPhera agreed
to perform a service Company to the Company
of Captain G. Davis, if the same should
have been needed. The present
being the second of the date
the Company of Montgomery City the
which after they were in the
day of June, they were sent into
the Company of Regiment at Dallas.

Pennsylvania and ordered from
there to beery to which place they
remained till after the battle
by Narragansett River their answers
was not in said battle being lost

and the said Daniel was...

...
At Valley Forge the 2nd New York Line was attached to the 1st New Hampshire. It was that way to White Plains. At White Plains the troops were reorganized again. His unit was refitted and marched to Ellenville, New York. At this time Ellenville down to Port Jervis was considered the
"Indian Frontier". Joseph Elder had a 9 month term of enlistment for 1778, and he was discharged in February 1779 north of Ellenville New York. Many of the 9 month service men were discharged at this time. Men who had joined later (i.e. at White Plains) became part of the Sullivan Expedition.


And one other contemporary who was at Fort Montgomery and The Battle of Monmouth
Most of the major War events after 1779 were south of Philadelphia. After being discharged in February 1779 from his 1778 service, Joseph Elder did some other small amounts of service in this year. Many of his contemporaries talk of
being on call to go to the Indian frontier at Ellenville about 35 miles west of Montgomery. There is no specific reference for Joseph Elder doing this except for his wife's affidavit which says he spent time on the "Indian Frontiers of Ulster County".

Another soldier giving an affidavit for Joseph's widow during that time period.
1780

Joseph Elder was discharged in February of 1779 after 9 months of Continental Line service, and then did local Militia service in 1779 in Ulster County. The soldiers in 1779 who had joined his Continental Line unit later than him who had more time left to serve to fulfill their 9 month term became part of the "Sullivan Expedition".

This campaign pushed the Indians under Joseph Brandt from Wilkes-Barre PA, to north of Albany NY. In 1780, partly in retribution for the Sullivan Campaign, Chief Brandt, Tories and British made numerous raids in the upper Hudson west of Albany, known as "the Bloody Mohawk".

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Klock's_Field
http://threerivershms.com/schoharie.htm

Travels of 1780

Another affidavit for Joseph Elders widow...
State of New York  
Orange County  

I, Matthew Clearwater of the Town of Montgomery of said County being duly sworn says that in the latter part of the summer of the year 1780 this deponent enlisted into a company of which - Drake was Captain - Rea??? was the first & - Delong was the second Lieutenant. That said company enlisted for the term of three months that said company rendezvoused soon after said enlistment at Montgomery in the now County of Orange & from there marched to New Windsor & there embarked on board of a sloop & went to Albany from hence said company marched to Schenectady Stone Roby. German Flatts & Fort Stanwix thence returned to German Flatts & from thence back to Stone Roby where said company was discharged that the greater part(?) of this service was done at Stone Roby, that this company belonged to Col Paulding's regiment that during all the aforesaid terms of service this deponent was well acquainted with Joseph Elder late of Orange County aforesaid. that said Elder was a private in said Drakes Company & served the aforesaid term of three months at the places aforesaid & was discharged at Stone Roby, that this deponent was acquainted with said Elder until the time of his death.

Sworn before me this 15th day of March 1838  
Matthew Clearwater

The words “Mean the of” & “which” erased before signing

H Armstrong, Justice of the Peace

I, the undersigned Justice of the Peace before whom the aforesaid affidavit of Matthew Clearwater was made & subscribed do certify that I am well acquainted with him & know him to be a man of truth & veracity & his statements entitled to full credit.

H Armstrong, Justice of the Peace

Matthew_Clearwater_Affidavit.doc

This is Joseph Elders contemporary talking of his service on the Northern Frontier, which was longer than Joe's. It might also be noted that Elnathan Sears did this after 10 months of captivity as a POW.
On Feb 13th 1822 the court clerk certified Joseph Elder's and Elnathan Sears affidavits for another soldier. Joseph and Elnathan had given depositions one day apart about 2 weeks prior for Alexander Moffat, who was captured at Fort Montgomery, and was destitute after the war and qualified for the first pension authorizations.
Place of New York.
Sullivan County, &c., A. John Jones Clerk of said County
Certify that Stephen Demmé, being before
the within affadavty of Elakton Sears &
Elders were taken at the time of the taking
a Commission duly authorized to take aff.
And that I am well acquainted with the hand write
said Stephen Demmé and only believe the sig.
"J. Demné" to the foregoing Certificate to be his sig.
hand writing. In testimo of virtue receive
my hand and affix the seal of the Court of Com
Pleas in the said County this thirteenth day
January 1822.

[Signature]
Elnathan Sears did so much in these times I am compelled to include his petition to Congress for a pension. He returned to Wurstboro NY after his petition and died shortly thereafter of the flu he caught on his trip to Washington.
To the Honorable the Representatives of the United States in Senate and Congress Convened,

The petition of Nathan Sears aged 82 years the 7 of January next now a resident of the town of Mamaroneck County of Sullivan and State of New York respectfully sheweth that your petitioner entered the service of the United States in 1776 in a company commanded by John Miliken, Col. Paulding's Regt. and was in the battle at Long Island and White Plains, and in the year 1777 was in the battle at Fort Montgomery, and after receiving a wound by a musket ball in his right leg, and a wound by bayonet in his left side which wounds filled his shoes with blood and after being knocked down with the butt of their guns and trampled under feet was made a prisoner by the British and was confined on board the old Jersey prison ship, the Sugar House and Hospital, for ten months and twenty days, during which time he suffered everything but death with hunger and cold, that his feet were so badly frozen, that the ends of his toes dropped off and was not able to walk in three months. After being exchanged in the year 1779 he enlisted in Capt. Drake's Company for during the war and was marched to the Northern Frontiers and was attached to Col. Brown's Regt. at Stone Robey and in 1780 in the battle of Butler and Brandon Brown was killed, and the most of his men, our Capt. was made a prisoner, our lieutenant wounded and returned home, I was the orderly sergeant, got the appointment of Lieut. and served as such about three months, when I received a Lieut. Commission, and in 1781 were attached to Col. Graham's Regt., when he left the line, we were sent to Fort Stanwicks, and placed under Capt. Johnson and Capt. Moody from there ordered to Fort Plain and were shuttled ?? from place to place as necessity required to meet the enemy, and were commanded by different officers until the month of November 1782 when Capt. Moody and a principal part of the officers left the line and left the charge with the Subt. Officers who continued on the line till June 1783, where we were ordered to head quarters, the main body of the Army were discharged, in the first part of June and we did not arrive at head quarters till the 22 of the same month and many of the soldiers returned home without receiving their discharge by which reason many of them have not been able to obtain their rights under the pension and it was my misfortune on having my commission destroyed by the water in wading into the Mohawk River and other streams several times in pursuit of the Indians, and having applied under the Law of 15th of May 1828 for any pension as a Lieut but for the want of my Commissions I have been compelled to receive that of a Sergeant and like wise only one hundred acres of land as a bounty from the Government.

And now your humble petitioners therefore prays that your honorable body will take into consideration his service and suffering and by your special act direct the Secretary of War to pay your petitioner, under the said act of 1828 as a Lieut according to his grade, and your petitioner further prays that you will authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to pay your petitioner the amount equal to five years full pay which sum was offered by the resolve of Congress of the 22 of March 1783, instead of half pay for life to which I was entitled under resolve of Congress of the 25th of October 1780, together with the ?? under said act, and your petitioner in duty bound will ever pay

Nathan Sears
This is why the title is "A Walk through the War of the Revolution"...if you need to be reminded that aside from crossing the Hudson in sloops, that everything else was walking, then read this, from
"the History of Orange County" Ruttenber and Clark
pg 414 published 1881.

"Go he must or be called a Tory...."
JOSEPH ELDER.—This individual was of Irish origin, but at what time the family came into the country or town we are not informed. During the Revolution he was a young man, and some militia troops to which he belonged were ordered to the north. At a fixed time they were to be at Newburgh or New Windsor, and transported up the river on board a sloop provided for the purpose. Mr. Elder, for some cause, did not arrive at the place of rendezvous till too late to take his passage; the sloop had left with a fair wind and out of sight above the Danaskammer. Go he must or be called a Tory, and there was no recourse left him but to try the distance on foot. Elder, young, patriotic, and of an iron frame of body, buckled on his knapsack, shouldered his musket, and started. Though the sloop made a good passage for those times and had the best of the start, Elder beat her to Albany by several hours.

The farm on which he lived was quite stony, though when cleared the land was productive, and Elder, like the rest of his neighbors, converted his useless stones into wall to fence his farm. In building these he scarcely ever used a team to gather and convey the stones to their destination. With a large leather apron girt about his loins, holding the end gathered up in one hand, and tumbling the stones into it with the other, when full he would raise himself erect, and, without apparent effort, carry them off to the wall and put them in place. This course he would pursue from time to time till the walls were finished. He was industrious and eminently robust and powerful. Looking on his muscular and giant frame he reminded one of ancient Milo, who could lift a grown bullock over an ordinarily high fence. His children, of whom several were sons, partook of the magnitude and physical character of the father, with great family similitude in other respects.

Mr. Elder had received but a very limited education, yet possessing strong natural good sense, he was fitted to discharge the duties of the various town offices to public satisfaction. He was many years a magistrate of the town, and if he erred at any time, the fault was of the head and not of the heart, for he was proverbially an upright and honest man.

DANIEL BULL.—We cannot in this place omit an
November 2008
Joe and his wife Margaret Thompson

This is a one page summary of Joseph Elders military service. It has been created from the pay records, books, pension affidavits and other miscellaneous records. By piecing these all together we have been able to recreate his footsteps through the War of the Revolution.

**Private Joseph Elder - Military Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unit &amp; Officers</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1775</td>
<td>William Jackson Capt. /R/</td>
<td>1st Regiment Ulster Co. militia</td>
<td>P.A1,A2,A3</td>
<td>Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec</td>
<td>New Windsor</td>
<td>August 22, 1775 the NY Provincial Congress authorizes Minutmen to be drawn from the Militia...one of every four.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Ulster County 3rd Militia - Col. Levi Paul(d)ing Regiment
July 16th, 1776 NY provincial congress makes second (of 3) drafts instructing the Militia's of Orange and Ulster to supply/send troops for the defence of New York City.

1776* James Milliken Capt. 6 Mo A1, A5 July 2 -Enlisted Newburgh

Marched August 7
Peekskill

A5,A40, A48,A50 Kings Bridge # E.
Bronx, NY

P Aug
26 Harlem # Battle Sep 16 Harlem Hts

A5, D Oct
28 White Plains

Attacked by British*

Saw British ships on river A Discharged
Dec 25 Ft. Constitution or

Murder’s Creek

3.- Ulster County 2nd Militia – Col. James McLaughry Regiment

1777 William Faulkner Capt/W/ 2 Mo A1, A3 Jan, Feb Ramapo

1 Mo. Al,
A3 Mar Ft. Clinton

4.- Ulster County 2nd Militia – Col. Jonathon Hasbrouck Regiment

1777 Hendrick Vankeuren Capt 8 Days P. Al2 Jul
29 Ft. Montgomery

The pay record does not have a year noted; however, the year 1777 is supported by affidavit (Al2) for Alexander Moffat.

5.-Ulster County 2nd Militia – Col. James McLaughry /P/ Regiment
1777* Every man Days B3, A Oct.
6 Ft. Montgomery Bayonet Charge*


1778* Charles Graham Capt./T/ Easton, PA Mustered 9 Mos. All, A1 May

P, F, A3, A38 6-
18 Valley Forge, 6-21 Coryell's Ferry 6-
23 Hopewell, 6-25 Kingstown, 6-
26 Cranberry, 6-28 Englishtown

Prince Town, 6-28 Battle of Monmouth,

Lafayette replaces Lee*

B4, B9 7-1 Spotswood

Ck, 7-2-5 Brunswick

B4 7-7

Springfield, 7-8 Wardsession,

7-10 Storterdam

B4 7-11-

13 Paramust, NJ, 7-14 Kirkeat

B4 7-15 King’s

Ferry 7-17 Peekskill Landing

P June

(pay) North Castle - North of White Plains

P Jun, Jul, Aug.

Sep White Plains

Jacob Wright Capt. P, F, A11 Oct 6 Camp

Peekskill Reorganized units
ordered to the Indian frontier of P, F, A11 Nov, Dec, Jan

1779 Camp Rochester Warsing, NY

Ellenville P Feb 3 or 16 Discharge

Camp Rochester Warwasing, NY

Camp Rochester was north of Ellenville

Note: The Continental Army as reorganized at Valley Forge (F) shows the NY 2nd & 4th NY Regiments attached to the 1st NH Brigade. The 1st NY Regiment was attached to the 2nd PA Brigade. This arrangement was from Valley Forge to Camp Peekskill.

7.- The Continental Line NY 2nd Regiment – Col. Philip Van Cortland

1779 Charles Graham Capt. Days P Feb 3 or 16

Discharged (see above)

Muster and Pay Roll June 20 1779 at Jacob Plains, PA (Susquehanna River) reflects February 1779 discharge.

Joseph Elder and many others were split off at the end of the nine month service. They did not serve on Sullivan Expedition.

8.- Ulster County 2nd Militia – Col. James McLaughry Regiment - Lt. Col. Jacob Newkirk in command

1779 Hendrick Vankeuren Capt 8 Days P, F

9.- Ulster County 2nd Militia – Col. James McLaughry Regiment - Lt. Col. Jacob Newkirk in command

1779 William Tilford Capt. 2 Mos. A3, A4 Sep 1 to Nov 1 Fishkill

10.- The Levies – Col. William Malcolm Regiment & Col. A. Paul(d)ing Regiment

(Malcolm transferred Drake and others to a slacking Company)

1780* Joshau Drake Capt./T/ 3 Mos. B1, B2 Jul 25 Walk to Albany, Missed the boat

P. A6, F Jul, Aug Albany
Oct Schenectady Stone Roby (Ft Paris)

A6, F,
A10 At-German Flats &
Fts. Stanwix

Rome NY, Hunter, & Rensselaer*

11.-The Levies – Col. John Hawthorn Regiment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Pay</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>William Tilford Capt.</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>Henry Brewster Capt.</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>P,A7,F</td>
<td>Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Served as Sergeant (A7 15)

Notes: References of (A) refer to Pension Affidavits, (B) to Books, (D) Detail records, (F) to Field records and (P) Payroll. The Payroll and Field records are interfiled in date sequence while the others have indexes to locate the exact item. The Bureau of Pensions dated 2-9-1896 response to Affidavit AOA, states items 1,2,3,6,9, & 12 were allowed.

# Affidavits only indicate Kingsbridge. A pay record indicates Harlem, other members of the company made it to Brooklyn. From the current record, it is not possible to determine if Joseph made it as far south as Brooklyn.* Engaged enemy --/R/ - Resigned /W/ - Wounded /P/ - Prisoner /T/ - Transferred

JoeElder_MilService rev. 10/22/12

A simplified note on types of troop organizations.

"Militia" were troops called up to support the Continental Army, or for local defense, they were supposed to have limited operation outside of their state.
"Minutemen" - (in NY really only in August 1775, until June 1776) were the youngest, readiest etc., of the local militia, about 20-25% of the force.
"Line Troops" - George Washington realized he needed more troops than the Continental Army, so he petitioned to get militias to fight out of state. The Continental Congress authorized states to fill these quotas from the militia. New York was tasked with raising about 3,000. Joe Elder's service in 1778 was a nine-month call-up for service in "the New York Line", militia to fight out of state under command of the Continental Army.
"Levies" - troops again called out of the militia to fight in-state, but to be paid with federal dollars, more common in 1779-1783.
"The Continental Army", purely federal troops with 3 year, or duration of the war enlistment terms.
As an ongoing follow on project that was begun out of searching for Joseph Elder's father, we have looked at his contemporaries in the military service that may have had family relations. These people were tightly knit groups....brothers served together, neighbors, etc.... their families were in close quarters geographically. As we noticed a repetition of names in the military units, along with historical family tree information that we had, we began to realize that these people married each others brothers and sisters. Also, typically these people showed up as groups....i.e. "the Clinton Colony" in 1730 at Little Britain. In regards to that I have a "work in progress" of trying to use Ancestry.com to tree out fellow members of the 2nd Ulster Militia Regiment. It's not 100% correct, there are mistakes and errors....but it definitely creates a fabric of the local settlements and groupings of the soldiers and their inter-relations. Any interested parties feel free to forward additions and corrections...... * indicates related on family tree...(as best as can be determined)

2nd Ulster Regiment

Joseph Elder Tree
October 14 2012
Joseph Elder ... father of

William Elder...father of
https://sites.google.com/site/william1761elder/home

George Elder....father of
https://sites.google.com/site/georgeeldertug/

George Clarence Elder....father of
https://sites.google.com/site/georgeclarenceelder/

George Sydney Elder...father of

George William Elder... father of

George Scott Elder
tallredleg2 (at) gmail (dot) com

The End - thank you for reading.
This can be done as a presentation for local history groups, schools etc.