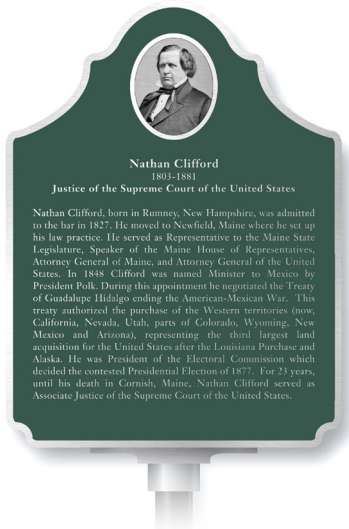


# Nathan Clifford Commemorative Sign at the Former Nathan Clifford School

PORTLAND, MAINE

Dear Friends:

My interest in history led me to a curiosity about Nathan Clifford. While I attended the grammar school named for him from 1951-1957, I never knew who Nathan Clifford was until 14 years ago. My goal is to install an educational sign outside the school for all to read about this historic Maine figure. A brief history of Nathan Clifford follows on the next page.



I am reaching out to family, former students, organizations, and anyone who may be interested, to ask for help in commemorating Nathan Clifford's impressive and important legacy. Welch Signage of Scarborough, Maine, has designed a plaque (see prototype at left), and the proposed cost for the plaque is \$6,000.

Carol and I have had the pleasure of meeting Janet Carper, Nathan Clifford's great-great-granddaughter and her husband Tom. We have met them in Cornish, Maine, where they live in a former Clifford family home. There, Janet and Tom have a room devoted to a collection of memorabilia from Nathan Clifford's life. Janet, Carol, and I have worked on the verbiage for the sign (draft attached). We also met with my cousin, Larry Kane, who has been interested and helpful in this project.

Last fall we met with a representative of DC Management, which manages the Nathan Clifford Residences, and had a tour of the former school. It is a beautiful renovation—updated, yet retaining and respecting the building's history. It was fun to see the playground where I played marbles, baseball, and dodgeball over 60 years ago!

I hope you will want to be a part of this project and that you will consider making a contribution to the sign. Checks should be payable to Nathan Clifford Sign Fund and sent to me at the address below. We are hoping for an early fall celebration to unveil the sign in front of the Nathan Clifford Residences.

Thank you for your consideration. Please call me or send an email if you have any questions.

Best regards,

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Marion, VA 24354

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# Nathan Clifford: A Brief History

## FROM THE SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

Nathan Clifford was born on August 18, 1803, in Rumney, New Hampshire. After reading law in the office of a local attorney, he was admitted to the bar in 1827 and moved to Newfield, Maine, to establish a law practice. Clifford was elected to the lower house of the Maine legislature in 1830 for a one-year term and was re-elected three times, serving as its Speaker during the last two terms. He was then elected Attorney General of Maine by the State Legislature and served in that position from 1834 to 1838. In 1838, Clifford was elected to the United States House of Representatives, where he served two terms. Defeated in a bid for a third term, he returned to his law practice in 1843. President James K. Polk appointed Clifford Attorney General of the United States in 1846. Two years later, President Polk appointed Clifford United States Minister to Mexico\*. Clifford returned to Maine in 1849 and resumed his law practice in the City of Portland. Seven years later, on January 12, 1858, President James Buchanan nominated Clifford to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Senate confirmed the appointment on January 21, 1858. Clifford served on the Supreme Court for twenty-three years. He died on July 25, 1881, at the age of seventy-seven.

*\*As attorney general under Pres. James K. Polk in 1846, Clifford served as special commissioner to Mexico to arrange the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican War in 1848. The treaty provided for the purchase of the third largest acquisition of territory in US history (about 525,000 sq. miles—Texas, California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Wyoming and Colorado). The largest acquisition was the Louisiana Purchase (820,000 sq. miles) followed by Alaska (about 586,000 sq. miles).*

## DRAFT WORDING FOR COMMEMORATIVE SIGN

### Nathan Clifford

1803-1881

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

Nathan Clifford, born in Rumney, New Hampshire, was admitted to the bar in 1827. He moved to Newfield, Maine, where he set up his law practice. In Maine he served as Representative to the State Legislature, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Attorney General. He served two terms in the United States House of Representatives and later became Attorney General of the United States. In 1848 Clifford was named Minister to Mexico by President Polk. During this appointment, he was instrumental in negotiating and implementing the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the Mexican-American War. This treaty established the Rio Grande as a Texas boundary and authorized the purchase of California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming. The treaty provided the third largest land acquisition for the United States after the Louisiana Purchase and Alaska. Clifford was President of the Electoral Commission that decided the contested Presidential Election of 1877. For 23 years, until his death in Cornish, Maine, Nathan Clifford served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.