

Pension Application for John Fancher

S.23625

State of New York

Westchester County SS.

On this fourth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Westchester now sitting at the Fourth House in Whiteplains [White Plains] in the said County of Westchester John Fancher—a resident of the Town of Poundridge—in the said County of Westchester aged seventy four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That is to say the month of April and as this Declarant verily believes on or near the first day of April one thousand seven hundred & seventy five he this declarant enlisted at Poundridge in the said County of Westchester as a private for the term of nine months in a company commanded by Cap'n Jonathan Platt in Col. James Holmes Regiment and from there this declarant went with his said Company & Regiment to Ticonderoga in the said State of New York where they joined Schuyler's Brigade he this declarant was ordered and went with a party of his said Regiment and of said Schuyler's Brigade to St. John's in Canada and there joined the American Troops under General Montgomery and this declarant was present in actual service in the American Army before St. John's at the Surrender of that place by the British forces where a great number of Prisoners surrendered—to the American Troops at that place—and this declarant was then informed a Council of War was held there by the American officers at which it was determined that the prisoners taken at the surrender of St. John's should be sent to Lancaster in the State of Pennsylvania and he this Declarant with the aforesaid party from Ticonderoga were put in charge of said prisoners and returned with them to Ticonderoga aforesaid and this Declarant with a part of men under the Command of one Captain Edward Mott, came on with said prisoners, and after his aforesaid enlistment of nine months had expired, he this Declarant continued on as one of the Guards over said prisoners under the said Cap'n Edward Mott, till they reached Lancaster in the State of Pennsylvania—where said Prisoners were left, and he this Declarant with their said Captain and a remnant of thirteen men returned to Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania where they arrived on or about the first of January in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six where after remaining ten days this declarant was honorably discharged by the said Captain Edward Mott on the tenth day of January in the year of our Lord 1776 and received a regular discharge in writing from the said Captain Edward Mott under his hand which discharge is hereunto annexed marked "A" and in which discharge this declarant had twenty four days given him to return—

That during all the time aforesaid from sometime in April in the year AD 1775 to the first day of February AD 1776, he this declarant was in actual service under arms (including the time he was returning home as aforesaid) in the Army of the Revolution being nine months & upwards serving out his aforesaid enlistment and the residue of the time guarding said prisoners as aforesaid.

That on or about the first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy six, he this declarant enlisted as a private for six months at Poundridge aforesaid in a company commanded by Cap'n Abijah Gilbert which company belonged to Genl Thomas Thomas's Regiment in the said Company was raised as he understood at the time by order of the Governor of the State of New York and he this declarant served out as a private in his said last mentioned company his last mentioned enlistment of six months in actual service and was honorably discharged verbally by his aforesaid Captain at King Street in the said County of Westchester on the first day of November in the year of our Lord 1776----

That he this Declarant during his last mentioned service of six months was with his said company employed in the building the Fort called Fort Independence near King's Bridge and in Guarding said Fort till the American Army retreated out to White Plains when they marched up in the night near the Hudson River & got above the British forces and joined Genl Washington's Army then near White Plains in the said County.

That on or about the first day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven he this declarant at Bedford in the said County of Westchester enlisted as a private for three months in a company called Grenadiers commanded by Captain Zephaniah Mills of Bedford aforesaid and said company were during the said three months principally employed in Guarding the Prison House erected at Bedford aforesaid and patrolling as a Guard upon the lines in the said County of Westchester.

That the said Prison House at Bedford aforesaid used for the temporary reception of British Prisoners & of the suspicious and disaffected persons taken up in said County who were committed to said prison House for safe keeping till the Committee of Public Safety could decide upon their cases.

That this declarant served out in actual service in his last mentioned Company as aforesaid his last mentioned Enlistment of three months as a private therein and was honorably discharged at Bedford aforesaid on or about the first of December 1777 by his aforesaid Captain verbally but he did not receive any written discharge—

And this Declarant further saith that in the month of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight (but on what day of said month this declarant—Cannot recollect) he enlisted at Poundridge aforesaid as a private for nine months as a private for nine months in a company commanded by Capt. Samuel Delavan (called Rangers) and this declarant faithfully served out his last mentioned enlistment of nine months in actual service in said last mentioned company as a private therein and was honorably discharged at White Plains in the said County of

Westchester by his said Captain (but he did not receive any written discharge) in the month of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine.

That said last mentioned company consisted at its formation of ninety six men and were principally employed in ranging down the lines in said County of Westchester wherever their services were required and were constantly exposed to great risk from surprise by the enemy.

That while this declarant belonged to the said last mentioned Company and about the last of November AD 1778. The said Company under the command of their said Captain were lying at Stephen Wards. He served in the Town of East Chester in the said County of Westchester and in the night the House in which the night the house in which they were was surrounded by about three hundred British Soldier under the command of one Major Campbell's and after keeping possession of the House and defending after half an hour the British Troops forced an entrance into the said House killed three of the said company & took twenty four of them prisoners, and this declarant with a part of said company forced their way through the enemy & made their escape.—after this Declarant had succeeded in forcing his way out of the house his gun was shot into two pieces in his hands by a fire from one of the enemy and another Ball passed by him so close as to cut a button off of his waistcoat & out his shirt.

That all this conflict occurred about then oclock in the night of a dark & stormy evening. And this declarant further saith that on or about the first day of August in the year of our Lord 1781. But the precise day he cannot state, he this declarant at Bedford aforesaid enlisted as a private (in a company raised there by Cap't Thos Hunt in Coll Wisenfels Regiment) for four months to go to the Northern part of the State of New York and this declarant faithfully served out in actual service as a private in said company, his last mentioned enlistment of four months in said last mentioned Company and he this declarant was honorably discharged in the month of December in the year last mentioned at Albany in the state of New York by his said Captain Thomas Hunt a written discharge which this declarant has lost & cannot now find.

That this declarant with his last mentioned company—when he first enlisted marched to Peekskill in the said county of Westchester there embarked on board a vessel & went to Albany, then went to Saratoga & guarded their said Regiment and was employed in building a block House there & in protecting the surrounding country from the enemy.

That this declarant after his return home in December 1781 was married and did not again go into service, but always remained a true friend to the cause of Independence.

That this Declarant claims a pension.

1st for his nine months this actual service as a private in Cap'n Jonathan Platt's Company as aforesaid and one months service as a volunteer in continuing with the Guard over the prisoners to Lancaster as aforesaid making in all then months actual service as a private in that campaign.

2nd for six months actual service as a private in Cap'n Abijah Gilbert's Company as aforesaid.

3rd for three months actual service as a private in Cap'n Zephaniah Mills's Company as aforesaid—

4th for nine months actual service in Cap'n Samuel Delavan's Company of Rangers as aforesaid as a private in said company—

5th For four months actual service as a private in Cap'n Thomas Hunts Company as aforesaid making the whole term of time which this declarant served in the Army of the Revolution as a private in the aforesaid Companies two years and eight months. That this declarant was born on the fourth day of September in the year of our lord one thousand and seven hundred and fifty eight at New Canaan in the state of Connecticut where this declarant resided till he was three years old when he removed with his father to Poundridge in the said County of Westchester where he has ever since resided (except his absences on duty during the Revolution) and now resides—

That this declarant has a record of his age in his family Bible at home & from which he has made the above statement of his birth and present age.

That this Declarant was always living at Poundridge aforesaid when he was called into the service as aforesaid, but never drafted. That he always volunteered & enlisted as aforesaid and never as a substitute.

That this declarant recollect the following Regular officers & regiments that were with the troops where he served as aforesaid viz. Genl Montgomery, Genl Schuyler, Genl Wooster, Genl George Washington. Cols Sheldon's & McLain's Regiments & Col. Philip VanCortlandt's Regiment.

That this declarant never received but two written discharges from service and signed by Cap'n Edward Mott one of the hereto annexed marked "A" as aforesaid and the other given by Cap'n Thomas Hunt as aforesaid and which is lost as aforesaid —

That this declarant cannot recollect the precise name of the aforesaid companies to which he belonged as aforesaid but believes they were state troops belonging to the State of New York or volunteer companies from the Militia of said State.—

That this declarant understood at the time that his aforesaid Cap'n Jonathan Platt was appointed and acted some part if not the whole of this declarant's aforesaid service in his company—under the orders of Congress.—

That this declarant is known in his present neighbourhood and Horatio Lockwood Esqr both residing in the Town of Poundridge in the said County of Westchester who can testify to this ' character for veracity, their belief of his age and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

And 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) John Francher

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid. N. Bayles Clk
West Com. Pleas

Letter in folder dated October 26, 1932, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the records of John Thomas, who was a private in the Breen Mountain Boys under Colonel Ethan Allen, and John Fancher, or New York, soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

A search of the records fails to show a claim for pension or bounty land on file upon service of the John Thomas as described by you.

The record of John Fancher given below is obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, S.23625, based upon his service in that war, and is the record of the only soldier of that time found on the Revolutionary War records of this office.

John Fancher was born September 4, 1758 in New Canaan, Connecticut and moved, when three years of age, to Poundridge, Westchester County, New York.

While residing in Poundridge, New York, he volunteered and served as private in the New York, he volunteered and served as private in the New York troops was follows: from about April 1775, in Captain Jonathan Platt's Company, Colonel James Holmes' Regiment, was on the expedition to Ticonderoga and present at the surrender of St. Johns, Canada, following which he was one of the guard under Captain Edward Mott that conducted the prisoners to the state of Pennsylvania, and was discharged January 10, 1776 from about May 1, 1665, six months in Captain Abijah Gilber's Company, Colonel Thomas Thomas' Regiment, during which period he assisted in erecting Fort Independence; from September 1, 1777, three months in Captain Zephaniah Mills' Company; from April 1778, nine months in Captain Samuel Delavan's Company, called rangers, during which period he was in a severe encounter with the British in the night late in November at "Ward's House" in East Chester which his gun was broken by a shot from the enemy and a bullet passed through his waistcoat and shirt as he made his escape, others of his company being killed and many taken prisoners; and from August 1, 1781, four months in captain Thomas Hunt's Company, Colonel Weisenfel's Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed December 4, 1832, while residing in Poundridge, Westchester County, New York.

At the time of his application for pension, John Fancher stated that "after his return home in December 1781, he was married", but he did not give the date or name of his wife.

He died February 19, 1838, survived by children, whose names are not given.