

Pension Application for James Finch

S.13021

State of New York

County of Delaware SS.

On this 3d day of May one thousand eight hundred & thirty three personally appeared before me Jabez Bostwick First Judge of the court of common pleas in and for the County of Delaware aforesaid James Finch a resident of the town of Hamden in said county of Delaware and State aforesaid aged seventy eight years of age who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He enlisted as a private in the town of Courtland Mannor [sic] as it was then called now North Salem in the county of Westchester & State of New York aforesaid about the first of November 1775 under Captain Samuel Delaware & John C. Miller was first Lieutenant in New York State Militia he enlisted for three months.

Was engaged in patrolling was ordered to White Plains to guard the jail. Was at White Plains several days. Then marched back to Courtland Mannor, was then marched to Youkers within two or three miles of Kings bridge on the eastern post road, and was stationed there to guard a large number of cannon that was brought there from New York City. Twas exceeding cold weather, was afterwards marched on to York Island to Hormhack and continued there until the term for which he had enlisted had expired. While at Hormhack was employed in building a Fort. Served three months in this engagement. About the last of February or first of March 1776, he enlisted as a volunteer in the militia or State Troops of the State of aforesaid as a soldier in a company commanded by Captain Cornelius Steenrod. I think that Timothy VanSchaick was Lieutenant. Enlisted at Courtlands Mannor for three months, marched from there to Hormhack & was stationed Hormhack until discharged. He this declarent in not clear in his recollection whether he served over one month but thinks from his best recollection he served one month.

In July 1776 this declarent engaged as substitute for one John Evans engaged to serve for five months in the New York or State Troops in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Nathaniel Delavan, Samuel Lawrence Lieutenant in Colonel Thomas' Regiment was mustered at Courtland Mannor aforesaid and marched to Verplanks Point was stationed there about two weeks, marched form Verplanks Point to Tarrytown to watch the movements of the enemy. There was two British Vessels of war laying in the Hudson River opposite Tarrytown the [? & Dutchess of Gordon?] was stationed at Tarrytown until the British ships moved down the river, was then marched from there to Fort Independence was stationed there until it was left by the American troops.

We were then marched from there to White Plains. He see [saw] General Washington and also the Prussian General at Fort Independence. Before the Battle at

White Plains this declarant was taken sick & was unable to do duty and on that account was not in the battle at White Plains.

After the Battle at White Plains the regiment to which he belonged were marched to Peekskill where he joined the regiment again and after having served the term of his enlistment which was five months was discharged.

He served at various other times in the militia on alarms during the Revolutionary War. Was a volunteer in the militia and fought at the battle of Ridgefield when General Wooster was killed. But he makes no claims for services last mentioned as he cannot with any certainty recollect the time served, but he claims to have served under Captain Samuel Delevan 3 month; 2d under Captain Cornelius Steenrod 1 month; 3 under Captain Nathaniel Delevan—9 month.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person living who served with him in the same company or Regiment except Christopher Roff who served a part of the time who served for part of the time in the militia but not in the same Regiment of militia with this declarant.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and relinquishes very claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

And the said Declarant says that he was born in the town of Stamford county of Fairfield & State of Connecticut in February 1755 according to his belief but has no record of his age. Lived in Courtland Mannor then called said North Salem County of Westchester at the time he entered the service Removed from the county of Westchester to the State of Ohio over forty years ago & lived there about one year & a half & on account of the Indian War removed from there & came to the town of Colchester in the County of Delaware & State of New York aforesaid & lived there until within two years past & has since that time lived in the town of Hamden his present place of residence.

He is unable to make any further statement respecting the officers he served under than he has made.

[?] auquainted [sic] with John H. Gregory, Thomas Gregory, Benjamin Pine & Nathan Fuller of the town of Colchester and Elijah Grant of the town of Hamden an[d] Isaac Hitt of Hamden & had been for a number of years. (Signed) James Finch

Sworn & Subscribed before me this 3d May 1833. Jabez Bostwick, First Judge of Delaware County.

Letter in folder dated December 15, 1924, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.13021, it appears that James Finch was born in February 1755 at Stamford, Fairfield County, Connecticut.

While residing at Courtland Manor, now North Salem, Westchester County, New York, he enlisted November 1, 1775 and served 3 mos. as a private in Captain Samuel Delavan's New York Company.

He enlisted in February or March 1776 and served one month in Captain Cornelius Steenrod's New York Company.

He enlisted in July 1776 and served five months in Captain Nathaniel Delavan's Company Thomas Thomas' New York Regiment.

He served at various other times in the Militia on alarms and was a volunteer in the Militia at the battle of Ridgefield.

He was allowed pension on his application executed May 3, 1833, while a resident of Hamden, Delaware County, New York.

It was not stated whether soldier was married.