

Pension Application for John Finch

W.21119 (Widow: Martha)

State of New York

Dutchess County SS.

On this twenty sixth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Dutchess now sitting John Finch a resident of the Town of Fishkill in the County of Dutchess and State of New York aged seventy five 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 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated—that he was born in Stamford in the State of Connecticut in Fairfield County on the 20th of August 1757. That he has a record of his age in his possession in the Town of Fishkill in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York, that when he was called into service he was living in the Town of North Salem in the County of Westchester & State of New York aforesaid.

That on or about the first day of October in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five he volunteered for five months in the service of the United States and entered Captain Samuel Dubois Company and Col. Samuel Drake's Regiment in the County of Westchester and Sometime after he cannot tell how long exactly he marched with said company & Regiment to Kings Bridge with the company & Regiment Lay about two weeks in guarding canon [cannon] from thence the Company & Regiment aforesaid marched to New York from thence to [H?] Gate & there staid out his time of service in building Horn Hook fort and there he was verbally discharged by his Colonel Samuel Drake, that Major Stracey, Captain Steenrod & Captain Hyatt, were with the troops with which he lived at Horn Hook fort, that he has no documentary evidence of his service under Samuel Delavan and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can prove who can testify to his service except Abel Bansley whose affidavit is hereunto annexed.

That sometime in the month of July, in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six he volunteered for five months & a half in Captain Nathaniel Delavan's Company in Col. Thomas' Regiment and General George Clinton's Brigade. That he entered the company & Regiment at Somers Town in Westchester County in the State of New York aforesaid, and from thence he marched with his company, and [?] by the regiment to Peekskill and was engaged in the city of Peekskill in watching the enemy's vessels in the Hudson River that he marched with his company to a place now called Yonkers and there joined the Regiment and was engaged in building Fort Independence until the Army under Gen. Washington [?] New York when we formed the army and marched above White Plains, after the battle at that place he marched with the army to Peekskill & there remained until the term of enlistment expired and was discharged verbally by his Colonel Thomas Thomas.

That he has no documentary of this service and knows of no place whose he can procure who can testify to his service that he knew several officers who were with the troops where he served to wit, Genl Stark, Gen. [P?], Gen. Heath & Gen Pelham, Genl Lee.

That he recollects Col. Swarthouts, Regiment & Col. Paulding's Regiment and the said Regiments belonged to General Clinton's Brigade that he was dismissed & his term expired the last of the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy six.

That in or about the month of September in the year 1777 he volunteered in Captain Haight's Company for three months.

That the said company was not attached to any regiment that he knows of but were engaged under Major Stacey who commanded to guard the lines in Westchester that after the three months expired he was discharged verbally by Major Stacey, that in the year 1779 he enlisted in the town of Fishkill in the County of Dutchess in Captain George Lane's Company he thinks Col. Hopkins Regiment for three months but after [?] the said regiment at Fishkill one month he was verbally discharged by Col. Hopkins.

That while he resided in the Town of South Salem in Westchester County aforesaid he was engaged other than at his regular term of service as a minuet [minute] man and was [?] frequently called out in said service and after had skirmishes with the enemy.

That during the whole term of the war he was unable to do much labor for himself & that the inhabitants residing there were continually in a state of alarm and liable to be attacked by the enemy.

That he has no documentary evidence of said service and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to the last above service.

That he lived in the Town of Salem in the County of Westchester until about twenty three years ago when he removed to the Town of Fishkill in the County of Dutchess and State of New York and has lived in said Town County and State aforesaid [?] the Revolutionary War that he is known in his present neighborhood too Abraham Myers, David Smith, Abraham Charlick, James Hughson, Ebenezer Crosby, Lewis Hasbrook, Theodoras Allain, David [Andia?], who can testify to his character for veracity and a belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension [list] of the agency of any state. (Signed) John Finch

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Leroy C. Deacon, clerk

Letter in folder dated April 5, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letters of recent date, in which you requested the Revolutionary War records of John Finch, probably of North Salem, Westchester County, New York, whose wife, you state, was named Mary, and who had a son-in-law, Philip Briggs who served in that war in Captain Ephraim Lockwood's company,

Colonel Thaddeus Crane's regiment, and both were in the battle of White Plains. You state also, that Philip Briggs married John Finch's daughter, Sarah.

There is no claim for pension or bounty land on file based upon service in the Revolution of a Philip Briggs under any spelling of this name, and no claim for a John Finch in which it is shown that he had a wife named Mary. You are furnished herein the record of the only John Finch found in the records of this office who resided in North Salem, New York. The data therein were obtained from pension claim, W.21119, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

John Finch was born August 20, 1757, in Stamford, Fairfield County, Connecticut; the names of his parents are not shown.

While residing in North Salem, Westchester County, New York, he volunteered about October 1, 1775, served five months as private in Captain Samuel Delavan's company, Colonel Samuel Drake's New York regiment. He volunteered in July 1776, at Somers Town, Westchester County, New York, and served five and one half months as private in Captain Nathaniel Delavan's company, Colonel Thomas Thomas' New York Regiment. He volunteered in September, 1777, and served three months as private in Captain Height's New York company. He enlisted in 1779, at Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, and served one month as private in Captain George Lane's company, Colonel Hopkins' New York regiment. During the period of his service he was a minuteman and was called out on short tours frequently, in addition to the tours noted above. He was in several skirmishes but no battles stated.

John Finch resided in Salem, Westchester County, New York, until about 1809, when he moved to Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York.

John Finch married March 29, 1781, place not stated, Martha Newman who was born July 3, 1762; they were married by a Baptists minister "late of Bedford, Westchester County, New York".

Soldier's widow, Martha Finch, was allowed pension on her application executed July 15, 1843, while a resident of Dutchess County, New York. In August 1844, she was living in Rose, Wayne County, New York.

The following names of children of John Finch and his wife, Martha, are shown in the claim:

Betsy Finch born May 8, 1782; married May 8, William Purdy.

Sally Finch or Sarah born June 16, 1787; married Mar. 22, 1809, Eliazer Fuller, and in 1843 of Dutchess Co., New York.

Isaac Finch born June 9, 1790; married Oct. 15, 1825, Hannah Sherwood.

Rachel Finch born June 7, 1792; married Nov. 22, 1815, Joseph I. Wood.

Newman Finch born December 29, 1795; married December 24, 1817, Phebe VanVlach.

Abigail Finch born September 17, 1800; married (date not given) Alansan Worden.

Franklin Finch born May 28, 1804; married ___1829, Hannah Metilda Harding.

In 1844, Joel (or Iver), B. Purdy, a grandson, was living in New York City.