

Pension Application for Reuben Finch

W.24198 (Widow: Anna)
State of New York
County of Schenectady SS.

On this thirteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County now sitting Reuben Finch a resident of the City of Schenectady in said County and State aged upwards of seventy three years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth upon his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He was born in Fredericksburgh in the then county of Dutchess, now in the County of Putnam in the State of New York on the third day of March 1759—he has no record of his age except that contained in his family Bible.

When he was called into the service of the United States in the army of the revolution, he was living in Fredericksburgh aforesaid and since the revolutionary [war] he has lived in the same place, also in the County of Albany ; and he now lives in the said City of Schenectady and has lived in said City for about thirty six years last past.

He served under six different engagements in manner and for the terms and under the officers herein after stated.

On or about the first day of August, he enlisted at Fredericksburgh aforesaid in Captain Comfort Luddington's Company of State Troops in the regiment commanded by Colonel Swarthout. His other company & field officers whom he recollects were John Monroe Lieutenant Vn [Van] Bunschoten Major & ___ Gabriel Adjutant. He served in his company for the term of five months. In this campaign he marched from Fredericksburgh aforesaid to New York City from thence to Long Island, was in the battle on Long Island (which took place on the 27th Augt 1776) and marched with the American troops from thence to New York & then retreated from New York to Kingsbridge and from thence marched to White Plains—

The regiment to which the claimant belonged was ordered to Elizabethtown and after remaining there a short time marched to Fishkill, where he served out his five months aforesaid.

In the month of April 1777 he was drafted to serve in Colonel Henry Luddington's regiment of Militia in the company commanded by Captain Nathaniel Scribner, and he served in said company for the term of three months, and was engaged in guarding Fredericksburgh aforesaid where a company of artificers belonging to the American Army was then stationed about ten days after the expiration of the said three months he enlisted in captain Elijah Townsend's Company and served for the like term of three months in guarding Westchester county. In this engagement eh was in several skirmishes with parties of refugees who annoyed the inhabitants of this county.

Sometime in the month of October 1778, he served for the term of one month in guarding the frontiers of Orange County, in Captain David Waterbury's Company of

Militia in Colonel John Fields' regiment. He enlisted in said company and Fredericksburgh aforesaid and was discharged at Minisink where he for the greater part of said month served.

Of the other officers in this company he remembers only Lieutenant Elijah Fuller.

On the first day of April 1779, he enlisted for the term of nine months at Fredericksburgh aforesaid in captain Robert Wood's company in the regiment under the command of Colonel William Malcomb in which Albert Pauling was then Major in the line of the State of New York.

He served out said term of nine months in said company and was discharged on the first day of January 1780 at Stony Point—He served out said term of nine months in said company and was discharged on the first day of January 1780 at Stony Point.

In this engagement he did duty for about four months at a place called Marbletown, and other places on the western frontier & for the remainder of said term under General Sullivan in his expedition against the Indians & at Stony Point aforesaid where he remained till the expiration of said term and was then & there discharged.

On or about the first day of September 1780, he was ordered out in said Captain Scribner's company of Militia & served for the term of one month at Fishkill in guarding the Continental Stores.

During the portions of time in which he did not serve in the engagements aforesaid he performed duty in said company of Captain Scribner in various short tours as a scout and otherwise of a few days each which in the whole he thinks would amount to nearly two months; but he cannot specify the particular periods.

He made application for a pension under the act of 1818 he thinks in the month of May 1829 and was unsuccessful for the reason alledged [sic] that he did not serve for nine months in the continental establishment.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew, or who were with the troops where he served and such continental & militia regiments or companies with which he served, or as he can recollect, viz—General Washington, General Sullivan, General Clinton, General Scott, General McDougall, General Nixon of the Virginia Line, Colonels Malcomb, Spencer, Meigs, Webb (of the Connecticut line) Cortland, Weisenvelt, and their regiments, and many others.

He never received any written discharge from the service.

He has no documentary evidence & knows of no person who[se] testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except those whose depositions are on file in the War Department viz Major Albert Pawling & Foster Finch.

The following are the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood & who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution: viz Isaac DeGraff & Julius Bolles.

He herby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state.

A bill was reported in his favor at the last session of Congress but not acted on, as he was informed by the representative in Congress from this District for the reason that the last law made provision for his case. (Signed) Reuben Finch

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid. John L. Vrooman, Clerk.

Letter in folder dated January 26, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.24198, it appears that Reuben Finch was born March 3, 1758 or 1759 in Fredericksburgh, Dutchess County, New York.

While residing at said place, he enlisted and served as private in the New York Troops as follows—

From August 1, 1776, five months in Captain Comfort Ludington's Company, Colonel Swartwout's Regiment and was in the battle of Long Island.

From in April 1777, six months under Captains Nathaniel Scribner and Elijah Townsend in Colonel Henry Ludenton's Regiment.

From in October 1778, one month in Captain David Waterbury's Company, Colonel John Field's Regiment.

From April 1, 1779, nine months in Captain Robert Wood's Company, under Colonels William Malcomb and Albert Pawling, and was in Sullivan's Expedition against the Indians.

From September 1, 1780, three months in captain Scribner's Company.

He was allowed pension on his application executed in 1832 at which time he was a resident of Schenectady, New York, and he died there April 8, 1847.

Soldier married February 13, 1780, Anna Townsend, who was born January 18, 1762, and she was allowed pension on her application executed September 7, 1847, while a resident of Schenectady, New York.

Their children—

Nathaniel born June 22, 1785, died Jan 14 18?5.

Lewis born August 27, 1788, married Elizabeth VanVranken March 1, 1808, he died February 17, 1849.

Joseph born November 11, 1790.

Johiada born June 24, 1793, died May 4, 1794.

Salle or Salla born ----- 25, 1796, married Levinus or Livinus Lansing, Feb. 28, 1814.

(illegible) born September 23, 1799.

Benjamin born September 3, 1802.

Dirck Roman or Romayn born November 22, 1809, died July 15, 18--