

Pension Application for Silvanus Finch

S.10665

State of New York

County of Chenango SS

On this ninth day of October in the year 1832, personally appeared in open court before, John Tracey, Levi Bigelow, Charles York, Nathan Taylor, and Hezekiah Read Judges of the court of Common Pleas, now sitting at the court-house in the town of Norwich in and for the county of Chenango aforesaid, being at the October Term of the said court, Sylvanus Finch, a resident of the town of Pitcher in the said County of Chenango and State of New York, aged seventy 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 7, 1832—

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

That he was born, at Fredericksburgh in the County of Dutchess, & State of New York, in the year, 1762:--that he does not know there is any record of his age—

That in April, he thinks, 1777, he enlisted at said Fredericksburgh, he being then a resident of that place, -- for the term of three months, under Lieut. Cyrus Baker, and as his waiter, and went with said Lieut. Baker & his company of bout fifty men, into the service of the United States thereupon, at said Fredericksburh, and were stationed there as a guard—the guard house was between the red church and the Baptist Church—Lieut. Baker's men were much of the time at the red church, and there was a company or party of Artificers at the Baptist church—

That he there served his term of three months out, in keeping guard, at said place, and was then dismissed there—

He recollects Sergeant Ferguson belonged to their company, and there as a corporal, and he does not remember any other officer being with them - nor were there any other troops in their company, or at said station—

That he again, in the year, 1778, he believes, that is might have been in 1779; in September, he believes, being just after harvest, enlisted as a volunteer for a certain number of men or class, who were to furnish a man; he thus enlisted under Capt. George Lane for 3 or 4 month, and he cannot recollect which; but knows it was one or the other—Lieut. Stewart, he believes was the second in command of the company—The company joined the regiment of Col. Hopkins of Nine Partners—the said regiment was stationed at Fishkill - or it lay there and in its neighborhood during this term of his enlistment—Thinks Major Paine was second officer of the regiment—There were no other troops in company—They built a redoubt while there—The other services were those of common duty, drilling &c—there was no enemy at hand—at the end of his term of enlistment he was there dismissed—H enlisted this tour at said Fredericksburgh, where he lived.

That he again in the month of May, he believes, enlisted at Cortlandt Manor, 1780, in the company of Capt. Samuel Delavan—Lieut Benjamin Jones. This was a

company of horse, or cavalry—but a part of the time did duty on foot—said manor where he enlisted was in the county of [scribbled out] –

The said company was attacked, he thinks, to no particular Regiment this year—but it's particular duty and object was to guard the property and the property and country from the plunder of the enemy in this region wherever it was most wanted—

That he went over with his company, though Capt. Delavan not being then there, with a party and burnt [Morrissana?] in order to break up or destroy the Tories or refugees who were at that place.—

The party on said occasion was divided in these companies or divisions—Col. Hull commanded one—He thinks Major Tallmadge did another—and Capt. Whiting did the third—that he, the declarant, was under that commanded by said Whiting.

Before we went to burn, it was agreed to set fire in three places at the same time—it was in the right time—after doing it, the orders were to return to the place of rendezvous at Col. Delancy Mills—We accordingly went and set fire to said Morrissena as agreed—this was in January he thinks, 1781—After setting the fire, our party returned to Col. Delancy Mills about day bread, before the other did, and were very soon attacked by a party of the enemy from behind the stone wall—Honeywell, commanded the house in which this declarant was & Capt. Whiting the infantry—the fire of the enemy rather broke us—we soon found again, and received a second fire—we marched a little distance and found ourselves between two fires of the enemy—in this place I had my horse killed under me—our forces soon passed on one side and retreated to joined [sic] Col. Hull, and Major Talmadge parties at East Chester where we met also Gen. Parson's Brigade—There the enemy attacked us again—The enemy consisted of both horse and foot—Col. Hull's regiment had an engagement with the refugees—the enemy on seeing Gen. Parsons brigade, and receiving a fire from two field pieces of his men, as he supposed, they soon retreated and the matter or skirmish ended.—

After this Col. Hull went into winter quarters as he supposed, and the declarant to his common duty of protection as before – During the year, he served with his said company, though under different officers occasionally, but was considered of the company of Capt. Delavan for the terms of one year, except that he was sometimes at home for a week perhaps—sometimes perhaps a little more than a week, and often times less—stood ready for the year, and always went when wanted—He thinks he was out, in the service for this tour or year, as much, at least as [much] as nine months, from the time of his first entering in May 1780, to the latter part of March, 1781, when he was dismissed, as he thinks at said Fredericksburgh.

He was during said nine months service in the county of Westchester, considerable of the time, and along from that place to Dutchess County, as the line of duty required—

That he again in the spring of the year 1781, enlisted under one Daikins, a recruiting officer, at said Fredericksburgh, but shortly after falling from a horse and breaking two ribs, in the presence of said officer—and being thereby disabled he did

not join his company—but as soon as able entered the service as a drover under Capt. Morgan, and was to have soldiers pay—that he went & joined Col. Levi Wells at Fishkill and assisted in driving a drove of 247 head of cattle, as he thinks, to the southward—went to the army with them, which was then stationed at Fredericksburgh in Virginia—The army consisted of French & Americans—arrived soon after Lord Cornwallis was taken—Col. Welles & his son, and one Beckwith & one List, assisted in driving said drove—On delivering this drove, he returned to Capt. Morgan at Newton, in the State of Connecticut & there took 4 head of cattle more of Capt. Morgan and drove them to continental Village, below Fishkill, at which place his time of nine months being out, which was in January 1782, he went home—He was in this service nine months—

That he again in April 1782, on a call of man, at said Fredericksburgh, wanting to raise a man, enlisted, as their man, in the company of Capt. Andrew White—in the regiment of Col. Weisenvelt—The other company officers were Lieut. George Weisenvelt—and Lieut Conner—and said Conner, also did the duty of quartermaster to said regiment. That he joined said company & regiment at Fishkill—There was no regiment there, nor any troop[s] except said regiment of Col. Weisenvelt—Capt. Livingston was the Quarter-Master.

On the regiment being organized, the Col. took his station at Marbletown—Capt. White, with part of his company, including this declarant, lay at [Nipanock?] at the Mills—Lieut Weisenvelt, with another part of our company lay at [Lurinkill?] Lieut Conner, who acted as quartermaster, was at [Nipanock?], at the Fort, the stores were kept by him—

That he stayed there in said company and regiment in the service of his country for nine months from and after his enlistment. The duty was guarding the frontiers against the Indians – That at the end of said nine months he was discharged there at said place. The regiment was discharged by companies—That he received a written discharge from his Captain—but it is lost.

That he never received a written discharge, except the last tour—

That he has no documentary proof of his services—and that he knows of no person he can procure to prove the same, except the accompanying affidavits of his two brothers.

That he is known to Abel Chandler & Elijah Fenton Jr. in his present neighborhood, who can testify in regard to his character for veracity, and as to their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution.

That after the Revolutionary War he first resided at Hudson for about two and a half years—then at Kinderhook 4 or 5 years—then at Scodack about 4 years—then at Schoharrie [Schoharie] for about 18 years—and that he has resided at Pitcher aforesaid, his present residence sever since, being [?] years last past—

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) Silvanus Finch

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. J.K. Pike, Clk

Letter in folder dated March 31, 1933, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of Silvanus Finch, a soldier of the Revolutionary War and a pensioner.

The data which follow are obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, S.10665, based upon the military service of Silvanus Finch in that war.

Silvanus Finch was born in 1762, in Fredericksburg, Dutchess County, New York.

While residing in Fredericksburg, New York, he enlisted and served at various times from April 1777, until in 1782, one year and three months as a private of infantry; nine months as a trooper in the cavalry, and nine months as a drover under Lieutenant Cyrus Baker, Captains George Lane, Samuel Delavan, Honeywell, Whiting, Morgan and Andrew White, Colonels Hopkins and Weissenfels in the New York Troops. He was in the battle of East Chester.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 9, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Pitcher, Chenango County, New York.

There are no data as to wife and children.

In 1832, soldier's brother, Alpheus Finch, lived in Conklin, Broome County, are no further family data. New York, and brother, Simeon Finch, lived in Lucklaen, Chenango, New York.