

Pension Application for John Fink or Hans Finkanover

State of New York
Chautauqua County
R.3549

On this twelfth day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, now sitting in the village of Mayville in and for the County of Chautauqua, the said court being a court of record because it proceeds according to the course of the common law, keeps a record of its proceedings and has a clerk and seal, John Fink (called in the Dutch language Hans Finkanover) a resident of the village of Dunkirk in the County of Chautauqua aforesaid, aged seventy nine years the first of September last, 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 his former place of residence before and at the time of his enlistment was Livingston Mannor in the State of New York, being the County of Columbia.

That he has no record of his age but is positive in his opinion & belief that it is as above stated.

That he enlisted at Rhinebeck on the North River [Hudson River] in the Said State of New York as a private in May 1777 (but the day of the month he does not recollect) in Captain Thomas DeWits (1) Company in Col. Peter Gansevoorts Regiment for three years and that previous thereto he had volunteered as a minute man. That he served the whole term in the said Company & Regiment and served over, but does not recollect how much. That the said Regiment was the third New York Regiment. That Abram Bogardus (2) was a Lieutenant in said company. That from the place of his enlistment (Rhinebeck Dutchess County New York) he marched to Albany. That the said Regiment staid there a few days from thence were marched to Schenectady and after a short halt, he thinks not over a day, they marched to Fort Stanwix. That he was with the said company and Regiment at Fort Stanwix during the Siege. (3) That he cannot recollect precisely how long he was at Fort Stanwix but knows that he staid there until into the second winter after his arrival there. That from Fort Stanwix he marched with the said regiment to Schenectady when he and many of the rest of the soldiers had the small pox. That after their recovery they were marched to Albany and arrived there in the Spring. That he continued with the said company and regiment at Albany till the time of his discharge. That he served the whole three years, (4) and some over. That he was honorably discharged at Albany. That his discharge is lost or destroyed.

That he was in no battle except at the Siege of fort Stanwix aforesaid. He recollects the first summer of his service there was some dissatisfaction with Col. Gansvoort for causing five men shot for dissention. That is was said to be illegal. Three of the men were Germans. The names of the other two he thinks John Kalp & Wit Masher. (5) That after this deponents discharge he thinks Col. Van Schaick succeeded to the command of the said regiment or that the said regiment or some part of it was transferred to the said Van Schaick's Regiment. That he does not know of many who served with him in the said Army that are now living. That Gusham Vanderheyden who served in the same regiment was living and resided at Schenectady the last Nov. this deponent heard of him. That the said Vanderheyden was well acquainted with this deponent.

That he has since the revolutionary war lived at Albany and Schenectady, but mostly at the latter place. That he is poor & has no property and for a great many years past he has

resided amongst his friends at Schenectady. That he now resides at Dunkirk in the County of Chautauqua aforesaid with his son Adam Fink and has resided there for the space of now two years past, and is dependent on him for his support. That he has formed no acquaintances at the place of his present residence, and knows no body in the neighborhood particularly except his son & his son's family and Ernest Muller Esquire of the said village.

That 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 Fink

Sworn to & Subscribed this day & hear aforesaid. F. Westvelt, Judge

End Notes—R.3549—John Fink

1. John enlisted as a private for during war on April 28, 1777 in Captain Thomas DeWitt's Second Company in Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment.
2. There was a Second Lieutenant Benjamin Bogardus in Captain Leonard Bleecker's Eighth Company in Colonel Gansevoort's Regiment.
3. The Siege of Fort Schuyler or Fort Stanwix was from August 3 to August 22, 1777.
4. John is listed as deserting on February 15, 1779. His pension application was rejected on December 6, 1834 because of his deserting and "thereby forfeiting all claims to a pension". FROM: War Department, Pension Office. He was to serve during war not three years.
5. He indicates this was in 1777 but no evidence of this happening. The Third New York was consolidated with the First New York Continental Regiment but not until January 1, 1781. John had already deserted before this date.