

Pension Application for Christian Fink

S.13034

State of New York

Onondaga County

On this twenty third day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in a Court of Chancery held at Onondaga before Daniel Moseley Esquire Vice Chancellor of the Seventh Court, Christian Fink, a resident of the Town of Victory in the County of Cayuga aged seventy three years when 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 was born in the Town of Palatine Montgomery County and State of New York on the fourth day of February in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine.

That he continued to reside in the Town of Palatine till the Spring of the year 1829 when he removed to the Town of Victory Cayuga County where he still resides.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated. That he was enrolled in the year 1775 when he was sixteen years of age in a company commanded by Capt. Keyser,(1) Col. Clucks (Klock's) regiment some of the other officers attached to the same regiment were Lieutenant Col. Wookener (2) [Wagner] and Major Isellort. (3)

From the time he was enrolled till the termination of the war he served as a volunteer or rather in the capacity of a Minute Man. The first active service that he performed was in a company commanded by Capt. Tillenbaugh (4) [Dillenbach] when he was ordered to Caughnawaga a distance from Palatine of about sixteen miles where he continued about one week.

He was upon two or three occasions ordered to Rome and Fort Stanwix (5) a distance from Palatine of about fifty miles. While at Rome he was once ordered under the command of a sergeant by the name of Corall Corall [sic] to proceed to Wood Creek and bring up a number of boats loaded with whiskey and provisions on these occasions he was absent from three to four weeks. He was twice ordered to Fort Planck where he remained about three weeks performing camp duties on one occasion he was ordered from Fort Plank to Cherry Valley (6) at the time it was burnt by the Indians and Toreys, he was there about four weeks.

He was in the Battle of Johnstown (7) where he was absent about one week. He was in the Battle of Oriskany commanded by Capt. Tillenbaugh; and after he was killed he was commanded by Capt. Cook. (8) He was absent this time about three weeks a distance of forty seven miles from Palatine.

In the year 1777 he was ordered to transport a quantity of provisions to Albany and after he had arrived in that place he was ordered to Stillwater and arrived there soon after the surrender of Burgoyne (9) at this time he was absent about four weeks a distance from Palatine about seventy seven miles.

He was twice ordered to transport a quantity of provisions from Albany to West Point where he was absent from three to four weeks. He once lay at Bowen's Creek with Col. Clucks regiment about three weeks. He was once ordered to Springfield (10) at the time it was burnt when he was about one week. At the time that General Sullivan (11) marched into the western part of the State of New York he was ordered out with a wagon and horses to transport boats and provisions from the Mohawk river to the Otsego Lake. He was absent at this time about three weeks under the command of Capt Cook. He was employed as a assessor and collector to collect clothing for the army the time that he was employed as such assessor and collector he cannot state with any degree of certainty. He likewise lost a horse in the service for which he never received any compensation. He has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no other person whose testimony he can procure other than the affidavit of George Shulthies hereto annexed said Schulthies is about the same age was borned and brought up in the same neighborhood whose services were of the same nature and was a fellow soldier with him in most of all the excursions and engagements. He once had a certificate from Capt. Fink (13) certifying that he had enlisted a man for the term of three years to serve in Col. Cluck's regiment in his stead to discharge himself from his liability of being drafted during that period as his services were of more value acting in the capacity of a minute man or volunteer.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity or except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark)
Christian Finck

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. David Moseley, Circuit Judge & Vice Chancellor

End Notes—S.13034—Christian Fink

1. John Keyser, Jr., was appointed Captain of the Fourth Company on August 26, 1775 in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Waggoner or Wagner of Colonel Klock's Regiment.
3. Christian maybe is referring to Major John Eisenlord or Isler, Eysler, etc., of colonel Peter Bellinger's fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
4. Andrew Dillenbach had been appointed First Lieutenant in Captain Keyser's Company on August 25, 1775. Captain Keyser accepted an appointment of a Second Lieutenant in Captain Christopher P. Yates' Company in July of 1775 in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Second New York Continental Regiment. Keyser died in November of 1775 in Canada. Dillenbach was then appointed Captain of the Fourth Company.
5. Fort Stanwix in July of 1776 was renamed Fort Schuyler in honor of Major General Philip Schuyler. Fort Schuyler was in the present day City of Rome, Oneida County, New York.
6. Cherry Valley was destroyed by Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant on November 11, 1778.
7. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
8. Captain Dillenbach was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. First Lieutenant Severinus Klock was appointed Captain of the Fourth Company and he was commissioned Captain on March 4, 1780.
9. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered his British forces on October 17, 1777.
10. Springfield was burnt in June or July 1778.
11. Major General John Sullivan and Brigadier General James Clinton raised troops to form a joint expedition to attack Iroquois Indian Villages in Western New York in 1779. Clinton raised his troops in Tryon County and in June Clinton left the present day Cooperstown, New York to join General Sullivan and his army.
12. Governor George Clinton refers to the collecting of clothes like shirts and overalls which were to be distributed to the New York Continental troops in late 1780.
13. Christian may have hired a substitute for 3 years to serve in Captain Andrew Finck's Third Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Continental Regiment. Service in the militia was on a as needed basis so if you could not serve a tour you would hire someone for that amount of time. By the militia law of that time in New York every able bodied man was required to serve. After June of 1776 the minute men regiments were disbanded, and the militia man was required to serve at a mintue4's warning. There had been several disputes between the militia and minute men regiments as to authority over the enlisted men in their districts.