

**Pension Application for William Fink (Finck)**

S.23218

State of N. York

Montgomery County SS.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 1835 Personally came before me Peter Waggoner, a Justice of the Peace, in the Town of Palatine, County of Montgomery aforesaid, William W. Fox of the Town and County aforesaid—who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that he has been personally known and acquainted with William Fink previous to the Revolutionary War, during said war, and ever since, deponent further deposes and saith, that the said William an applicant for a Pension for his services rendered during the war.

And deponent further depose and saith that he is personally known to, that the said applicant has been a Revolutionary Soldier from the year 1776 to the Close of the said war and that the said Applicant did belong to Capt. John Breadbigs Company in the Regt. of Militia Commanded by Col. Jacob Klock. That the said applicant hath rendered faithful Services, equal. [sic] Occasionally with others of the militia, until sometime in the spring 1777 when he enlisted under the command of Col. Peter Gansevoort, and stationed at Fort Stanwix, that at which Fort, deponent did See the said applicant at Fort Stanwix. In the said Fort, where he was considered and actual enlisted soldier, when said Fink was sick, but understood that he was some better at that time—Which time deponent was drafted, and stationed at the same Fort, for six weeks, shortly previous to Oriskana Battle. And always understood and verily belief, that the said Fink hath and did render Essential services to the United States, previous to his enlistment, and then Enlisted and continued in the regular service until sometime in fall, when furnishing the army with an able bodied man, and in consequence, as he verily belief Obtained his hon'er discharge.—

And this deponent further saith that the said applicant, did continue in rendering Services to the United States, from and Emediently after his obtaining his discharge from his superior officers in the army, from that time to the conclusion of the Revolution.—

Deponent further saith, that the said applicant has been a true Whig and friend to the American Cause, against the British Government and so was his father & his two only Brothers, vizt, Christian and John, which both were Engaged at Orisgo Battle the former mortally wounded and soon after died, when at, and on the same day the applicant engaged in defending the Fort, against the enemy—deponant further states that although poor and in a State of Dependency, that he is a man of truth and veracity and to be believed under oath.  
(Signed) Wm. W. Fox

Subscribed and sworn to on the day and year aforesaid.

The following is from a Statement Showing the Service of William Fink, Montgomery County, State of N. York.

State of N. York.

Montgomery County SS. On the 23 day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty five personally appeared before me David Spraker Judge of Montgomery County Court and Counsellor in such Court.

William Finck now a pauper in the Poor House of Montgomery County for some several years, Previous a poor subject in the poor house of Oneida County at Rome, Previous to the time he was born to the commencement of the Revolutionary War during the same to the close thereof exceptions during his Enlistment [???] at Fort Stanwix, where he had enlisted in the company of Capt. Leonard Bleeker and the Regt Commanded by Col Gansevoort and Col.

Willett that to that time always had resided in the Town of Palatine than County of Tryon now Montgomery, and that he had resided at divers and different places when he became a pauper, but that he never hath resided out of the State of N. York. That he was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1759, now aged seventy five years past, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, that where he first entered the service of the United States he was attached to the company of militia commanded by Capt. John Breadbeg (1) in the Regt Commanded by Col. Jacob Klock, Gen<sup>l</sup> Nicholas Herkimer's Brigade. (2)

That by reason of Old Age and the Consequent loss of Memory, he cannot Positively swear as to the precise length of time or of his Service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades.

(The full page will be condensed somewhat.)

1776, entered service under Company officers: Capt. Jo. Breadbeg, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Jo. Zielly (3), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Jacob Eaker, Nicholas Van Slyke Ensign.

Field officers and general: Genl Herkimer, Col. Jc. Klock, 2<sup>nd</sup> do Peter Waggoner (4), 1<sup>st</sup> Major Frey, 2d, do Van Slyke (5), John Eisenlord (6) Brigade Maj'r.

Entered in Palatine, then County of Tryon now Montgomery, aged 75 years last born 27<sup>th</sup> November 1759. Declaration supported by: William W. Fox, Peter Fox, Peter Dygert as witnesses, and Jacob Snell, Col. Roof, Joseph Waggoner, George Loucks, Michael Venus, John L. Nellis, Conrad Hilts. If thought expedient to testify to his character for veracity and belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution and at the same time could testify as to his services, positively, generally—ordered out in mass, the whole Brigade, first to Caughnawaga, there joined under the command of Genl Schuyler (7) there stationed for several days then marched to Johnstown, causing surrender of Sr. John Johnson with as was supposed with about 300 men. Vizt Tories at the time when Sr. John Johnson went off to Canada or was saith with about 300 Tories alarmed when the Militia were called out in Mass to Caughnawaga, Town of Johnstown there Stationed for several days then remanded to Fort Snell Stone Arabia, there Stationed not only at the Fort but at different other houses there. Kept watching and Guarding against the incursions of the expected Enemy, length of Service in all the same tour 22 days.

June 1776 Drafted to Fort Stanwix, the Commandant Claimant doth not recollect at the fort there rendering services to the United States, the length of time is placed opposite (1 mo., 15 da.)

Claimant having been ordered out often and frequently by his Superior Officers, during the course of spring, summer & fall seasons, on alarms, watching and guarding against the incursions of the common enemy—Claimant finding it impracticable to specify each and every time but claims often and frequently being called out in rendering United States, service exclusive of the foregoing statement given in the preceding the most Essential Criterean is that of an abstract taken of an Pay Roll preserved by Capt. Fox (8) in the same Regiment of the Services rendered during the year 1776, by his company, vizt, whereby it is to be observed that a private soldier was entitled to the service some from three to five months service, besides mileage and subsistence Roll—and claimant further begs leave to state, that so as the war hath continued and progressing along, so did the duties, services and suffering increase, and that Claimant at least did render the length of services as placed opposite. (2 mos.)

1777 Early in Spring. Ordered out by Regt on an alarm, Claimant believes in consequence of a large body of Indians and Tories from Canada, causing an incursion at Balstown Saratoga County, When on their march, Claimant was mett by an recruiting officer, vizt, byt Lieut Goldbredt (9), when he took his bounty and got himself enlisted, under the Command of Capt. Leonard Bleekert, in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Gansevoort and Col.

Marinus Willett (10), and immediately after, had to march to Fort Stanwix and there stationed during summer season until sometime in September when his Father came to Fort Stanwix with a substitute by name Henry Belyer (11), who was accepted as such as one legal able bodied soldier, and Col. Gansevoort & his Capt. Vizt Capt. Leonard Bleekert, being absent, when Col. Willett to his Lieut. Prentice Bowen Granted and signed his discharge and in consequence said Claimant returned with his father home, to his place of residence in Palatine.

But it is with astonishment and the deepest regret and pain to Claimant being informed by his former agent vizt Benj'n Johnson Esqr, who after he had applied in behalf of Claimant some years since for a bounty told that his name was placed on record for desertion from the army or Fort Stanwix at Washington, O is it Congenial with the feeling heart the conscious which tyls him, that he had performed faithfully services the year previous, and again the year following vizt 1777, an Enlisted soldier, for five months & eleven days making in all 5 months and 13 days including two days with the militia when on his march to Balstown, when enlisted as aforesaid, when he indured all during that season, at the time of Genl St. Ledger, investing Fort Stanwix of 19 or 20 days with his army from Canada himself under the command of Both Commandants, defending not only the Fort itself, but also the right and liberties of his country that at the time when himself was fighting and contending in defending Fort Stanwix, his two brothers engaged on the six day of August 1777, same time in battle under the command of Genl Herkimer at Oriskany in which battle one of his brothers did receive a mortal wound, of which he died. Claimant believes on the 9<sup>th</sup> day after battle.

And claimant further declares and State, Under the Solemnity of his Oath, that although and notwithstanding his hon'r the Pension Commissioner, Stating to his former agent Mr. Johnson at Rome, vizt Claimants former agent in reply to a letter assuring him that there had been no mistake in relation to the case of William Fink, that he did desert from the army and on procuring a Substitute he was pardoned and discharged from the army service and that such cases were not uncommon.

November 1829, That Claimant did never desert from the army nor reg'l duty once, at the time he went to Fort Stanwix he was permitted on furlough to return to see his Father & Mother & family and again returned within its limited time allowed him, an [?] although willing to pardon, but those who made the representation to the War department can never be forgotten by who has not only been a true Whig, but also a faithful soldier from the Commencement to the Close of the Revolutionary War.

That Claimant has and did render the length of five months & thirteen days a few servicesto the United States including the two days when on his tour with the militia, at the time of his enlistment as aforesaid. (5 mo. 13 da.)

1778 July. Ordered out at the time of Genl Conflagration at Springfield and from thence to Cherry Valley under Capt. Samuel Gray, there stationed in rendering garrison duty by Regt. at detachment from his company and under Capt. Gray send to Cherry Valley. Ordered out on an alarm to Bowmans Creek, repelling the Incursions of the Incendiaries. (15 da.)

Ordered out at twice to Seebers on an alarm each tour during course of said seasons by Regt. (8 da.)

To the relief of Guard at Fort Plank in rendering garrison duty drafted. (15 da.)

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Ordered out by Regt to Fort Countryman on alarms, guarding against the Incursions of the Enemy by Regt. (10 da.)

1778 Latter part in previous. Drafted and gone to Fort Herkimer there stationed in rendering garrison duty, the length of time placed opposite. (22 da.)

Fore part Oct. Ordered out by Regt at the time of General conflagration upper part German Flats (15) down to Fort Herkimer, likewise opposite on the North Side of the Mohawk River, Herkimer, Several Miles Up and down the river, Murdering, burning & taken prisoners. (10 da.)

Ordered out the whole regiment at the time of the Cruel Massacre at Cherry Valley.(16 (6 da.)

In conformity to Genl. Orders, and directions stationed at different times at Fort Keyser at least, four different tours each 8 days, ordered and directed by the field officers. (1 mo. 2 da.)

During said year Claimant having been called out often and frequently on alarms, in consequence of the expected Enemy, impracticable to specify or remember all, out having at least rendered the length of service as placed opposite, exclusive of the foregoing statements. (20 da.)

Pressed with Waggon and Horses carrying boats and baggage to Lake Otsego at the time of Genl Sullivans (17) expeditions to the west, against the Indians, although disallowed by the war department at the same time engaged for three weeks. (0 time)

Ordered out by Regt at the time of the General Conflagration lower part of German Flats, and fall hill, burning murdering at least the number of days placed opposite. (22 da.)

Drafted and ordered out to Fort Plank there stationed in rendering Garrison duty Guarding against the incursions of the Common Enemy for the length of time placed opposite. (22 da.)

Ordered out by draft to the company to which the claimant belonged to by Lieut. John Zielly to render Garrison Service against the Incendiaries also during said year or different seasons, often and frequently called out on short tours, on alarms, on such as least one month, impossible for claimant to be more specific, but having at least rendered the length of service as placed opposite. (1 mo. 16 da.)

1780, May 22. (18) Ordered out by Regt at the time of the General Conflagration at and around Caughnawaga Town of Johnstown when burning, Murdering and Scalping and many prisoners taken to Canada. (8 da.)

(Forepart in March) Ordered out on an alarm by Lieut. Zielly by company by order of Col. Klock he believes the whole Regt, to Fort Timmerman, now called St. Johns Ville, there Stationed in rendering U. States Service the length of time as placed opposite. (15 da.)

Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. At the time of the General Conflagration by Sr. John Johnson with his Incendiaries from Canada when all was reduced to ashes from Caughnawaga up along the Mohawk river, distance of about twenty miles, and at the same time through that old ancient valuable settlement of Stone Arabia, ordered out and stationed at Fort Fox, there rendering Garrison duty for the length of time placed opposite, all the buildings and grain burned with some exception only within the distance aforesaid. (14 da.)

Ordered and drafted and stationed at fort Keyser at three different tours, this Fort was build and situated west adjoining the beat of this company to which claimant belonged to, the Commdt residing at a distance of short, of two miles in compliance with Genl orders and directions to Lieut. Zielly, left discretionary, to fortify and to guard the said Fort when found expedient in consequence, claimant was drafted thrice, eight days each time. (16 da.)

During the course of this year Claimant has been often and frequently called out on sudden alarms in consequence of the Enemy, impossible to specify, Claimant willing to put on a moderate scale whereas he believes that he hath rendered such service the length of two months he will and do say that he at least had rendered the length of service of one month and ten days as placed opposite. (1 mo. 10 da.)

July 1781. Ordered out by Regt to reinforce Col. Willett (19) at the time as called Col. Willetts Battle at Turlough, (20) marched to where the Enemy hath encamped and where battle

was fought passing Col. Willett with his men Emadiently after Engagemet was had not mett [met] each other, finding several dead bodies of our men, & one whose scalp was taken off, (21) supposed him by the Indians to be dead but yet living. (6 da.)

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Ordered out to Fort Paris, Johnstown against Major Ross & Capt. Butler with their Incendiary Crew when Col. Willett returned, then on the third day, joined Col. Willett, & went with him in pursuit of Majr Ross & Capt. Butler with their Incendiaries to the West Canada Creek to where Capt. Butler was killed, and a number of others while pursuing the enemy were killed, and many taken prisoners, in all during that Campaign 9 days length of service. Stationed at Fort Paris only two days guarding the Fort. (9 da.)

Drafted from out of his company four different times 8 days each tour & stationed at Fort Keyser at different times from Spring until late in fall, rendering garrison duty, watching and guarding against the incursions of the Common Enemy) Col. Willett at that Period and most critical time, had the command over all the Militia as well then over all the Levies, vizt Nine Months men, in the then County of Tryon in Consequence all his general directions & orders were complied with. (1 mo. 2 da.)

1780, latter part of July & fore part in Augt. Drafted and ordered to march to Fort Plank there stationed in rendering Garrison Service, at the time when the two Regiments, vizt, Col. Clydes (24) & Col. Klocks on the North and South sides of the Mohawk River were ordered to march to Fort Schuyler, by Genl. Orders of Genl Van Renselaers (25) to guard Capt. Gray (26) with his company of boatmen and boats loaded with garrison supplies, to Fort Stanwix, when Col. Brandt took a circuitious rout marching down on the south side of the river to the then Upper part of the Town of Canajoharie, now Minden causing a genl conflagration even not excepting Fort Plains Church or Meeting House. (27) (22 da.)

1781 again from the early part in Spring until late in Fall. During the course of this year in the Section of Country the applicant did reside in the Town of Palatine and almost through every part of the Country then Tryon County the Inhabitants were often and frequently alarmed, and not often without cause—And in compliance with the genl orders and directions of Col. Willett, almost each Fort where the alarms originated, when supplied with a cannon would have such Cannon fired as the alarming gun and the militia soldier at all times prepared with his arms, and ammunition, and without delay would have recourse to such Fort and ready to march whenever thereto required, and generally did march out to guard against the incursions of the common enemy Claimant considers it impracticable to give a specific account of the number of tours or length of service rendered exclusive of the foregoing as specified, often and frequently noticed by noncommissioned officers on alarms and occurrences, impossible to recollect the particular tours, but claimant declares within bounds that he has and did render such length of services to the United States, Exclusive of all the foregoing during said year as placed opposite at least during the said year. (2 mo. 15 da.)

1782, also from the early part in Spring until late in fall. As placed opposite at least during the course of the different season this year the enemy were not so formidable did not, approach or attack the inhabitants with large armies & no large bodies of Incendiaries but annoying the inhabitants continually by severall parties of Indians from March until late in fall not only in this Section of the Country or town but also much so in other parts of Tryon County which caused your applicant to be called out, often and very frequently in repelling the Incursions of the common Incendiaries that your applicant having been ordered out by his superior officers time after time, and again and again, apparently as if having been ordered out, the one half of the time from March until sometime in October or forepart In November, rendering it altogether impossible to specify a time either the number of tours nor particular length of service claimant has rendered to the United States, only, a number of occurrences

have transpired during the period above mentioned vizt where depredations have been committed by the Indians, in burning, murdering and prisoners taken to Canada, often and frequently in the town your applicant did reside, much the same in the adjacent town of Canajoharie, in that part of the Country then comprising Col. Sam'l Clyde's Regt.—and which occurrences has and did keep claimant with others the Militia soldier, almost if not all together the equal half of the time, from the early part in March to the latter part of Oct or forepart of November in actual United States Service, but finding it impracticable to describe or specify the particular tours, or length of time Claimant has rendered Services but the Applicant says and declares with safety that he did render the length of service as least, as placed opposite. (2 mo. 20 da. Grand total 2 yrs. 28 da.)

That your Claimant further beg leave to state and declare, to the Honl Pension Commissioners, the reason why the declaration for his services hath not been made out and presented to a more Early Period, after the laws passed the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 by Congress, Vizm your applicant was in a State of dependency and reduced to Poverty with a Family of Children bereaved of their mother residing in the County of Oneida, besides in a state of debility, both his legs most miserable affected with sores &c so as to have disabled him, from performing manual labour for a support for himself and three of his children for since several years past, Claimant further state that previous to the law of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832, as stationed an enlisted soldier in the company commanded by Capt. Leonard Bleaker, Col. Ganvevoort Regt, Vizm at Fort Stanwix in the year 1777 and for about a year past, changed and was a pauper in the Poor house of Montgomery County and his three children yet left at the Poor House and also on account of such witness which could not be obtained, consequently to satisfy his hon'r the Pensions Commissioner, that the charge of desertion as appears stands recorded in the documents at the War Department must have happened through mistake that Claimant declares that he hath obtain his legal discharge, signed and given to the applicant by Col. Willett and his Lieut. Prentice Bowen, after an legal and able bodied man was accepted by [?] Henry Belyer, who the applicant afterwards understood left his company and considered hath left it as a deserter.

Claimant further says that he thinks it not probable to be enabled to procure a clergy, neither considers himself able to attend the Court at Johnstown, Montgomery County in consequence of his debilitated state of health in connection with old age, aged 76 years 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. next.—

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 William Fink)

Sworn to and subscribed the 23 day of July 1835 before me. David Spraker, Judge of Mont. County Court & Counselor in Sup. Court.

End Notes—S.23218—William Fink

1. William served as a private in Captain John Breadbake's Fifth Company in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
2. Colonel Nicholas Herkimer was appointed brigadier general on September 5, 1776. He commanded the Tryon County Militia brigade until his death on August 17, 1777.
3. First Lieutenant John Zeely, Second Lieutenant Jacob Eacker and Ensign Nicholas VanSlyke served in Captain Breadbake's Company.
4. John Frey served as brigade major under General Herkimer.
5. Harmanus VanSlyke was the first major in Colonel Klock's Regiment.
6. John Eisenlord was the first Major in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia.

7. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army.
8. Christopher W. Fox was the Captain of the Third Company in Colonel Klock's Regiment. On September 29, 1780, Captain Fox was promoted to major in Colonel Klock's Regiment. Henry Miller who was the first lieutenant in Captain Fox's Company was promoted to captain.
9. Ensign William Colbreath or Colbrath, etc., in Captain Leonard Bleecker's Eighth Company in Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment.
10. Lieutenant Colonel Marinus Willett of Colonel Gansevoort's Regiment.
11. Hendrick Pilgart is listed as enlisting on May 5, 1777 as a private for during war in Captain Bleecker's Company. William's name is not mentioned on any of the muster rolls. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 79, folder 43, National Archives, Washington, D.C. The following was included in his pension application and proves that he was part of the Third New York and had been honorably discharged: *Fort Schuyler 11<sup>th</sup> September This may certify that the bearer William Fink born in Canajohary aged 18 years five feet, nine inches high, by trade a farmer, fair complexioned, grey eyes, and a soldier in Capt Leonard Bleecker's Company, in the Third New York forces, is discharged from said Regiment, and Company, he having procured and delivered an able bodied Soldier in his stead & which soldier I have received into said Regiment and company—Prentice Bowen. Lieut Commanding the company in absence of the Capt. Col. Gansevoort being absent. M. Willet Lieut Col*
12. Springfield and Andurstown were destroyed on July 18, 1778.
13. Samuel Gray was commissioned ensign on June 25, 1778 in Captain Andrew Dillenbach's Fourth Company in Colonel Klock's Regiment. Captain Dillenbach had been killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. First Lieutenant Severinus Klock who was also commissioned on the same date was commanding the company. On March 4, 1780, Klock was commissioned captain and Gray as the second lieutenant.
14. The stockade home of First Lieutenant George Countryman of Captain Jacob Diffendorf's Fifth Company in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
15. The German Flats was attacked on September 17, 1778 by Captains William Caldwell and Joseph Brant.
16. Cherry Valley was destroyed on November 11, 1778 by Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant.
17. Brigadier General James Clinton commanded the Mohawk Valley contingent that would eventually join Major General John Sullivan's army. Together they destroyed the Iroquois Villages in western New York in 1779.
18. Caughnawaga which is now present day Town of Mohawk and the Village of Fonda was destroyed on May 22, 1780 by troops under Sir John Johnson.
19. Marinus Willett was appointed lieutenant colonel commandant on April 27, 1781 of a regiment of New York State Levies sent to reinforce the Tryon County Militia.
20. The Battle of New Dorlach was fought on July 10, 1781. New Dorlach is now the present day Village of Sharon Springs, Schoharie County.
21. Usually they are referring to the young Jacob Diffendorf who had been taken prisoner at the Currytown settlement. The Indians on being attacked killed most of their prisoners.

22. Major John Ross of the King's Royal Regiment and Captain Walter Butler destroyed several settlements on October 24 and 25, 1781 along the Mohawk River and fought a battle at Johnstown.
23. The skirmish at West Canada Creek was fought on October 30, 1781.
24. Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Clyde of Colonel Campbell's Regiment.
25. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer.
26. Captain Samuel Gray commanded a company of batteaumen in 1779 and 1780.
27. This happened on August 2, 1780.