

Pension Application for Charles Fisher

S.236628

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.
State of New York
Montgomery County SS.

On this nineteenth day of September in the year of our Lord 11832, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, now sitting Charles Fisher a resident late of the town of Glen ins aid county, aged eighty one years, the twelfth day of August 1851, who being 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 7th 1832, & in answer to the Interrogatories put by the Court says,

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

That soon after the battle of Bunker's hill, in the '77 he entered a volunteer company under Captain Stout, Colonel ___ Heyer's regiment of militia in Middlesex County in New Jersey he did duty with said company twice a week, training or drilling during the summer and fall of that year, & was out on a small expedition to drive away the British ships Asia & Phonix [sic] which were stationed at the Narrows to cut off the intercourse by water between New Brunswick & New York—which expedition occupied about one week, said vessels having been stationed about 50 miles distant from the rendezvous of the company making in all 100 miles march.

That in July, a few days after the declaration of Independence, he enlisted in Captain Vincent Wethol's company, thinks (but is not positive) in Colonel Furman's Regiment. The company immediately after enlisting marched down of Brunswick to the rendezvous & marched to New York, through Elizabethtown, Br[??]town, [Thankturin?] left Amboy a few miles (thinks about 3 miles) I crossed the Hudson at Parole's Hook, & staid in the City of New York about one month, Generals Washington & Putman were both in New York at that time & thinks Genl Lee, while in New York your narrator went with the expedition that destroyed the British tender, stationed the inside narrows to Brunawick.

From New York we proceeded to Long Island & remained there under the same generals, & believe Genl Green was also there & your narrator was in the battle of Long Island—Colonel Martin of the New Jersey line was wounded in that battle & your narrator was one of the three who carried him to a town near a mile from Flatbush. That Lord Sterling's brigade was mostly cut off in that engagement. Your narrator retreated with the army from Long Island I N. Your 2 or three days after the battle. The occasion of this retreat your narrator understood to be a movement of the British shipping up East River, to cut off the American supply of provisions from New York. After a few days (3 or 4 days) stay in N. York. He retreated with the army to Fort Washington, where they staid about a month, & was present in the fort when the British attacked the fort and were repelled—

A few days after the attack, our army retreated from York Island over King's Bridge to White Plains-- From thence the retreat was to New Jersey at King's Ferry

just above Haverstraw, & I staid first night at Haverstraw; the 2nd night at Elizabethtown, & next warning before day, as express, arrived that Fort Washington was to be attacked, and our army immediately marched to Fort Lee on the Hudson—on the same day at that place your narrator saw the British march up to attack Fort Washington & saw Col. Cadwallader's garrison of 500 men or thereabout, march out and ground their arms without firing a gun on either side.

Your narrator stood nearby Generals Washington and Putman who stood together upon a small rock by the side of the river at the moment of surrender, saw Genl Washington draw his sword & broke it upon the rock & threw the hilt into the river & exclaimed, "O the treacherous villain! & tears fell from his eyes—

The army laid at Fort Lee about three weeks—An alarm came from Haverstraw-- & we took the road for Haverstraw; when we had go about half way there, an express arrived that the British had possession of Fort Lee, upon which we returned down for what was called "The English Neighborhood" (Where our cannon been carried, from fort Lee (about 2 or 3 miles) for safety in case Fort Lee should be taken.)

When in sight of this place we discovered that the British had possession of the cannon. On this occasion, Col. Furman, at the call of Genl Lee, volunteered voluntary with his regiment to which your narrator belonged, to retake and your narrator enlisted into that company as [canet?] and served in it from about February until the British quit New Brunswick which was in the season of cherries, but the exact time is not recollected –

Your narrator assisted in taking five hundred refugees on Lawrence's Island, three miles below Brunswick. This expedition was suggested & planned entirely by your narrator, who was well acquainted with the island, as his father had occupied the whole island (containing about 700 acres) as a farm & your narrator had, of his own accord, privately recommended the situation of the refugees, and was acquainted with situation of the centries [sentrys] & being satisfied of the practicability of taking these refugees, communicated the plan to Colonel John Nelson of a regiment of New Jersey militia & to Captain [Magee?] who commanded a company of riflemen & conducted these corps on to the island—

We [?] all the 8 or 9 centries & the last centry was killed by a blow from your narrator. Your narrator with 3 or 4 men, took up the bridge to present any relief from the British to the island & with his own hand disarmed also threw Major Stockden (the commanding officer of the refugees) that of the window of the house, after having disarmed him of his sword, before, & also threw Dennis Combs & John Grimes, two commissioned officers known to your narrator through the window.

These 500 refugees, were safely delivered over to Genll Putnam in Princeton, the ensuing day, and these facts were reported to General Putman by Colonel Nelson as this narrator was told & Genl Putman himself, who for these & other services, known to the general offer to give to your narrator a major's commission in the army during the war, which was declined by your narrator at the solicitation of his parents, who preferred to have him [?] continue in the volunteer service where they might frequently hear from him. Your narrator begs leave to refer to the books a journals for a

confirmation of the above statement, if these books are on file in the war office, and Genl. Putman caused papers from said journal to be read by his aid du camp to your narrator, on a certain subsequent occasion.

Before this expedition & during the American retreat from Fort Lee through New Jersey, your narrator belonged to Col. Furman's regiment, which regiment was detached from the army at or near Sparktown the cannon but failed, were conducted or piloted by Sergeant Cloyd, through the salt marsh to Elizabeth town ferry, where said Cloyd & your narrator served as boatman & ferried over the whole regiment & the British arrived at the ferry, in pursuit, just as the last board load was crossing—next day we marched to Brunswick, after the battle of Long Island Captain Wetherel was absent & the company was commanded by Lieut Nixon (Capt. Wetherel having been taken prisoner to N. York by the British & there died of the small pox as your narrator was informed & believed.

We crossed the Delaware about 1st December into Pennsylvania & encamped quartered along the river opposite to Trenton.

On Christmas Eve, on Ezekiel Anderson, a resident & freeholders of Middlesex County New Jersey, with whom your narrator was well acquainted, having prepared himself by permitting his beard to grow & disguise of ragged [ragged] clothing, went over into Trenton & in the character of a beggar procured about 25 dollars from the Hessians & ascertained their situation & gave notice or advice to Genl Washington to cross the next day, which was accordingly done & your narrator crossed with the army & as present & engaged at the taking of the [909?] Hessians at that place. The same Ezekiel Anderson conducted Genl Washington to the rear of Trenton on this attack.

These Hessian prisoners were conducted to Newtown in Pennsylvania [Pennsylvania] and your narrator was a Serjeant of the guard on this occasion. The name of the commanding officers of the guard your narrator does not know the prisoner were confined in the meeting house & gave in about ten days, this guard was relieved, when your narrator joined the army again at New Brunswick.

A company of horse was then and there raised by direction of General Washington to serve only until the British should quit New Brunswick & to prevent them & the refugees from plundering the inhabitants.

This company was commanded by Captain Robert Nixon which was situated perhaps but half ways between Elizabethtown & New Brunswick, & crossed the pass from Perth Amboy & South Amboy, the regiment marched along the shore about 40 miles, [Thromburg?] town and on this march we captured 500 refugees at their respective homes, but who were enlisted in the enemy's service. Thence he countermarched to Trenton & the prisoners were forwarded (as your narrator was informed) to Philadelphia & confined in the new jail.

After the British left New Brunswick the Capt. Nixon's company of horse was discharged together with the whole army by General, until further orders—This discharge took place on the common between the village of New Brunswick & the barracks, and on this occasion, your narrator was stationed near Genl Washington, &

saw him, heard him presence of the army take a psalm book from his pocket & read the 101st Psalm or a part of it.

That immediately after this discharge your narrator volunteered into the [company commanded?] by Captain William Artaby of Middlesex County, New Hersey and your narrator received a commission, signed by Governor Livingston of said state as Lieutenant in said company in Colonel Heyer's regiment and served as Lieutenant in said company, from the time of receiving said commission in the year 1777, to the end of the war.

That during this term your petitioner was constantly, that after the death of Arteby said company was commanded by Captain James [Schrewatt?] and was almost constantly out on duty in garrison at Amboy—Morristown & other places—Your narrator was in the skirmish at the drawbridge between Trenton & Bordentown, but in no other battle while in commission.

This commission was in possession of your narrator until the year 1818, about which time it was lost or mislaid but how or where your narrator cannot tell.

That your narrator knows of no person in the part of the country who personally knows any thing of his service in said war excepting Zedekiah whose affidavit is hereunto annexed, & that your petitioner is very poor & almost entirely blind, and is entirely unable to New Jersey to enquire for proof of his services, nor does he know that any of his fellow soldiers (excepting as aforesaid) are alive or where they live, but is confident that his name is to be found in the books of General Putman & begs to refer to such if they or an abstract of them, or his papers taneeinny [containing?] the military prerations [preparations?] in New Jersey, are in the war office because that general once in his presence, referred to his book to find his name in a certain occasion, & there found it as he said at the time that General Putman offered him a major's commission, which was declined at the solicitation of his parents who preferred his continuing the Volunteer Corps because he would not then be liable to be called into distant service.

That he never had a discharge in writing—but a verbal discharge.

That in the year 1803 I removed from Middlesex county in the State of New Jersey to the county of Schoharie in New York State, where I resided three years, & from thence to the County of Montgomery where I now reside.

That there is no minister of the gospel now residing near me with whom I am acquainted; Mr. Hosbrod the only one is now absent to the West.

And I the said Charles Fisher, hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State to his knowledge. (Signed) Charles Fisher

Subscribed & sworn in open court the day and year aforesaid the day and year aforesaid. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk