

Pension Application for Deliverance Smith

W.26483 (Widow: Sarah)

B.L.Wt.34,835-160-55

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

County of Albany SS.

On the twenty eighth day of September personally appeared in open court before the Justices Court of the City of Albany, now sitting, Deliverance Smith of the Town of Vern, in the County of Albany & State of New York, aged seventy five years on the 6th day of March 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 and performed duty as a revolutionary soldier and served as herein stated. That he was seventy five years old on the 6th day of March last past; that in the year 1775 he resided in the Great Nine-Partners, and was there enrolled as a private in Captain Melancthon Smith's company and Col. Drake's regiment of militia, whom he first saw with knowledge in New York. The reg't assembled at Peekskill, and there embarked for New York, in the month of January 1776; when arrived there, and remaining for about four months and occupying vacant houses as barracks, they were marched to Hellgate, and built there a fort which he thinks was named Hellgate Fort; soon after which they were discharged there, and returned home. In the same year, he volunteered to go to the class to which he belonged, to serve for eight months, and got ten dollars as bounty to wit; five dollars from the state, and five dollars more by the class—this transaction took place at "the City", in the Little Nine Partners, a place distant from Poughkeepsie between 20 to 25 miles. That the regiment in which he has thus enlisted as a volunteer for the class as before mentioned, was then marched from Little Nine Partners to Fort Montgomery in the Highlands, where he was in garrison for the term of his enlistment, being eight months, when he was discharged and returned home.

In the year 1777 he enlisted as a volunteer in a company of Rangers raised and commanded in Poughkeepsie by one Capt. Ezekiel Cooper, but subject to the command of Governor George Clinton to serve for one year, and were constantly on duty, in scouting parties between Horseneck and Westchester County and Stillwater in Saratoga County—That at the time when General Burgoyne and his army were advancing from the northward, this declarer was engaged in service with the company of rangers under Capt. Cooper, and in guarding the prisoners confined in the goal at Esopus, and in the fleet prison; and who, after having been handcuffed by this declarer (as he was a blacksmith by trade) assisted in guarding them to Hartford, and from thence to Simsbury Miner.

One circumstance he wishes to mention which took place about that time, and that is this; that a person whose name this declarer does not now recollect but who was an adherent to the British, and who, while they were taking him before the proper American officer, was discovered in the act of swallowing something hastily, and oil medicine being forcibly administered to him, he brought up a silver ball, curiously put together in the shape and size of an ounce lead ball, which silver ball, on being opened was found to contain (as was afterwards proved) intelligence from Burgoyne's Army to the British General; Sir Henry Clinton, then at New York—whereupon, the Tory spy, so taken, was immediately brought to trial before a Court martial, found guilty and hanged. That in the year thereafter he this declarer was induced, at the solicitation of Capt. Melancthon Smith, under whom he had before served, to enlist with him, on an expedition designed to guard some of the most public passes and bridges over Croton river in Westchester County; in which expedition, this Declarer volunteered, and was out on service for four months or thereabouts.

In the course of which expedition, Capt. Smith's company was three several [sic] times engaged in skirmishes and partial engagements with the enemy:--in the first of which, two of Capt. Smith's company were killed, and two taken prisoners, one of whom was named Alexander Furman, an Ensign in

Capt. Smith's Company, who was taken to Long Island, took the smallpox and there died—In another of the said engagements, the Americans consisted of 80, and the British of 300 or was supposed; in which the Americans were victorious, after having killed 14 of the British, as appeared by a like number of hats and muskets afterwards found and picked up on the ground which the British had occupied, with the loss of only one man killed, and eleven wounded—In another of the three engagements, which took place towards dark, between Fort Independence and Kingsbridge, which resulted in the loss on the part of the Americans of Ensign Ely of Capt. Smith's Company killed, and one private killed, whereupon Capt. Smith retreated to Head Quarters, then at Williams's at the Bronx River; at which place the company remained until sometime in May or June following, and after being discharged, returned home to Nine Partners—About two years thereafter, there was a general call made upon the militia to turn out, on which occasion this declarer also went out, but did not remain in service longer than about two weeks, when his services being no longer needed, he was discharged and returned home to Spencertown in Columbia County, he being at that time a married man, and residing there—That this declarer never received a written discharge on any of the occasions when he had been in the service. He now with confidence declares, that he has most faithfully served the United States as a revolutionary soldier for a period of upwards of two years. 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) Deliverance Smith

Subscribed and sworn to the day & year aforesaid. John G. Wasson Clk

Letter dated August 21, 1924.

I have to advise you that from the papers in Revolutionary War pension claim, W.26483, it appears that Deliverance Smith was born at Great Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York, March 6, 1757.

While a resident of that place he enlisted in January or February 1776 as a private in Captain Melancton Smith's Company, Colonel Drake's or Colonel Humphrey's New York Regiment and served 4 months. He enlisted in 1776 as a private in Captain Colby Chamberlain's Company, Colonel Humphrey's New York Regiment, served 9 months and was discharged in March 1777. He enlisted in April 1777 as a private in Captain Ezekiel Cooper's New York Company of Rangers and served one year. He enlisted in December 1778, served 4 months as a private in Captain Melancton Smith's Company, Colonel Graham's New York Regiment and was in three skirmishes. While a resident of Spencertown, Columbia County, New York, he was called out about two years later on an alarm and served 2 weeks as a private in Captain Hawley's Company, Colonel Scott's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 28, 1832, while a resident of Berne, Albany County, New York.

The name of soldier's first wife is not stated.

He married January 1, 1814, at Berne, New York, Sarah widow of James Cougar or Conger who died in March 1813. Soldier died October 18, 1838, at said Berne and the widow, Sarah, was allowed pension on her application executed August 7, 1855, while a resident of Hamden, Delaware County, New York, aged 85 years.

It is not stated that soldier had any children.