

Pension Application for George Smith

W.19064 (Widow: Maria or Anna Maria)

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

On the 5th day of November 1841 personally appeared before the undersigned Charles Gray a Judge of the County Courts of the said county Maria Smith a resident of the town of Herkimer in the said county and State aforesaid aged about ninety years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of congress passed July 4, 1836—that she is the widow of George Smith deceased who was a sergeant in the Militia and served in that capacity in the War of the Revolution—that the said George served in the Militia at Herkimer at Fort Dayton where she and the said George lived during the whole period of the Revolutionary War but she does not now, from her great age and loss of memory, recollect nor can she state the officers under whom he served—that she knows of his service in the militia from the fact that after Herkimer was burnt by the enemy she and the said George and the inhabitants of Herkimer generally lived in Fort Dayton and when they so lived at the Fort she saw the said George her husband on duty at the Fort—She recollects [?] that the said George was [?] sent to the Oriskany battle and always understood from him and others that he was in the Oriskany battle—she recollects also hearing her husband the said George say that he served in the bateau service with John Campbell and John House but how long the said George served in the Boat service or who were the officers under whom he served therein or how long he served in the Militia or the places where he served she does not remember nor can she state except that he served in the Militia at Fort Dayton and went to the Oriskany battle and in the boat service she thinks he went to Oswego.

She further declares that she was married to the said George Smith several years before the breaking out of the Revolutionary War and when she as she always understood and believed and as she now believes, was in her twentieth year, but she does not remember the year in which they were married and for the day and year of her marriage with the said George Smith she refers to a record of their marriage, made by the said George Smith himself in a manuscript cyphering book which the said George always from the time of their intermarriage and until his death owned and kept in the family and which book and record since the death of said George has always been kept by her and her son Peter Smith who is the only son of the said George Smith and with whom and in whose family she has always since the death of her husband the said George lived and which record of their marriage has always since their intermarriage as well in the lifetime of the said George as since his death and up to his day been considered, treated and relied on as a true record of the day and year of their marriage and which she believes and has no doubt is a correct and true record of the date of their marriage—That the marriage between her, and the said George Smith was solemnized by the Rev'd Abraham Rosecrantz of Germanflatts who at the time was a minister of the Gospel that she knows of no record of their marriage except the record in the cyphering book of her deceased husband aforesaid.—

And she further states that she she [sic] knows the fact of her marriage with the said George Smith & have been before the was from the circumstances that she was some three years before she had her first child which child lived only about a fortnight when it died and that about three years afterwards her second child which is her son Peter Smith was born and that he was born in the war at Fort Dayton whilst she and her husband lived in the fort. That she afterwards about two and a half years thereafter had two twin daughters who were also born in the war and at Fort Dayton whilst she and her husband the said George were yet living in Fort Dayton.

And she further states that the said George Smith her husband died over thirty years ago but she does not remember the year although she does distinctly remember that is was in the month of March that he died—the she was never again married, but has always since this death remained a widow.

And she further states that her baptismal name is Anna Maria but that she has always been called Maria and that her maiden name was Bellinger.

And she further states that by a fall in the month of March 1840 she fractured her hip bone and has since that time been wholly confined to her bed and is in a helpless condition and entirely unable to go about and that she could write when she was young but cannot now. (Signed with her mark) Maria Smith.

Subscribed and sworn to this 5th day of November 1841 before me. Chas. Gray, Judge &c and I further certify that from great age and bodily infirmity the said Maria Smith with whom I have been well acquainted for more than twenty years, is unable to attend court & make her declaration and that her statements are entitled to full credit. Chas. Gray, a Judge of Herkimer County Courts.

State of New York
Oneida County SS.

Nicholas Harter of Deerfield in said County being duly sworn did depose and say that he was seventy-nine years of age on the 8th day of March last—that he was born at Herkimer in the County of Herkimer and resided there until after the Revolutionary War—that he was acquainted with George Smith deceased who died at Herkimer about thirty years ago that he was acquainted with said George Smith before and during the whole of the said War, and that said Smith during the whole period of the war resided at Herkimer and performed militia service at Herkimer during the whole period of said war in a company commanded by Capt. Henry Harter, Lieutenant John Daymuth & Ensign Peter Weaver in the Regt commanded by Col. Peter Bellinger & Lt. col. Frederick Bellinger in the Brigade of Genl Nicholas Herkimer who was killed in the Oriskany Battle—that this deponent was enrolled in said company in the year 1778 as he now believes, and served therein, with the exception of an absence of about four month, during the whole of said War—That during the whole of the service of this deponent in said company he and the said George Smith served together, and this deponent although not enrolled therein until the year 1778 yet from his residence in the heart of the company and the immediate neighborhood of the said George Smith knows the fact that the said George served in the said company from the commencement of the war—that the said Smith was about ten years older than this deponent, that before the enrollment in said company of this deponent he occasionally performed duty at said Fort Dayton voluntarily and as a substitute for others and from those facts he knows that said Smith served in said company before the enrolment of this deponent and from the beginning of the war—That before the enrolment of this deponent, the said company of which the said George Smith was a member and wherein he served was frequently on duty and performed the usual garrison duty at Fort Dayton at Herkimer and although this deponent cannot state the period or term the said company served at said Fort Dayton in the year 1776 and until the fall of the year 1778. Yet from the nature of the service imposed upon the militia at Herkimer and the frequency with which they were out upon duty, this deponent has no hesitation to state that the said company and of whom he recollects the said Smith to have been done, did perform service in the year 1776 and in the year 1777.

And in the year 1777 and up to the following the year 1778 but this deponent does not now recollect any particular service except that the said company in the year 1776 the year previous to the Oriskany were ordered and did proceed to Fort Stanwix or the neighborhood of the Fort to Block up the Wood Creek near said fort by falling trees across the same and that the company was engaged in this service about eight or ten days and that in the year 1777 the company was also marched to Oriskany at the time of the Oriskany Battle and was out this occasion for the period of four or five days.

That after the burning of Herkimer which this deponent thinks was in the fall of the year 1778 after the enrolment of this deponent in said company the said company was ordered to Fort Dayton where most of the inhabitants of that region were then alerted to guard said Fort – that the said company there being there no other troops there were stationed there during the fall and the whole of

the winter and until late in the spring or early in the summer following when they were relieved by other troops and that during the whole of this period commencing in 1778 until the summer or spring of 1779 was an uninterrupted tour of duty by the said company and of which the said Smith & this deponent were of the number—That there was a regular roll call & parade morning and evening during this period, and the usual guard by day and by night without any interruption. That this service was an interrupted service for about the period of eight months and was performed under orders as this deponent then understood and now believes from the government—that this deponent remembers that this service continued until the fore part of the summer of 1779 from the fact that he was on guard duty when an attack was made by the Indians & Tories upon the inhabitants in the neighborhood of the Fort where they had gone out to work and when Nicholas Smith who was a brother of the said George Smith & the wife of the said Nicholas Smith and Henry Harter who was a brother of this deponent were killed which was in the month of May 1779 as this deponent recollects and believes.

That afterwards and until the close of the war the said company was occasionally on duty at said Fort Dayton and in pursuit of the enemy that said company was out in pursuit of the enemy when brother was killed and were out about five days and that this deponent and the said George Smith were with the company was also ordered out and pursued the enemy towards the Unadilla south of Herkimer at the time General VanRensselaer came up the river, the enemy was commanded by John Johnson and the company were out at this time for or five days—this deponent & said Smith were with the company as he believes—this excursions was after Herkimer was burnt but this deponent cannot state the year—that after the term of eight months interrupted services aforesaid which ended about the forepart of the summer of 1779—the said company remained at Herkimer at Fort Dayton and occasionally on duty at said Fort Dayton that the occasions of service by said company at said Fort was when the regular and other troops were withdrawn, but this deponent cannot remember the number of these occasions near the period of duration—this deponent does remember also that he has been out on military excursions with some of the members of said company in the winter season, but does not remember that he was accompanied by the said George Smith.

And this deponent further saith that he is acquainted also with Maria Smith the wife and widow of the said George Smith deceased, that he became acquainted with her about the close of the revolutionary war and has been acquainted with her ever since—that she and the said George Smith were as he is informed and believes married before the close of the war and that the said Maria never married after the death of the said George her husband and that she has remained and is [?] his widow. And this deponent further saith that he cannot write his name on an account of the trembling or shaking of his hand and that he signs by making his mark. (Signed with his mark) Nicholas Harter

Subscribed and sworn to this 1st day of October 1841 before me. Chas. Gray, Judge, Herkimer County.