

Pension Application for Gideon Smith

S.11419

State of New York

Otsego Co.

On the 15th day of October 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas was holden at the Court House in the Village o Cooperstown in and for said County of Otsego now sitting Gideon Smith a resident of the Town of Oneonta in the said County of Otsego and State of New York aged 73 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath depose on a [blot] 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he resided in the Town of Bedford in Westchester County in same state when he enlisted under Capt Mills in the Regiment commanded by Col. James Homes about the last of July or first of August in the year 1775, and for 6 months that he served one month when he hired a substitute in consequence of the importunities of his mother and returned home that in the year 1776 about the first of April at any rate on the first Tuesday of April it being Town Meeting in the town of Bedford as above where he resided when he again enlisted under the command of Capt. David Hobbie & James Miller was first Lieutenant & Col Richmone or Richmore and Lieut Col. Wisenfelts of the New York line for the time of one year that he served 6? Half months when he was carried home by his Father by permission of Capt. Hobbie in consequence of being sick that he marched form Bedford to New York City about the last of April that often staying in the city 3 or 4 weeks they marched and encamped a short distance back of the city when they lay till about the last of August or til the retreat from that city that he acted as an oarsman in purveying the American troops across the East river from Long Island till night for this night of the retreat from Long Island and that he was with the boats crew & crossed five [?] appears by the British in the morning about the last boats load that crossed the said river then in the morning he returned to his regiment and that part of the week after he did the above duty as oarsman across East River he was employed in bringing stores off Governor's Island that he was fired upon by the British Vessels as they came up the river that in about one week he retreated with the army to Harlem Heights but thinks it was quite cool or fall weather while at Harlem Heights there was an engagement and he with his regiment was formed to reinforce when the British retreated then he was carried home as above about the middle of Oct of same year. That in the year 1777 he again enlisted under the command of Capt. Hezekiah Gray in the militia of New York that they marched from Bedford where he lived at that time [?] to near the White Plains that he enlisted in the month of February for the term of time of 2 ½ months that the service he was engaged was procuring grain & hay and other provision and guarding the same at Wright's Mills northerly from the White Plains where the grain was threshed and the hay pursue from there carried under escort of him and his company to West Point that he was discharged about the first of May making 2 ½ months of the said year of 1777. That [?] at the same place he inlisted in the said Lien about the middle of August in the month of August in the year 1777 under the command of Capt. Richard Sackett in Colonel Clinton's Regiment that he marched to or near the White plains where he performed similar duties as last before [?] for three months the term for which he enlisted that near the North River about Sept in this last enlistment he with his party engaged a party of horse thieves that one of the American party was shot through his [?] bone and they took one horse from the enemy which was shot through the ear that he with his party about the said month of Sept. of 1779 he engaged near a little north of the White Plains a small party of Delancie's horse and exchanged shots and one David Haight a Tory was killed and that Height spoke several words when he came up to us and said Justice have overtaken him at last and that he was discharged about the middle of November of the same year.

Has had at least two written discharges but they are lost but has no written evidence of his service and knows of no living witness to his services.

Has lived since the war in Dutch County lived in Albany County lives now in Oneonta in the County of Otsego and has lived in Otsego Co by the court where and in what year were you born. I was born in the town of Bedford in the County of Westchester in the year 1759.

Have you any evidence of your age, if so where is it. There [is] no record of my age.

Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the Revolution and where do you now live? Lived in Bedford when called into service, Westchester County have lived since the war in Westchester County, in Albany County in Otsego County & now live in Oneonta in the County of Otsego & State of New York.

[Transcriber's note. The next paragraph deals with whether he was a volunteer or substitute, the officers he served under and those he saw while in service and the general circumstances. The writing is so poor, I can't make out sentences.] (Signed with his mark) Gideon Smith

Sworn & subscribed the 15th day of October 1832 in open court. Horace Lathrop, Clerk

Letter dated May 3, 1937.

Gideon Smith S.11419

Gideon Smith was born in the year 1759, in Bedford, Westchester County, New York; the day of his birth and the names of his parents are not show; however his parents were living in Bedford when he served in the Revolutionary War.

While a resident of Bedford, New York, Gideon Smith enlisted about August 1, 1775 and served one month as a private in Captain Mills' company, Colonel James Holmes' New York regiment, after which he hired a substitute to complete the six months for which he had enlisted "in consequence of the importunities of his mother". He enlisted early in April 1665, served six months and fifteen days as a private in Capt David Hobby's company, Colonel Weisenfels' New York regiment, was in the retreat from Harlem Heights, and assisted in ferrying the troops across East River; he stated that he father took him home because of sickness; he enlisted in the year 1777, and served nearly three months in captain Hezekiah Gray's New York company, enlisted in August of that same year and served three months in Captain Richard Sacket's company, Colonel James Clinton's New York Regiment. During this service, he was fired upon several times by the enemy.

After the Revolutionary War, the soldier resided in Dutchess and Albany Counties, New York, later moved to Otsego County, that state.

Gideon Smith was allowed pension on his application executed October 15, 1832, at which time he resided in Oneonta, Otsego County, New York. He made no reference to wife or children at the time he made application for his pension.