

Pension Application for John Smith

W.19061 (Widow: Jane Ellsworth Smith. John was born town of Beekman, Dutchess County February 27, 1759. Married October 5, 1779. John died November 14, 1836.)

At a Court of Common Pleas held at the Court House in the town of Poughkeepsie in and for the County of Dutchess in the State of New York on the twenty sixth of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two. Present: Edmund H. Pendleton, Robert S. Livingston, Albro Akin, Stephen Thorn, Joseph J. Jackson, Judges.

State of New York
Dutchess County SS.

On this day appeared in open court before this court not sitting (the same being a court of record for said county, John Smith a resident of the town of Clinton in the said County of Dutchess, aged seventy three years and upwards, 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 under the following named officers & served as herein stated. At the Town of Beekman in Dutchess County in the month of July 1776 enlisted for nine months in Captain Israel Vails company of Infantry in Col. VanCortlandt's 2^d New Your regiment on the Continental Establishment, joined the regiment at Peekskill, went thence to Fort Independence, staid there about two months & evacuated the fort, after Fort Washington was taken by the enemy, went back of White Plains and encamped was there during the battle of White Plains, not in the battle, between White Plains and Peekskill Capt. Vail's Company being small in number was broke up and deponent was attached to Captain Bebee's Company in the same regiment, afterward in the winter crossed the river to Fort Montgomery and remained there most of the winter in the spring marched with the regiment into New Jersey, returned to Fort Montgomery about the first of May and was discharged there, after having served full nine months.

In 1779 at Beekman served under Captain Israel Vail in Colonel James Vandebergh's regiment of the Militia of New York, the regiment was called out en masse by order of the governor on an alarm, went down the river to Peekskill and below, the enemy lay at Kingsbridge, returned to Fishkill was guard to a court martial and was there between the 4th and 8th of July taken prisoner by a party the enemy, cowboys, &c. Was carried to headquarters of the enemy, at Phillip's near Kingsbridge, was then put on board a vessel and two days after sent to New York, was put in prison in the sugar house, there were about 500 other prisoners there at that time, deponent remained in the Sugar House a prisoner about seven months, was then removed to the Jail in New York (late the debtor's Jail in the Park) staid there two months a prisoner & was exchanged the latter part of May 1780, and went home to Beekman deponent served six weeks before he was taken and was a prisoner ten months.

In the summer of 1781 at Half Moon, now Saratoga, deponent volunteered in a company of Militia of New York for six months, the name of the Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel he does not now recollect, they were commanded by General Schuyler, was stationed at Fort Edward, was out often as guard and scout and had frequent skirmishes with the enemy and Indians, but no regular engagements, he served the whole of the six months and was discharged at Fort Edward. Captains name was Joshua Taylor, was discharged about New Year's Day. Deponent had a discharge from each service, except when he was taken prisoner, which discharges have long since been lost, was born in the town of Beekman in Dutchess County February 27, 1759. There is a record of deponents age in the family Bible of his father which is now in the possession as deponent believes of his brother Moses, residing in Albany County. Has lived since the Revolutionary War in the Towns of Beekman, Washington and Clinton in the County of Dutchess, and for the last 28 years in the town of Clinton. He has no documentary evidence of his service, and no witnesses other than those whose affidavits are hereto annexed.

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.

He refers to Stephen Thom and John Barner to testify as to his character for veracity and as to their belief of his revolutionary services during his first service Col. Graham's regiment was in company at White Plains. Col. Dubois' regiment was at Fort Montgomery. (Signed) John Smith

Sworn in open court Sept 26th 1832. Henry E. Traver, Clerk