

Pension Application for John Smith

S.17109

State of New York

Tioga County SS.

On this 10th day of January 1834 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County John Smith of the Town of Southport in said County a Revolutionary War Soldier who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that being required by the pension department to make a more specific statement of his Revolutionary services than he has in his original declaration which is hereto annexed he proceeds to give in detail such additional facts as are within his recollection and First; he declares that between the first of April and the twenty fifth of December in the year 1777 he served six months and seven days as a private as follows, to wit; that he volunteered in the said service in a company of Militia at Florida in the County of Orange in the State of New York under the command of Captain Nathaniel Elmer in the Regiment commanded by Col. John Hathorn; but for the most of the time during the campaign of '77 he was under the command of Lieutenant John Wood of the same company and Regiment.

That he was classed with Timothy Smith and Isaac Smith, who are both deceased, to perform a tour of two weeks each and then to be relieved fro the same length of time. That under this arrangement he was bound to military service until a few days before Christmas in the year aforesaid—That he served the time allotted to this deponent in said Classification which was one third of the time; that during the same period aforesaid he served as a substitute for the said Isaac Smith the whole proportion which by the classification the said Isaac was bound to perform which made another third of the time and he this deponent during this campaign served one tour of two weeks as a substitute for Isaac Horton. That during the period aforesaid he this deponent was stationed on Garrison duty at Ramipo and at Fort Montgomery—at this later place the troops with this deponent were employed in repairing and strengthening the fort previous to its being taken by the enemy. He was also stationed with other troops on garrison duty at [Lonewyn's?] in Orange County and at PeenPack in Ulster County—and while stationed at all the before mentioned places he was occasionally detached with others on guard and scout.

And he further declares that in the spring of the next year (1778) he was again call'd out and entered the service under the command of Capt. Bailey or Capt. Sayre, he cannot positively say which, in the same Regiment of Col. Hathorn, aforesaid and under the same classification of the year previous.

That during this campaign he served his own proportion of time and as a substitute for Isaac Smith the same proportion and as a substitute for Isaac Jennings on one tour of two weeks .

This deponent cannot pretend to give the exact day of the beginning or end of this campaign but is certain that his service was performed between the first day of March and the first day of November in the year last aforesaid, and that during the said period he was out on duty and under orders not less than five months and twenty four days. That during the period last aforesaid he was stationed on garrison duty some part of the time at West Point and also in labor upon that Fort. He was also during the remainder of this campaign stationed at [Loversissas?] and Ramipo on the same kind of duty at which posted an efficient was necessary to prevent the encroachment of the Indians and Tories.

And he further declares that in the spring of the next year (1779) he again entered the service as a volunteer under the same officers as last aforesaid and continued in the service without interruption till sometime in the month of September following—that he cannot give the precise day of entering or of leaving the service in this campaign and that the nearest he can arrive at it is to say that from the first of April to the first of October in the year last aforesaid he was in actual service on garrison duty and in marching fro place to place not less than five months—That during this campaign he was stationed a part of the time at Matimas Decker's on the Delaware River in Orange County and at Major Dickersons' in said County and at Daniel VanAnker's on the Minisink River in the County of Orange aforesaid all of which were fortified and garrisoned posts the latter of which during this campaign was attacked by a body of Indians supposed to be three hundred and successfully defended itself.

And he this deponent further declares that in the spring of 1781 and according to the best of his recollection he would say the first of April of that year he entered the service as a volunteer in the company of Captain Abraham Westfall (there is a Clerical mistake in the Christian name of this officer in the original declaration of this deponent) Major Thomas DeWitt in Col. Weisenfelts Regiment then stationed on the Minisink River in Orange County aforesaid where we remained but a short time were then marched to a Post known at that time by the name of the widow VanEtan's where we were stationed on garrison duty some months. We were then march'd to Captain Westfall's residence where we remained some weeks and were then march'd back to the Minisink River. And this deponent says that he continued in actual service in this campaign without any interruption for the term of eight months and was discharged in the forepart of the month of December in the year last aforesaid—and that in all his service set forth in this amended Declaration he served as a private. (Signed) John Smith

Sworn & Subscribed this 10th day of January 1834 before me. Wm. Dunn J.P.

Letter in file dated April 21, 1938.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of John Smith who served in the Orange County New York militia, during the Revolutionary War.

The record of John Smith of Orange County, New York is given herein as found in the papers on file in his claim for pension, S.17109, based upon his service in that war.

John Smith was born in the year 1780, in Goshen, Orange County, New York, and resided there with his father at the time he entered service in the Revolutionary War. The exact day of his birth and names of his parents are not given.

He enlisted April 1, 1777 and served at various times until a few days before Christmas, amounting in all to six months and one week, as private in Captain Nathaniel Elmer's "Florida Company", Colonel John Hathorn's New York regiment, he enlisted about March 1, 1778, and served at various times until November 1, amounting in all to five months and twenty-four days, as private in Captains Bailey's and Sayre's companies, Colonel John Hathorn's New York regiment, he enlisted about April 1, 1779, and served at various times until October, amounting in all to five months, under these same officers in the Orange County Militia. He enlisted April 1, 1781, and served eight months as private in Captain Abraham Westfall's company, Colonel Weisenfels New York regiment. John Smith stated that Isaac and Timothy Smith were in the same class in Orange County New York militia with him, and that a part of the time he served as substitute for said Isaac Smith, but he did not state any relationship between them.

John Smith resided in Orange County, New York, until about 1890, then moved to Southport, Tioga County, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 4, 1832, at which time he resided in Southport, New York. He had resided there ever since 1790. At the time he made this application for pension, John Smith stated that the Isaac and Timothy Smith with whom he served, were both deceased.

John Smith made no reference to wife or children.

In 1832, Caleb Smith, a brother of John Smith, was a resident of Woodhull, Steuben County, New York, he was then aged sixty-nine years.