

### **Pension Application for John Smith**

R.9854 (Widow: Sarah) Married October 15 1792. John was born January 28, 1757. Sarah Purdy Smith was born February 22, 1762. John died August 6, 1841. Their children: William John Haviland, Samuel Purdy, George Washington, Elizabeth Mariah. Sarah wasn't able to get a widow's pension, John received a pension.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

State of New York

County of West Chester. SS.

On this twenty second day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me the undersigned, Nehemiah Brown Jr. one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County, John Smith a resident of the town of North Castle in the said County aged seventy six years on the twenty eighth day of January last, who being first by me 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the united States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; that is to say he entered the said service as a volunteer sometime in the spring of the year 1776 to the best of his recollection and belief in the latter part of the month of April in said year as a private in the Colonel troops of the then colony of New York, in the company commanded by Captain John Thomas in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Drake & believes in Gen. Scott's Brigade for the term of nine months; at the time he entered the service as aforesaid he resided in the town of Harison [Harrison] in the said County that he enlisted as aforesaid at the town of White Plains in said county and immediately joined the said company at that place and was then marched to the City of New York and was stationed in that city about two months. And then at the expiration thereof, crossed over to Long Island with the American Army and was stationed there several weeks and then recrossed to the City of New York with the American Army at the time of its retreat from said Island in 1776, on the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of August in said year; that he was immediately taken sick and permitted to return to his home in West Chester County aforesaid after having been in the said service under his said enlistment; four month; that he was prevented by continued indisposition from again joining the army during the said term of nine months for which he enlisted as aforesaid. And the declarant saith that to the best of his recollection and belief he received pay for the whole term of his enlistment of nine months aforesaid and this belief is induced from the circumstance that about the time of the expiration of his said term of nine months he purchased a horse of considerable value the price which he paid with his pay as soldier.

And the declarant further saith that on the fifth day of July in the year 1779 he the declarant was taken prisoner on the American lines in the said County of WestChester by a detachment of British troops and immediately taken by them to the City of New York and confined in the sugar house in that city until some time in the month of November following when he was taken by the British to Staten Island near said city and kept a prisoner there until March following when he was again brought to the City of New York and again put in confinement as a prisoner in said Sugar House until the sixteenth day of February 1781 when he was exchanged making the whole time of his confinement as a prisoner as aforesaid one year and seven months and eleven days. That his sufferings during his said confinement in the said sugar house were very great; that he was once offered his liberty without any exchange if he would take the oath of allegiance to the British crown but that he refused to do so and was continued a prisoner as aforesaid until exchanged as aforesaid.

And the declarant further saith that about the middle of March in the year 1781 he was again taken prisoner by the British while serving as a volunteer in the company of Militia of the said County of WestChester commanded by Lieutenant Wright Carpenter of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Thomas. That he was taken prisoner as last aforesaid at North Castle and immediately marched to the City of New York and confined a prisoner in the jail (so called) in that city six weeks when he was

exchanged; that at the time he was taken prisoner as aforesaid he was on an expedition in the said company into the southern part of the said County of WestChester against the British then stationed there.

And the declarant further saith that from the time he was first exchanged in the month of February 1781 until March 1781 (when he was taken prisoner a record time) he was frequently in the service of the United States in the militia of the County aforesaid in the company commanded by Captain Hunt and in the company commanded by Captain Sackett of the Continental Army. That he served at such times as a volunteer on the American Lines in the said County in terms of, from one to three days, some times as often as three times a week at other times once a week and twice a week. That he served at such times in the said County of WestChester.

And the Declarant further saith that from the month of May 1781 (the time of his second and last exchange) until the close of the Revolutionary War he served in the said companies of Hunt and Sackett, the irregular manner above stated in the said County of WestChester, in expeditions against the British in the said County and in repelling invading parties of the enemy. And in guarding the said County, that from the length of time that has elapsed since the said service was performed, and the failure of the memory of the declarant he cannot state the precise length of each term of the last mentioned service nor the precise number of terms, but he feels justified in declaring under oath and does declare that the aforesaid irregular service would amount to nine months of actual service.

And the declarant saith that he claims a pension as follows viz.

For the term of nine months in the company under the command of Captain John Thomas in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Drake, in the year 1776 if the department shall be of opinion that he is entitled to an allowance for the time he was sick during said term, if not, then he claims for the term of four months of actual service during said term before he was taken sick.

And the declarant also claims an allowance for the time he was a prisoner in possession of the British as set forth in his declaration amounting to one year eight months and 25 days.

And the declarant also claims an allowance for the irregular service herein before set forth amounting to nine months in the whole and for which he conceives he is entitled to an allowance for, as it was actual service rendered the United States in the war of the Revolution in companies duly organized embodied and commanded by competent authority but of which in consequence of the great number of terms and the shortness thereof and the length of time that has elapsed and the failure of memory of the Declarant it is impossible for him to set forth more particularly than he has herein before done.

And in answer to the interrogatories propounded by me to the said John Smith; agreeably to the instructions of the War Department the said John Smith on his oath maketh answer and saith.

1<sup>st</sup> That he was born near QuakerHill in the County Dutchess on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 1757.

2<sup>nd</sup> That his age is recorded in his family Bible now in his possession.

3<sup>rd</sup> That at the time he entered the service as herein before set forth he resided in the Town of Harison in the said County of WestChester; that for the last thirty six years he has resided in the town of North Castle in the said County and that previous thereto and since the Revolution he resided in the town of Rye, and that he now resides in the said town of North Castle.

4<sup>th</sup> That he entered the service as a volunteer and never served as a substitute.

5<sup>th</sup> That the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served were:-- Genls Washington, Scott, Parsons, & MacDougal and also Colonels Megga, Tallmage, and Wisenfelts, and their regiments and Colonel Thomas Thomas and Colonel Samuel Drake's Regiments of Militia.

6<sup>th</sup> That he never received a written discharge from the service, and that he always served as a private.

7<sup>th</sup> That the names of the persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution are, Charles F. Butler a clergyman and David Brundage.

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) John Smith

Sworn to & subscribed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 1833 before me. Neh''h Brown Jr. One of Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.