

## Pension Application for Nathan Smith

S.19096

Born Mar 27, 1763, North Salem, Westchester Co., NY.

Privateer, New York, Captain Stevens, Col. Crane, NY Militia.

State of Vermont

District of Addison SS.

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Probate Court for the said District of Addison, being a Court of record now sitting, Nathan Smith, a resident in New Haven in the County of Addison, aged sixty nine years, 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, and served as herein stated:--In the year 1777, at North Salem, Westchester County State of New York, where I then resided, I enlisted into a company commanded by Capt. Benjamin Stevens, of New York, in a regiment commanded by Colonel Crane of New York Militia, and served for two months, in guarding the lines, from the North River to the line of Connecticut, in the County of Westchester. Soon after that I enlisted into a company commanded by Captain Thomas Hunt of New York in the same regiment, Still under the command of Colonel Thaddeus Crane, and served in the same neighborhood, performing the same service for more than two months—Soon after, I volunteered, on the day CrumpPond was burned, and served for two months in a company commanded by Capt. Delavan, in the same regiment—And soon after, I took the place of Abraham VanSchaick as his substitute, in a company commanded by Capt. Abraham Lockwood, in the same regiment, for two months in the same neighbourhood & in the same service.—Soon after this, I again enlisted into a company raised & commanded by Captain Samuel Lawrence of Salem, in the same county, in the same regiment under Colonel Crane, and served in the same neighbourhood, & performing the same kind of service for the term of three months. This company was raised and the service performed soon after Bedford was burned by the tories.—And soon after I enlisted into a company raised & commanded by Captain Fancher in the same regiment, and served for three months, performing the same service.—The terms of service above mentioned, I am confident, were not less than I have stated above.—In nearly every case we were detained and served longer than the term of our enlistment, -- our places not being supplied in season—and the officers not being willing to discharge us.—During the above mentioned terms of service I was the fife major of Colonel Crane's regiment until the last, under Capt. Fancher; but always during the above terms of service carried a musket, and served as a private except occasionally I was called upon & acted as a corporal or Sergeant.—I am not quite certain as to the time when the above mentioned services were performed, but if I am not mistaken in my recollection, they were all performed in 1777 & 1778, except the last, which I think was in 1779. I know that there were but short intervals between the several terms of service;--that region was constantly exposed to the incursions & depredations of the enemy and especially the tories, who were embodied in considerable force in that neighbourhood—and most of the time the Continental troops were withdrawn, and the guarding & defence of the lives in that neighbourhood depended chiefly upon the militia, and especially upon Crane's Regiment, to which I belonged—During the above mentioned intervals of service and for sometime after that last mentioned, a number of the young men of the neighbourhood from twenty five to thirty—of which I was one—formed ourselves into a company, without any particular organization, except when in actual service, and agreed to hold ourselves in readiness for immediate service on any said dire emergency—And on every sudden alarm, and in every case of necessity for a sudden expedition, we were called upon, and frequently went into service for a few days at a time. At one time notice was sent to us from Colonel Crane, that information had been received that a number of tories under Capt. Theil of Dutchess County were about to start with a number of horses to go to the enemy—and that they were expected to cross

Goldege's Bridge over Croton River. We accordingly started for that place, and had just arrived & taken our stations at the bridge in the night, when the said company of Tories arrived; but one of our company by coughing gave notice to them, in season to turn and flee out of our reach, so that we were not able to come across them,—they being on horseback & we on foot. At this time we were out eight or ten days. At another time, notice was given, that the Tories had made arrangement to come up and seize Benjamin Haight & Halsey Esquires who, as Whigs, had rendered themselves obnoxious to the enemy.—A small number of us in the night when they were expected, had stationed ourselves near Height's house, and while there, we saw the flashes of two or three guns nearby and we fired in the direction of the flashes—when we heard men running off in haste—and having searched the ground, where they had been, we found the knapsack of one, the strings of which we had shot off, and ascertained that it belonged to a Tory by the name of Lyon of North Castle.—I am confident, that in expeditions of this character & others, besides the regular enlistments above mention I served at least ten months.

During the term of my first service under Capt. Stephens, [Morrisania?] then in the possession of the enemy, was made, a rendezvous where the horses & cattle stolen from the Americans for the use of the British were collected,—and our company under the command of Capt. Stephens, turned out and joined Gen. Parson's brigade of Continental troops, for the purpose of attacking & taking that place. When we arrived it was assigned to our company to attack the enemy, which we did and soon routed them, and took possession & burned their huts.—Several of the enemy, we learned were killed; two of our company were wounded, one man by the name of Armstrong in the shoulder & another in the thigh, by the name of Arnold Dickens—but none were killed. The property & prisoners were taken possession of by the regular troops.

On the day of my enlistment under Capt. Delavan and on the day Crump Pond was burned, we went in pursuit of the enemy, to harass the flanks of their troops and endeavor to rescue some of the property they were carrying off. They were too strong for us, but by posting ourselves behind a stone well we were able to harass and [?] in one of their flanks—and picked up & made prisoners of two stragglers. Afterwards we waylaid the rear guard of the enemy, at a narrow passage through the rocks, who had charge of the horses & cattle, and in a situation, where they could not be assisted by the main army, and attacked them; when they precipitately fled & left the cattle & horses, which we took possession of – there being from twenty to thirty horses & cattle, besides calves, sheep & hogs. The whole force of the British on this occasion was so great, that it was not thought advisable for the two regiments of militia which lay near by, one under Colonel Crane & the other under Colonel Drake from Dutchess County—to pursue them. But the above mentioned service was performed by Capt. Delavan, with only fifty of his company of volunteers, selected for the purpose. The British army was said to consist of about seven hundred. A considerable part of the service, which I performed, when not under regular enlistments, was in guarding & conveying prisoners from below towards the head quarters of the American Army.—and during the years 1777-'78.'79. & '80 I was almost constantly employed in some kind of service, and seldom was allowed to remain at home any considerable time, and sometimes not one night before I was called out again.

In the year 1779, if I am not mistaken in my recollection, Capt. Titus Conkling, being about to fit out an expedition from Norwalk, Connecticut, in the Privateer Shouldsom, being along father's in North Salem, within one hour after his arrival, I enlisted under him, and was on my way with my knapsack, on my back. The last of November or first of December, we sailed out of Norwalk, and cruised in Long Island Sound; – We did not come in contact with any considerable vessel, but we took considerable property from boats belonging to the enemy. While we were out the weather became very cold, and our vessel was frozen in at a small harbor, about six miles from Norwalk.—Here a part of the enemy, upon the ice, attacked us, and took possession of the vessel & property, & took us prisoners. – As soon as it was dark however, I & some others of the crew fled upon the ice & made our escape.—His service continued over two months, but I am not able to ascertain exactly how long.

I was born at North Salem, West Chester County New York, March 27, 1763—my parents kept a record of the births & ages of their children, in their family bible.—from this I took the record of birth of myself & rest of the family & transferred it to my own family bible, where it now remains in my possession.—I continued to reside in that place during the war & until 1788, when I removed to Burlington, Chittendon County, Vermont, & resided there until February 1822—when I removed to New Haven, Addison County, where I now reside. I never had any written discharge—and have no documentary evidence, & know of no person, except James Hodges, whose affidavit is annexed, who can testify to my service.

I refer to Rev. Joel Fish, Jonathan Hoyt Jun. John Hanchet, & Philo Dorwen, Esquires, residing in New Haven aforesaid—Rev. Thomas A. Merrill, Laverne Fillmore, & Asa Chapmen, residing in Middleberg who can testify to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

And the said Nathan Smith 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) Nathan Smith.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Sam'l Swift, Judge.