

### Pension Application for Samuel Smith

W.17836 (Widow: Susannah)

Col. Edwards,

Sir, Yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. was received in answer to the application of Susannah Smith for a pension under the act of 7<sup>th</sup> July 1838.

In reply I have to say, that although the family of Smith in and about Smithtown in a very numerous one, there was but one Samuel Smith in Smithtown or of Smithtown in 1775 old enough to bear arms. Samuel Smith the first of Smithtown was the son of the Patentee, and he died 1717—a daughter of his married James Smith of England who had a son Samuel, but he was never a resident of Smithtown. Samuel the first left two sons, Obadiah and Richard. In 1785 the town was dissolved between the grandchildren of the Patentee in 7 sons according to the right of their fathers rather the seven Proprietors or children of Richard Smith, Obadiah the Grand father of Lieut. Saml Smith then received his [patermony]. I enclose you an original leaf from the Town Record which will show this part. Obadiah the first as [?] had a son Obadiah who was the father of Lieut Smith. There was at time 1753 no other Samuel Smith in the town.

Wm Smith brother of Lieut. Smith had a son named Samuel Smith called Fifer Sam who is still living in the old house at Fish Pond where Lieut. Smith his uncle was nursed & [?] when he was brought over from Connecticut in a whale boat sick with the camp fever in 1782. Fifer Sam was 16 years of age he says when his uncle employed him to blow the fife in the Militia after the war. Up to this time there was but one other Samuel Smith and he was a son of Gilbert Smith—Gils Sam (as he was called) was killed in 1828 at the age of 62. He was consequently only 10 years old in 1776, this I have from his son William who married a daughter of Justin George Oakes, who showed me the record of his family and may be relied on.

With regard to the fact that no papers can be procured by the applicant, it may perhaps seem strange without a knowledge of the circumstances of the family. Lieut. Smith died in the left time of his father Obadiah Smith who had a s'd wife who survived him. Obadiah Smith the father is supposed to have closed the business matters of his deceased son, as no one else is in possession of his business papers, I have made diligent and searching enquiry. The step mother after the death of her s'd husband is supposed to have carried away with her from Smithtown the family Bible of her husband and his other papers as none other can be found among his grandchildren. Be this as it may who ever had his papers are now deceased, and the changes and removals of 59 years since have left nothing remaining of what they may have regarded as valueless. You say the fact of the applicants being a widow of a Revolutionary officer must have been known to the prominent men in & about Smithtown. It is! But who of such men can swear to facts that occurred 75 years ago? All Smithtown knows the fact, and even particulars of the past but from their deceased parents only. The few Octogenarians of Smithtown know from information only, they were not in the army themselves and cannot swear beyond the authentic information of the time from their own knowledge. If any soldier or officer of the Revolution services who knew Lieut Smith in the army, they were not of Smithtown and do not know the applicant. They cannot go beyond the services already proved by record.

Judge Smith declines parting with the original record of his Grandfather, nor would it serve your purpose, if he would, because, it contains no dates, I mean the general record as history of the family, which was compiled from memory only. It has subsequently been brought down to the present time by his survivors and dates as far as can be ascertain[e]d filled in, it was published by Thompson in his s'd Edition of the History of Long Island Vol 2d some 4 or 5 years ago.

Judge Smith's record of his own branch of the family is of course perfect, but that does not include the branch or line of Obadiah Smith the son of Samuel the first; but only the line of Judge David so called. Judge Smith in his affidavit in the matter, referred to his record for the purpose of ascertaining whether there could be any other Samuel Smith of Smithtown in 1775 old enough to be a

soldier. However I enclose you a transcript of the original for such use as you can make of it. The leaves from David Smith's Bible attached to my own affidavit will prove the age of Lieut. Smith as far as it is possible to do so.

The affidavit of Gildersleeve will show that the husband of the applicant was the man that enlisted under Grenell in 1775 and Gildersleeve actually saw the same man under Capt. Platt in 1775 on their march to Brooklyn that year.

You will observe a slight discrepancy between the inscription from the tomb stone and the record as regards his age, but it must have arrive from false arithmetic as, the date in the same in both. You have the best evidence that the case admits of, which is all the law requires, or as the matter stands human reason would support with regard to the six months and I hope an early answer as the old lady may truly be said to be on the edge of the grave. Respectfully J. W. Blydenburgh

New York, March 18<sup>th</sup> 1850. To Col. James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, Washington.

William Smith was born the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 1751.

Samuel Smith was born the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 1753.

David Smith was born the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 1755.

Lucius Smith was born the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 1758.

The age or birth of David Smith & Marth Smith's Children.

Jonas Mills Smith was born the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 1779

Ebenezar Smith was born the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year 1782.

Elizabeth Smith was born the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year 1785.

Obadiah Smith was born the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 1788.

David Willet's Smith was born the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year 1790.

Deaths. Martha Smith wife of David Smith, August 11<sup>th</sup> 1826. Aged 66 years & 3 months.

Samuel Smith was born the 25 day of June in the year 1753, and was married to Susanna Blydenburgh the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 1783, who was born the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord, 1762.

My daughter Mary was born the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord 1784. My son Thomas was born on Wednesday the 19 day of October in the year of our Lord 1785. My 2<sup>nd</sup> son Samuel Prior was born on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord 1788.

Samuel Smith Departed this Life Jan'y 27<sup>th</sup> 1791. Aged 57 years 4 months and 28 days.

United States of America

Southern District of the State of New York

City and County of New York SS.

On this twenty ninth day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty nine personally appeared before me Samuel R. Bells Judge of the United States for the Southern District of New York Susannah Smith, aged eighty-seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836, that she is the widow of Samuel Smith, who was first Lieutenant in the fifth company commanded by Captain John Grinell, in the third Regiment, commanded by Colonel James Clinton, in the New York Continental line of the Army of the Revolution. She further declares that she was married to the said Samuel Smith on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year seventeen hundred and eighty three. That her husband, the aforesaid Samuel Smith, died on the twenty seventh day of January seventeen hundred and ninety one, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed. (Signed) Susannah Smith.

Sworn and subscribed on the day and year above written before me. Saml R. Bells, US Judge &c.