

### Pension Application for Thomas G. Smith

R.9864

To the Honorable Board of Pensions.

The declaration of Thomas G. Smith of Greensburg, County of Westchester & State of New York, Minister of the Dutch Reformed Churches of Tarrytown & Union Ville, humbly sheweth that your declarant was enrolled a soldier in the actual service and defence of American. The different periods of duty for which he was called out, he hopes he can say he performed with the strictest fidelity. In the year 1776, he voluntarily offered his service as a soldier to go and assist in the forming bulwarks of defence at Fort Montgomery and under the command of Genl George Clinton & James Clinton, Colo. McClaughry, Major Wisner &c. Here your declarant was offered an honourable station in the Engineer department and should have have [sic] accepted the offer had he not been prevented by being taken with the camp distemper or bloody dissentry. By the reason of his place of residence which was near Warwick in the County of Orange he was enrolled in the Regiment of Genl. Hathorn although when necessity dictated the measure he was called upon to join the Goshen regiment commanded by Colo. Justan who fell in the Minisink battle by the hostile Indians. Your declarant being within about twelve miles of Minisink at that time, the Indian frontier on the one side and the North river upon the other only twenty four miles distant caused you declarant to be much in the field of actual service, with respect to the time of actual service here ly's the greatest difficulty as Mr. Jackson & Mr. Gilbert were but little in actual service for two reasons, one was they could hire a man as a substitute for much less than they could make at their employment. Therefore as they were only on duty with me for the time they have specified, the affidavits go only so far and no farther, which comprises but a very small part of the duty I performed and reason was they were able in a pecuniary point so to do. They assert that they were at Minisink only one tour of Duty, but your declarant performed not less than two tours of actual service at Minisink and I think more probably three or four you applicant having mentioned Fort Montgomery will also notice West Point of this fortress your declarant was one of the few who laid the foundation thereof, was there when that and Fort Putnam were finished but whether finished the same year that we laid the foundation in the spring I am not certain, and when your applicant say that he was at the beginning and finishing of said forts, he was at home a considerable part of the time probably one half. He likewise performed after said forts were finished one or more tours of actual service as a soldier at said forts officers General Glover, Colo Hathorn, Major Wisner, Capt. Minthorn. The next place which your applicant performed military duty was at Ramapough the only pass through the Highlands were [where] your declarant to the best of his remembrance performed three tours of military duty. Colls Wisner Coll Pauling, Capt. Shepherd &c being the officers at Tappan one tour of military duty the officers Coll Justan, Major Moffat, Major Papinoc &c from this place your applicant with five others went 12 miles distant from the camp and took two men the murderers of a Mr. Cambel witin one half miles of a company British light horse.

At Minisink two or three tours of military duty your declarant performed commanding officers Col. Hathorn, Major Newkirk &c at Sufferiens he likewise performed two or three tours of military duty your declarant likewise fulfilled one tour of military duty at [?] one at New City and one at Clarkstown and one in or near Hakensack. I am not able at this distance of time to ascertain the dates when these duty were fulfilled neither do I think it any wise necessary to the validity of this declaration. Suffice it to say they were performed at such time during the Revolutionary War as the necessitate and safety of the county dictated. Your applicant has made no account of general semi general alarms, these were very frequent and sometimes lasted from two two [sic] to four days before we could return to our respective homes. Your applicant at this distance of time is somewhat in difficulty with respect to the times of actual service he performed as the *onus probanai* must as it respects the actual time of service in a great measure rest upon his own oath, he will not on that part of his declaration speak in as positive language as many have done, when your declarant takes a general view of his actual time of service in the Revolutionary War he is led to think that it would fall but little under two years, he finds about eighteen or twenty different stations that he has been fixed at, and as Capains [Captains] Enoch Jackson & Mr. Daniel Gilbert whose affidavits are affixed hereto have made oath to one month or thereabout I am satisfied that it should have so fixed which would amount to eighteen or twenty months. I think you will easily perceive the difficulty your applicant labours under with respect to the definite time of actual service after the lapse of one half century or more and add to this his continual studies in his ministerial duties it will not be wondered at, that as an honest man he [?] respect no more definite.

It is true I was listed for six or nine months but through the apathy of our officers we were not called into actual service therefore of this no account is made. I hope that my perilous enterprise or adventure in taking the murderers of Mr. Campbell said Campbell was a worthy citizen and a tried whig and I am almost certain that if all the circumstances respecting that expedition were fully known in all the dangers & bearing thereof, that if it could be done in conformity with the present pension law, that there would be but one voice viz, a Testimony of respect suffer me now to say a few things respecting the storming of Fort Montgomery upon the Hudson river which took place in the evening of October the 7<sup>th</sup> 1777—When the roll was called in the morning there were only five hundred and ninety effective men, but whether this comprehended the men on both sides of the creek viz of both Fort Montgomery on the north & Forts Clinton on the south of this I am not certain--The British forces were about eight thousand of this number one thousand were killed, and about two hundred and forty forty [sic] of the Americans. This number was counted by Col James McClaughry then a prisoner but in company with the British General Sir Henry alias Harry Clinton Bart, admitted to view the slain. This ground so bravely contested and the Palm of victory so gloriously contended for together with that of Bunker hill showed what could be achieved by the sons of freedom and gave a rising glory to American arms.

I now claim the pay of orderly sergeant I served first as a private 2d as a sergeant and while at Minisink, there was super added to my service that of Quarter Master our Quarter master being an infirm sickly man, but how long I performed both duties I know not.

This your humble petitioner has given to you the best statement he is capable of nevertheless it is highly probably that a number of stations where he lay & consequently the time he lay at these stations has escaped his memory—for which it is hoped due allowance will be made in his favour and although he has made no account of general or semi general alarms which were very numerous one of which so far as his memory recollects lasted the whole winter. It was during this that he took the murderers of Mr.Campbell , as for Pay-Rolls he can fix no dependence upon them as he drew out a number of them himself--& sometimes he received pay and sometimes none—which he thinks is ample testimony that they were not presented as they out to have been through the diffidence of the officers. I therefore humbly ask and leave it to your superior wisdom that no deduction may be made from the two years which entitles to full pay together with all arrearages, all which is humbly submitted by your devoted Servant. (Signed) Thomas Smith.