

Pension Application for William Smith

S.19467

State of New York

Rensselaer County SS.

On this 29th day of June 1833 personally came before me Herman Kinckerbacker Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Rensselaer William Smith a resident of Pittstown in said County aged 75 years ho bring 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated.

That in the month of May 1775 he volunteered his services as a private in a company of Militia at Livingston's Maner [Manor] then Albany, now Columbia County N.Y. for the term of five months. That said Company was commanded by Capt. Elliot, John Van Bury Lieutenant in a regiment commanded by Col. Robert Livingston, first marched to Catskill, from thence to old Schoharie in pursuit of Tories & Indians, from thence to German Flatts where deponent & Corps to which he as attached captured 40 tories styling themselves the Royal Greens—marched with them to a garrison on the Mohawk River called Stone Roby & from thence to Albany where said tories, so captured were delivered to the public authorities & confined in gaol—that he this deponent was in actual service for the term of five months when he was discharged.

That in the month of June 1776 this deponent enlisted for the term of 6 months in a company of soldiers commanded by Captain John Steward, John L. Hardenbergh 1st Lieutenant, John Leaton 2d Lieutenant in Col. Graham's regiment of militia—marched first to Pine Plains from thence to Red Hook & on board a sloop to Peekskill, thence marched to Kingsbridge where this deponent was engaged in building Fort Independence & was also engaged in watching the British Troops on the East & North Rivers and on Long Island—In Sept 1776 went to [?] Shor Island & then with his Corps took 35 British prisoners—This deponent was with Gen. Washington in the Fall of 1776 in his retreat from N.Y. & was in the Battle of White Plains in Now. 1776. Marched from Genl Washington's Quarters at White Plains to Peekskill under Gen George Clinton & was discharged on the 1st Jany 1777, & was in actual service from the time of his last said enlistment in June 1776 until his discharge on the 1st Jany 1777 a period of at least 6 months.

In February 1777 this deponent again enlisted in the service of the United States for three months in a company commanded by Capt. John Strong from Pittsfield, Mass, Lieutenant Guttridge in a Regiment of Militia commanded by Col. John Sloan & was in actual service at this time for three months engaged in drawing provisions & ammunition from Pittsfield to Ticonderoga for the army.

In May 1777 enlisted for 9 months in a company from Boston under command of Capt. John White at Pittsfield Mass in a regiment commanded by Col. W. Alister or Mr. Kinster, marched from Pittsfield to Albany – then drew accoutrements and marched to Fort Edward from thence to Fort George, crossed the Lake to Ticonderoga & joined Gen. St. Clair's troops, then abandoned Ticonderoga took the stores in the same to Fort Defiance on the opposite side of Lake Champlain where deponent & the Crops to which he was attached lay until the approach of Burgoyne's Army when they retreated to a place called Hubbleton in Vermont where they had an engagement with the British under Col. Skeen. Gen St. Clair, Col Nixon & Gen Stark were in this engagement & Col. Arnold commanded in person—Deponent & Corps retreated to Skennisborough (now Whitehall) from thence to Fort Ann, then to Fort George to take away stores & blew up the Fort—had a battle at a place called Jones Low – Mill between Santy-hill& Fort Ann with the British-Indians & Tories led by Gen. Frans, retreated to Fort Miller, from thence marched to Bennington and deponent was in the battle at that place with our troops under General Stark, Col. Arnold & Col Nixon in the same battle from thence deponent & his company marched to Saratoga and joined Gen. Schuyler's army & retreated with the army to VanSchaick's Island

between the North & Mohawk Rivers was then ordered to meet Burgoyne. Gen Gates took command. Deponent was in the battle at the taking of Burgoyne in the fall of 1777 & in all that campaign went with the prisoners to Albany & staid there until February 1778 & was then discharged and this deponent says that he was in the actual service of the United States all the time from May 1777 to Febry 1778 a period of nine months.

In the month of June 1778 this deponent was enrolled in a Company of Militia commanded by Matthew DeGarmo at Scaghticoke then Albany Col. now Rensselaer County in a regiment of militia commanded by Col. Peter Yates—marched with said company to Fort George for the purpose of pursuing the Indians & tories who were plundering the Country went across Lake George to Ticonderoga to Bulwagan Bay & thence to Crown Point was in actual service at this time one month.

In Sept. 1779 went with the last mentioned company to guard Whitehall & the Lakes and was in actual service at this time for three months when he was discharged.

This deponent did receive several written discharges but all of them together with all papers relative to his services were burnt with this deponent's house in the year 1796 & this deponent has now no documentary evidence.

This deponent was born at Livingston's Manor now Columbia County N.Y. on the 6th day of May 1675 but has no record of his age.

This deponent resided at Livingston's Manor until he entered the service of the United States as above stated. After Burgoyne's surrender he removed to Pittstown then Schaghticoke, District Albany Col. Now Rensselaer in 1777 & has resided at Pittstown ever since & still resides there—that this deponent knows of no person now living who can testify to this deponents service except Jonathan Rown who can testify to this deponent's services in 1779 & John Ray who served with this deponent in the battle at White Plains but this deponent is wholly unable to procure the testimony of said John Ray who resides in Washington County, this deponent has for sometime past been maintained as a town pauper & is still maintained at the poor house. He is at this time so lame & disabled as to be unable to attend any court to make application for a pension and has not the means of procuring any testimony in his behalf except that of Jonathan Rown & further said not. That he knows of no clergyman who can testify to this deponent's services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency & further saith not. (Signed) William Smith

Subscribed & sworn this 29th day of June 1833 before me. H. Knickerbacker first Judge of Rensselaer County.