

Pension Application for Elijah Smith

S.42324

State of New York, Washington County SS.—On this 1st day of June 1820 personally appeared in open court being a court of Common Pleas [Pleas] in and for the County of aforesaid, a court of record which proceed according to the course of common law, with a Jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount keeping a record of their proceedings Elijah Smith of the town of Kingsbury in the county aforesaid aged 61 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows (to wit) that he enlisted in Capt. Wisenvelt's Company in Col. Courtlands Regt in the New York line of the Continental establishment in the month of May 1778 and served nine months in said corps and was discharged in said corps after having served nine months and further that he made application for a pension in pursuance of the act of the 18th March 1818 on the 7th day of April 1818 and received a pension certificate No. 4631 dated at the war office of the United States the 28th of November 1818—and that he has drawn his pension from the 7th day of April 1818 to the 4th day of March 1820.—I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with an intent thereby to diminish it so as to bring myself within the provision of the act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed and by me subscribed. Viz

One horse & set of harness &c.
Two yearling steers
One hog one sow 1 ax
Two tables, 1 stand, 1 chest
9 chairs, 2 spinning wheels
1 [Rial?], 2 kettles, 2 old tea kettles
1 tea pot, 1 doz. Plates, 9 teacups.
1 set pewter spoons, 9 knives & forks
3 [?], 1 looking glass, 1 shovel & tongs
1 pot and [?]
4 barrels, 1 churn, 2 pails.
(Signed) Elijah Smith.

And further that I am by occupation a farmer have a wife [Fay?] much infirmed and have seven daughters of the names & ages as follows to wit.

Susan Smith aged about 28 years.
Sally aged 26
Polly 23
Phebe 21
Nancy 17
Belan dear 13
Henrietta 7

Sally and Belan Dear have been sick and part of the time confined to bed for near two years and Susan has for a long time been unable to work so that the well daughters are but a little more than able to nurse & feed the sick ones and I have a Judgement against my property and body the sum of 130 dollars which is more than every article I possess is worth and I owe some other debts to doctors & I am myself unable to labor most of the time and unable to procure substance for myself and family except

by the help of government or by Public or Private Charity and my indigent circumstances until to a pension under the acts above stated. (Signed) Elijah Smith

Sworn & declared on the 1st day of June 1820. D. Shepherd, Clk

Letter dated May 10, 1935

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of Elijah Smith, of Washington County, New York, seventy-five years old on November 28, 1818, as shown in the published list of pensioners of the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow are obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claims, S.42324, based upon the military service of Elijah Smith in that war.

The date and place of birth and the names of the parents of Elijah Smith are not shown.

Elijah Smith enlisted at Marlborough, Ulster County, New York, in May 1778, served as a private in Captain Frederick Weisenfels' Company, Colonel Philip Van Cortland's 2nd New York Regiment, and was discharged the last of February, 1779; he enlisted in July, 1781, served in Captain Godwin's Company, Colonel Weisenfels' New York Regiment and was discharged November, 1781, having served four months.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 7, 181, while residing in Kingsbury, Washington County, New York. In 1820, he gave his age as sixty-one years. His age as given in the list cited by you as seventy-five years was his age at the time of the compilation of data for the report of the Secretary of War printed in 1838 and not at the time he applied for pension in 1818.

In 1818, soldier stated that his family then residing with him consisted of his wife and nine children and his aged father then in his ninetieth year. No names were given.

In 1820, he stated that his wife and seven children resided with him. He did not give his wife's name. The names of the children follow:

Susan Smith aged about 28 years.

Sally aged 26

Polly 23

Phebe 21

Nancy 17

Belan dear 13

Henrietta 7