

### Pension Application for George Smith

Donated by Ann Steele  
Hannah Smith, widow of George Smith - R9741

#### DECLARATION

In order to obtain the benefit of the third section of the Act of Congress of the 4th July, 1836.  
State of New York,  
County of Oneida. SS.

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 1837 personally appeared before me, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, of said county, Hannah Smith, a resident of Steuben in the county of aforesaid, aged 79 years, who being first duly sworn according to the 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, 1836: That she is the widow of George Smith, who was a Revolutionary Soldier of the United States, and who served according to the best of her information and belief as follows— That he enlisted at Palatine, Montgomery Co NY in 1775 for one tour under the command of Capt Christopher P. Yates, and that he continued in service with the northern army for the full term of one year— and this deponent further says that the said George Smith afterwards & in 1777 and from that time until 1783 was a Sergeant and that he served for the most of the time in Capt Nicholas Righters company in Col. Jacob Klocks Regiment, and that in that Service he performed more than [two?] years service as will appear by the affidavits hereto annexed, and this deponent would particularly refer to said affidavits for evidence of his service. He was at the battle of Oriskany, at Battle Stone Arabia, taking of Montreal & in many other engagements.

She further declares that she was married to the said George Smith on the 25th day of December in the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven; that her husband, the aforesaid George Smith died in the month of March 1816 [1812] and that she had remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed. — That her maiden name was Hannah Hall, and that she was married at Palatine in the then County of Tryon, now County of Montgomery, State of New York, by the Rev. Abraham Rosegrantz [Rosencrantz] — and that Henry Smith brother of her said husband was present at said marriage as will appear by his affidavit annexed, & that she has no record of said marriage. (Signed with her mark) Hannah Smith

Sworn before me a Judge of Oneida Common Pleas because the said Hannah from extreme old age and bodily infirmity is unable to appear in person before the court, and made her mark because from like infirmity she cannot write her name. Arnon Comstock, Judge Oneida Com. Pleas

State of New York  
Oneida County

Nathaniel Ames of Steuben in said county being duly sworn deposeth and says that he is well acquainted with Hannah Smith within named widow of George Smith deceased, and that she has remained a widow ever since the death of the said George Smith and still is a widow. (signed) Nathaniel Ames

Sworn before me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 1837 & I certify she is a widow of credibility, truth and ability. Arnon Comstock, Judge of Oneida Com. Pleas

Jacob Snell's deposition for Hannah Smith, widow of George Smith - R9741

State of N. York |  
Montgomery County | SS.

On the 18th day of July 1837, Personally Appeared before me John T. Getman a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Jacob Snell of the Town of Palatine, County and State aforesaid, who was duly sworn according to Law deposeth and saith that he has been a Revolutionary Soldier from the year 1776, and continued in rendering United States Service as a Militia Soldier, & Musician Rgt Drummer, that is to say, when called or ordered out within the beat of his Company, Appearing with his Drum, but when on a sereous alarm, he was allowed to carry his arms and accoutrements and so continued, until the year 1778, when deponent hath been appointed one of the Sergeants in the same company, — And then continued in rendering United States Service as Sergeant in said Company during the remaining part of the Revolution, from year to year, until the final conclusion of the said war. —

deponent further saith that he did belong to the Company of Militia Commanded by Capt Christopher W. Fox, in the year 1776 as aforesaid, until the year 1777 6th Augt, when Capt Fox was sereously wounded his arm Shattered whence, after Lieut Henry Miller, succeeded to take the command of said Company, that deponent is aged seventy five years & seven months past. —

Deponent further saith that he has been Personally acquainted with George Smith, previous to the Revolutionary War, knowing that he was a resident of the most northeasterly part of the Town of Palatine, in the then County Tryon now Montgomery, that at the commencement of the aforesaid Revolutionary War the said George did reside in the beat, composing the Company of Militia, Commanded by Capt Nicholas Righter, in the Regt commanded by Col Jacob Klock & Lieut Col Peter Waggoner.

deponent further saith, believing sometime in June, last, that he found it Expedient to call at the Secretaries Office of (sic) York State, soliciting, being allowed to Examine the records kept during the Revolution, relating to the appointments Made of the Militia Officers, finding among the several companies then constituting the Regiment, to take command of which Jacob Klock, Col and Peter Waggoner, Lieut Col were appointed the same time, Sgt in the year 1775, of which deponent has and did take a true transcript of all the Militia Officers who were appointed for the aforesaid Regt, and among the rest of the Companies finding Capt Nicholas Righter, John Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut, George Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, and Johannes Sholl, Ensign, as (sic) deponent further saith that the said George Smith has been a true and faithful Revolutionary Soldier, and a friend for liberty and Independence from the commencement of the

War to the conclusion of the same, and although appointed as Militia Officer deponent says he cannot be Positive, but do believe that the said George did Enlist, as a Soldier in the regular army, in the company whereof Christopher P. Yates was his Capt, Andrew A. Fink 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut, and John Keyser [jun] 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, and that the said George has been with the said Company and the American Army, at the taking of several Forts, and the taking of Possession of Montreal, all during the Campaign, and said Company did not return until sometime in winter, and the said deponent says that the said George Smith, had been one of the Sergeants or he always did believe after his Enlistment and his return from the Army and that the Inhabitants from that part of the Town same, obliged to leave their respective habitations in consequence of the Enemy and have reason to know that such persons who were liable in rendering Services to the United States in their respective beats, when at home would be attached to the Company in the same beat moved into, occurring to deponents mind, that the name of the said George Smith, will be found, contained in an abstract of a pay roll with his beat. The Pension Commissioner, made out for United States Services rendered under Capt Christopher W. Fox in the year 1776, as Sergeant, deponent cannot be Positive.

deponent further saith, that the said George did render United States Service, from year to year, Sgt from the year 1775, until the year 1783, and that he has at least rendered the full length of two years United States Services, during the period of Eight years — deponent further saith that he also was well acquainted with Hanna[h] Hall, the widow of the said George Smith deceased, previous to their Marriage and, while they resided in the County of Montgomery, and that I know that they have cohabited together alike husband and wife, since some time in the Revolution the particular year the deponent cannot say, but always well satisfied and verily believe that they lawfully and legally married and joined in lawful Wedlock and that they have had several children born, before the close of the Revolution — deponent further saith, that he has examined and made a thorough search in the Church Records, kept in the Reformed dutch Church by the Rev. Abraham Rosengrantz [Rosencrantz] and Consistory of the said Church, and also, searched, for the Church Records kept by the Rev. Doctor Daniel Gross in Canajoharie, but not found either, generally believed, that all consumed, by fire, at the time of the General Conflagration, then upper part of Canajohary(*sic*), near Minden, when Fort Plain Church and records & all burned in the summer of 1780, by the Incendiaries from Canada —

Deponent further saith, that the said widow, Hanna[h] Smith, wife of George Smith, always as far as came to Deponents knowledge, was and is an old lady of a good morral character, truth and veracity, and her Testimony Entitled to full credit, and further saith not, (*signed*) Jacob Snell

Subscribed and sworn to this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 1837 before me, John T. Getman, J.P.

State of New York |  
Montgomery County | SS.

This may certify that I the subscriber [ ? ] John T. Getman a Justice of the Peace in and for said County was acquainted with Jacob Snell for the space of forty years I further certify that [ ? ] Jacob Snell be person of truth and veracity and testimony is entitled to full credit. 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 1837. John T. Getman, J.P.

State of New York |  
Montgomery County |  
Clerks Office, | SS:

I, George D. Ferguson, Clerk of the County aforesaid, do hereby testify that John T. Getman before whom the foregoing affidavit purports to have been sworn & whose name is hereto subscribed, & also subscribed to the within certificate was on this date thereof a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, and that I am well acquainted with his handwriting & verily believe his name subscribed as aforesaid is his proper signature.

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and affix the seal of my office this 19th July 1837. Geo. D. Ferguson

Henry Smith's deposition for Hannah Smith, widow of George Smith - R9741

State of New York |  
Montgomery County | SS

On the 19th day of July 1837, Personally appeared before me John T. Getman a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Montgomery aforesaid, Henry Smith (1) of the Town of Ephrata, County and State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he has been personally acquainted, with George Smith (2) a brother to the said deponent, from the time of his youth, from the commencement of the Revolutionary War, during the same, and Until the time of his death, and who died about Twenty five years past, — (1812)

And deponent further saith, that he has been personally present, either in the year 1777 or 1778 when his brother, the said George Smith lawfully Married, and Joined in lawful Wedlock with Hanna[h] Hall, daughter of Thomas Hall, that the Marriage Ceremonie Was performed by the Revrd. Abraham Rosegrantz [Rosencrantz] in the Town of Palatine, in the then County of Tryon & State aforesaid, now County of Montgomery. That the deponent says he had observed seeing them Joining hand in hand, when the said Revrd. Abraham Rosegrantz [Rosencrantz], declaring them man & Wife. And that the said Widow, Hanna[h] Smith, never did marry again but to the Contrary yet remaining the widow of George Smith deceacd (*sic*).

deponent further saith that the said George Smith, had been a revolutionary Soldier, that he was Enlisted according to the best of his knowledge and belief, in the year 1775, under the command of Capt. Christopher P. Yates, and Andrew A. Fink [Finck], and John Kaysor Jun [Keyser jr.] \_\_\_ [2nd] Lieut and as always Understood, were Enlisted for one year, and went with the said Company, and with the American Army on the Campaign to Canada viz. believing to Montreal, always so told and informed by his dec'd Brother— deponent further saith, that the said Soldier, has and did belong, and was attached to the Company of Militia, commanded by Capt. Nicholas Righter, residing in the beat, Composing the same Company, and that the said George,

has proved a true and faithful American Soldier from year to year during the whole Revolutionary War, not omitting one year during the whole Revolutionary War, but often and frequently called and ordered out, in consequence of the incursions of the Enemy, deponent finding it impracticable to specify the many tours, therefore shall only select some few of the most prominent and Sereous tours, which he does Recollect viz. in Spring, summer & fall, sometimes drafted, at other times, ordered out in consequence of Alarms, Watching and Guarding, at different places, —

In the year 1777 on the 6th day of August deponent recollects that his brother George went out after being ordered and directed by his Capt viz. Capt Rightor previous to the foregoing 6th of Augt as mentioned at the time of that ever Memorable Battle at Oriskany, and never Understood to the Contrary, but that he was engaged in said Battle Under the Gen'l Command of Gen'l Herkimer against Gen'l St.Ledger with his associate Incendiaries from Canada—And deponent further saith that the deceased soldier, his brother, had been [Srgt] of the acting Sergeant from the year 1776, in Spring, until after the year 1779, when the said George did remove with his family to Stonearabia, that he was an acting Sergt under the Command of Capt Nicholas Righter for the Period of four years.

And deponent further saith that he doth not recollect, if the dec'd Soldier, did Act as Sergt after leaving the Company under the Command of Capt. Righter, but that the said husband, of the said Claimant has been rendering his full equal share, to any other of the said Company and that, the said George Smith dec'd did render the full length of two years United States Service during the course or period of Eight years.

And this deponent further saith, that the said George did belong to the Regt commanded by Col Jacob Klock, from the commencement of the said War to the final termination of the said War excepting when Enlisted in the regular Service of the United States, in the year 1775—(Signed with his mark) Henry Smith

Subscribed and Sworn to this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 1837 before me John T. Getman, J.P.

*Attorney Johnson to War Department*

War Department  
Hon. J.L. Edwards  
Commissioner of Pensions, Washington

Rome. Sept. 8th/37

Hon. J.L. Edwards

Enclosed are the Papers of Hannah Smith widow under the Act of 4th of July 1836. Returns are respectfully requested to the subscriber at Rome, Oneida Co. N.Y. I am most respectfully, Your obt Servt, B.P. Johnson  
(Response not found in file)

Benjamin Smith to Attorney Slingerland

Steuben, Oneida Co. Newyork(sic)

T.S. Slingerland Esq

Sir I write to inform you that my mother Hannah Smith who was the widow of George Smith applied for a Pension in 1837 through Benjamin P. Johnson Esq. of Rome N.Y., who did not succeed in obtaining the pension as he informed me owing to sum slight error in the writings. My mother was sworn before Judge Comstock and her declaration together with the affidatus of several witnesses was sent to Washington by Mr. Johnson and are now at the pensions office. My father George Smith rendered considerable service in the ware and my mother was Justly entitled to a pension. I understand you are engaged in doing such business and Wish you would endeavor to procure this Pension. Will you have the goodness to send to Washington and ascertain what evidence is wanted or what is now required more than is already on file to get this pension. Mr. Johnson some time agow became involved in difficulty and left this part of the Country. Respectfully yours, Steuben March the 2 1848, Benjamin Smith

Attorney Slingerland to Bureau of Pensions

March 14, 1848.

Sir: The within is a letter I have just rec'd from Mr. Benjamin Smith of Steuben Oneida Co. N.Y. whose mother Hannah, widow of George Smith, appears to have applied for a Pension in 1837, through Atty. Johnson of Rome, N.Y. but failed through some error in the proceedings. Will you please inform me what those errors were, or the objections to the admission of the claim.

I am Very truly, your obt Servant, T.S. Slingerland  
Barnerville, Schoharie Co. N.Y.

Bureau of Pensions to Attorney Slingerland

Department of Interior,  
Bureau of Pensions

Washington, D.C., Aug 4, 1848

T.S. Slingerland  
Barnerville, Schoharie Co., N.Y.

In the case of Mrs. Hannah Smith wid of George Smith. This evidence as to the date of marriage is insufficient and the statement of the [terms] of service defective. The pro rata character of the pension renders it necessary that the period, length and grade and names of officers, stations and [war] [ ] should be fully set forth in the narrative of each term of service that the department may determine the amount of the stipend to which she is entitled. There is evidently some mistake about his service under Capt. Nicholas Righter from 1777 to the last of the war as a Serg't. There is no evidence of a Capt. of that name in Col. Klock's regt. and the claimants name is found for 12 days service as a corporal in 1782 in the company of Capt. Henry Miller.

Pension on file in this Bureau. George Smith Rej. 9741

Enlisted 1775 for one year under Capt Christopher P. Yates

Enlisted 1776 for two years? served until 1783 under Capt Nicholas Righter, Col Jacob Klock

Battles engaged in, Taking of Montreal, Oriskany, Stone Arabia

Residence of soldier at enlistment, Palatine, Montgomery Co. N.Y.

Date of application for pension, August 3, 1837

Residence at date of application, Steuben, Oneida Co., N.Y.

Age at date of application, wife was 79 years old

Remarks: (Note in margin: [ ] brother Henry)

Soldier married Dec 25 1777 or 1778 at Palatine N.Y. Hannah daughter of Thomas Hall. Several children referred to, no names stated other than Benjamin a resident of Steuben Co [Steuben, Oneida Co] N.Y. in 1848.

Soldier died March 1816 [1812].

Claim not allowed - Insufficient proof of marriage and service. Very respectfully, (*no signature*)

End Notes for George Smith By Ann Steele

1. Henry (1763-1837) & George (1749-1812) were sons of Johan Henrich & Christina (May) Smith, whose nine children were born in Kiskatom, Greene Co. NY. The family, in the early 1770s, moved to Tilleborough, Palatine, Tryon Co. NY, soon to become part of the "bloody Mohawk" so well described in Edmond's Drums Along the Mohawk. George served throughout the Revolution, including the Battle of Oriskany August 6th 1777, & is commemorated on the monument there.

2. George & Hannah Hall Smith's (1758-1838) children were born 1779-1801: John, Thomas, Elizabeth, George, Hannah, Maria, Henry, twins Christina & Catherine, Naomi, & Benjamin. By 1805 the family had resettled on 76 acres in Steuben, Oneida Co. NY. The house George built in the hills above Steuben Corners still stands.