

Pension Application for James Smith

W.19049 (Widow: Ann) James died Apr 13, 1844 at Conquest, Cayuga Co., NY
District of Columbia
County of Washington SS.

Be it know that on this 15th day of August AD 1846, before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Mrs. Harriet DelaPalm Baker, widow of the late John Martin baker Esq. who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that she is the youngest daughter of the late Colonel Frederick Wiessenfels who was an officer in the Army during the Revolutionary War; that she has been informed and always believed from her earliest childhood that her mother was the second wife of her Father; that her Father the said Col. Wiessenfels had several children by his first wife, the eldest of whom was named Ann and was married to a man named James Smith who was a soldier in the same Regiment with her said Father; and that her said Sister was married to the said Smith several years before the birth of this Deponent. This deponent further says that she has supposed that her said Sister Ann was dead, but having recently heard that she resides in Cayuga County, New York and is applying for a Pension on account of the services of her said husband, and that her said Sister was about making an effort to obtain an Estate believed to be due her said Father in German, this Deponent sent to her said sister certain questions relative to the history of their family, and the said questions being answered by her said Sister so correctly and in accordance with the knowledge of this Deponent, that this Deponent feels positively certain that Anna Smith of Cayuga County, New York, who is applying for a pension as the widow of James Smith, is the person she represents herself to be, and the Sister of this deponent. (Signed) Harriet Baker

Sworn and Subscribed before me, John Thayer, JP.

State of New York
Cayuga County SS.

On this 27th day of February AD 1846 personally appeared before Isaac Sisson Esq. one of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas in and for the said county—said Court being a Court of Record in said County Ann Smith a resident of the town of Conquest in said County & State aforesaid, aged ninety nine years and upwards, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the Benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836, Entitled “An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows”. That her late husband James Smithy was a soldier in the War of the Revolution & served as near as she can recollect & from the information which her said late husband gave her as follows, in the fall of the year 1775 he went with Col. VanSchaick or oCol. Clinton or some other officers, to the north against Quebeck and that he served that tour about three months and returned in the winter to Albany. That he was at the taking of Quebeck and other engagements during that campaign. That she does not recollect his Captain’s names, but has heard him tell over the events of that campaign & who his principal officers were, and among which were Cols. Arnold, Col. VanSchaick, Col. Clinton & Major Wisenfelt her father—That in the fall of the year 1777 and winter of 1778 he was in the service as near as she can state, about seven months by order of the committee of Safety & that he at that time held some office, but what particular place of the circumstances of said service, she cannot state, but heard that a man by the name of Horton held some office in the same Corps to which he was attached. That in the summer of the year 1779 he volunteered or was drafted into the service & heard that he served in Col. Thomas Regiment of New York Militia and done duty that season & fall, about six months. The name of the captain she cannot state but heard him state the name of Capt. Lyon as one under who he served, a part the time. The name of Tenkee also she recollect as one of the officers under who her said husband done duty that season. That in fall of the year 1779, she became acquainted with her said late husband the said James Smith, who she afterwards married. That it was then known and understood that said Smith had done a

good deal of service, and was a good Patriot. She further declares that she was married to the said James Smith her late husband, about the first day of February 1780 at a place on the North River then called Cortland Mannor in Fishkill—in the County of Dutchess by a Babtish [Baptist] minister by the name of Ward who died very suddenly within one year of [when] he married myself & my said husband, the said James Smith.

She further declares that some short time after she married the said James Smith her late husband he gain went into the service & served most of the year 1780, but what officers and where or what particular service he rendered she cannot at this late day state, but recollect the name of Col. Livingston, Col. Thomas, Capt. Lyon & others.

That in the year 1781 he was in the service with my father the late Col. Frederick Weissenfels, and I believe his Capt name was Shepperd & other officers that he served til late in the fall. That my said husband done a good deal of service in the War of the Revolution, but her great age & partial loss of memory she is not able to state his service more fully that she and her said late husband never kept a family record, because she never had any children by her said late husband. That she never had a record of her marriage with her said husband, but she declares that she lived with her late husband from the time of their marriage aforesaid until his death. That she is acquainted with John Blass and his wife Elizabeth, old people who have know me and my said late husband the said James Smith from the time we was married until my ;husband's death.

She further declares that she is the only child living as she believes of the late Col. Frederick Weissenfelt, who was her father. She further declares that she had three brothers who served in the Revolution & whose names were as follows, Charles Frederick Weissenfelt, her oldest brother, George Peter Weissenfelt, and John Henry Weissenfelt, all of whom have been dead many years, and she further declares that her said late husband the said James Smith died at the town of Conquest in the county of Cayuga in the State of New York on the 13th day of April 1844.

That she has not intermarried but is now the widow of the said James Smith & has remained a widow ever since the death of her late husband aforesaid.

She further declares that her father the late Col. Frederick Weissenfelt was an officer of the Revolution & many of the names & events of the Revolution she partially remembers, but her old age has deprived her of her recollection of most of Recollections of the events of that period, that she is now poor and prays the government to grant her a pension as her claim shall merit. (Signed with her mark) Ann Smith.

Subscribed and sworn to on this 27th day of February AD 1846 before me. Isaac Sisson, a Judge of Cayuga County Courts. William Whitman, Witness.