

### **Pension Application for John Edward Smith**

W.1503 (Widow: Mary Jersey, made her application on September 6, 1848 at Clarkstown, Rockland County, New York and gave the following information. She married John Edward Smith July 6<sup>th</sup> AD 1797, by the Rev'd John N. Boyd, Presbyterian minister. John was born April 25, 1760, Mary was born April 3, 1774.) Children: Abraham Snider Smith born Dec 6, 1798; Jacob Halstead Smith born Nov. 28, 1802; Phebe Smith born January 30, 1805; Anna Smith born April 19, 1807; Peter Smith born February 21, 1800. John died January 13, 1848.)

State of New York  
Rockland County SS.

On this twenty eighth day of November—in the year A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] now sitting John Ed. Smith, a resident of the town of Clarkstown, in the county of Rockland and State of New York aged seventy two years, the twenty fifth day of April 1832, who being 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following [following] named officers and served as herein [herein] stated. That in the Month of March 1777, he then residing in the town of Clarkstown aforesaid, enlisted for nine months in a company commanded by Capt. John Stagg (1), who was an agent in the Continental line and ordered to enlist men to break stone for the magazine [magazine] built at West Point, and they was stationed at Capt. Jacob Onderdonk's (2), where he served his term of enlistment, a breaking stone for that purpose, then in the spring of the year 1778 he entered the service in a company commanded by Capt. Jacob Onderdonk, in a Regiment commanded by Col'n A. Hawkes Hay, and served in that company every fourth week until the spring of the year 1779, that then he entered the service in a company commanded by Capt. Aury Smith (3), in the aforesaid regiment, which was mostly commanded by Gilbert Cooper (4), the Lieutenant Col'n and served therein every fourth week until the close of the Revolutionary War, or at least to the latter part of the year 1782. That during the time he served under Capts Onderdonk and Smith he was chiefly employed a guarding along the West Shore of the Hudson River, but at times a scouting through the now County of Rockland and the County of Bergen in the state of New Jersey to protect the inhabitants from the inroads of the enemy [enemy] who was in the constant habit of marching through the countys aforesaid, taking everything of value that came in their way, that positively to state the time he was out on duty under Capt's Onderdonk (5) and Smith he cannot but is confident it exceeds one year, the he has no documentary evidence of any of his services, as he did not receive any written discharge, that from his infancy he has resided in the now town of Clarkstown, and all the positive proof he can offer is some of the men that served with him. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. (Signed) John Ed. Smith. In open court. David Pye, Clerk

End Notes—W.1503—John Edward Smith

1. So far a record of this Captain John Stagg has not been found. The only John Stagg found was a Second Lieutenant in Colonel William Malcolm's Additional Continental Regiment. Lieutenant Stagg was appointed on March 4, 1777 and Malcolm's Regiment was in the Highlands during 1777 which leads to the possibility that it was this Lieutenant Stagg that John was referring to.
2. Jacob Onderdonck was a Captain in Colonel Ann Hawkes Hayes of the Third Regiment (Haverstraw Precinct) of Orange County Militia.
3. Arie Smith also was a Captain in Colonel Hays' Regiment.
4. On May 28, 1778, "Resolved on application to his Excellency the Governor for consolidating the two Regiments lately commanded by Colonel A. Hawkes Hays and Colonel Lent, in Orange County". Colonel Hays now commanded the consolidated regiments and Gilbert Cooper was the Lieutenant-Colonel.
5. On February 19, 1834, John amended his earlier application and added that in July of 1776 he enlisted in Captain Jacob Onderdonck's Company in Colonel Isaac Nicoll's Regiment of Levies for five months. The company for the most part was stationed at or near Peekskill for most of this term. First Lieutenant Resolvert VanHouten made out a deposition on February 17, 1834 confirming John's five months service. Lieutenant VanHouten also served under Captain Onderdonck in Colonel Hays Regiment. There are only regimental returns for Colonel Nicoll's Regiment which list only the officers and the strengths of their companies. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 75, Roll 132, National Archives, Washington, D.C.