

Pension Application for John Eli Smith

W.1657 (Widow: Rachel, married August 16, 1795, by Justice of the Peace, Benjamin Coe, town of Haverstraw, Rockland County. He was 37, she was 20. Hannah was born April 14, 1796, Mary was born February [torn] 1798, John was born Dec 2, 1800, (son of Eli Smith) Charity was born June 12, 1805, Levi was born March 23, 1809. John died May 19, 1840.)

B.L.Wt.7094-160-55

State of New York

Rockland County

On this eighteenth day of June 1835, personally appeared before me, Abraham B. Stephens, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, John Eli Smith who being duly sworn according to law did depose and say, in answer to the requirements in a letter from the Honorable James L. Edwards dated May 14th 1835, that at the time of enlistment he was told that the pay would be four shillings per day, but when the time arrived for him to receive his pay the Cap't paid him and the rest of the men in his company the same pay that was allowed to the Continental troops which he believes as two pound thirteen shillings and four pence per month, that agreeable to the best of his recollection he received his pay monthly or nearly so, that Capt. Cooley drew the pay and cloathing for his company but from whom he received the same he is not able to say, that all the pay he received was in Continental money which deponent thereof and not according to its real value, the whole amount of money that he received for his years service he believes was thirty two pounds in Continental money, that the nature of his services was to guard at the different stations by him set forth in his supplemental affidavit, lately sent to the war department, and to convey across the Hudson River cattle provision and baggage [sic] for the Continental Army and Militia when ordered so to do by his capt. (Signed with his mark) John Eli Smith

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid Abm. B. Shepherd

State of New York

Rockland County SS.

On the fifth day of February in the year A.D. 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] now sitting John Eli Smith a resident of the town of Clarkstown in the County of Rockland and State of New York aged seventy seven year[s] the 3d day of May 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 named officers and served as herein stated. That in the latter part of April in the year 1779, he enlisted at a place called new City in the town of Clarkstown, for one year, in a company commanded by Capt. William Cooly, Ackerman Lieut, in a regiment commanded by Col'n A. Hawkes Hay, and served therein until his term of enlistment was expired, that during the aforesaid services he was stationed part of the time at Stony Point, part at West Point, and part of the time along the Hudson River as far down as Sneden's Landing, and when his term was expired, was discharged at West Point, that he has no documentary evidence of his services as he did not receive a discharge in writing. That that [sic] all the positive testimony he now can offer is one or two persons who are known to his services, that he is personally known to Peter Stephens, Esqr, John A. Jersey, Cornelius Depew and Jonathan Youmans, and many other citizens of the town of Clarkstown aforesaid who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) John Eli Smith

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Jonathan Yeomans