

Pension Application for Simeon DeWitt

S.15095

Declaration of Simeon DeWitt, Late Geographer of the United States with the main army of the revolution in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

State of New York

County of Albany SS.

On this seventeenth day of October 1832, Simeon DeWitt a resident of the said county and to me personally well known appeared before me and being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, viz, that he is seventy five years of age and upwards, that in the year 1778 he entered into the service of the army of the United States as Assistant Geographer to Robert Erskine then Geographer of the United States, that he continued to serve as such until on the demise of said Erskine, he was appointed to succeed him in office by a Resolution of Congress of with the following is a copy as furnished to him by the President—

In Congress Dec'r 4, 1780.

“Resolved

“That Mr. Simeon DeWitt be

“appointed Geographer to the Army in the room

“of Robert Erskine deceased”

“Extract from the minutes

“Ch Thomson Sec'y”

and that this deponent was commissioned according, that he continued to serve under said commission to the conclusion of the war.

That on the 16<sup>th</sup> Nov'r 1783 he addressed a letter to the commander in chief from which the following is an extract.

“Since the army is now about being disbanded, and  
“and, as I suppose, the public will stand no farther  
“in need of my services, and consequently that I am  
“included among the number of those who receive  
“their final dismissal, I ask from your Excellency,  
“as the last favour, a discharge; and beg the ac-  
“ceptance of my sincerest acknowledgements for the  
“honour I have had of serving under your excellencys  
“immediate direction”

To this letter the following answer was received,  
“West Point 17 Nov'r 1783.

“Sir

“I am favored with your letter of yesterday,  
“The nature of your office being such as that Congress  
“may possibly still have occasion for you, I cannot  
“think myself at Liberty to grant the discharge your

“request, but circumstances as you are, I would  
“advise that you make a final application to  
“Congress to know if they are inclined to comply  
“with your former application, or if they have any  
“further occasion for your services”

“I am, Sir,

“Your most obed’t Servant

On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1784 this deponent received the commission of Survey or  
General of the State of New York, when his services as an officer of the United States  
[?] (Signed) Simeon DeWitt

Sworn & Subscribed in open court----17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1832. J. G. Wasson, Clk