

## Pension Application for Benjamin Smith

S.14522

Continental, Dragoon, Captain Webb, Col. Sheldon.  
City and County of New York SS.

On this fourteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Marine Court of the City of New York the said Marine Court being a Court of Record the said Court now sitting Benjamin Smith a resident of the City and County and State of New York aged seventy years four months and some odd days, 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 seventh one thousand eight hundred and thirty two that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated this declarant states that he was born at Smithtown on Long Island on the second day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty two that in the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight this declarant enlisted in the United States service as a volunteer at a place called Poundridge in Westchester County State of New York and this was in March of that year cannot tell the exact day this declarant was enlisted by Sergeant Jacob Hunt a recruiting officer in a company of dragoons commanded by Captain John Webb of Weathersfield—Elisha Sheldon was the Colonel and Lieutenant Seymour of Hartford was there when declarant first entered and there was subsequently another Lieutenant but cannot tell his name as declarant forgets and this declarant further states that immediately on enlisting, this declarant was marched on the [?] to Chatham in New Jersey where Colonel Sheldon was at Winters quarters declarant passed from Poundridge to camp pond and crossed the North river at Kings Ferry, and from there to Chatham then in the May following of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight this declarant was sent in a detachment to the Philadelphia lines and continued there until the British evacuated that place—the detachment then marched on with the main army and pursued the British passed through Jersey and crossed over the Ferry at Trenton and then came on to Monmouth and there had an engagement with the British—the advance crops that engaged at that time was commanded by General Lee, this was in July as near as declarant recollects General Washington came up with his main army and then the British retreated that night to New York, the rank and names of the company wherein this declarant was at that time was the same from that place we were marched to the New York lines and stationed there through the season from thence marched to Durham in Connecticut to winter quarters in the June following went to York lines were at Bedford North Castle White Plains which were all on the lines from the lines went again into winter quarters at Weathersfield and Windsor on Connecticut river the first of the next June marched to York lines and there stationed for the season—while we were thus stationed at Poundridge on the lines we had a severe engagement with the British – can't remember who commanded British—Colonel Sheldon commanded our company and the American Company lost their standard and number of their men—British burnt the church and Major Lockwood's house—and the winter quarters that season were at North Hampton and Hadley in Massachusetts the next season went to Litchfield and on the way to York lines declarant obtained a written discharge and the place where declarant was discharged as at Litchfield and signed by Colonel Sheldon and this declarant further states that he has lived in New York nearly ever since his discharge and that the discharge that he received he handed over to Daniel D. Tompkins when he had his office in the City of New York and acting as Governor in the last war and that he gave it to him for the purpose of getting a commission in a company of sea [fencilbles?] thinking that the discharge would be of service and that the war closed before declarant received a commission and the discharge was left with Governor Tompkins and from New York probably carried among papers to Albany, this deponent knows no more of it thinking that it would be of no other advantage to him paid no attention to it and this declarant knows of no other person whose testimony he can obtain except Benajah Bouton of Huntington Long Island whose affidavit is annexed and there are only two persons as

this declarant believes who were with the company living, Lieutenant King in Bridgefield Connecticut who is in a state of mental derangement and has been so for a number of years the other Henry Purkett lives in Boston and his testimony cannot be obtained without a great trouble and some expense this declarant 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—and this declarant further states that he has not now any record of his age it having been destroyed with other papers by a fire two years ago last June—and this declarant is known to John A. Graham Esq and Isaac Halsey who resides in the City and neighbourhood of declarant and this deponent further saith that he was a prisoner confined in the old sugar house in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty in the City of New York and was there about five months until exchanged and was taken a prisoner on the York lines between Tarrytown and Sing Sing and further saith that he is not acquainted with any minister except Mr. Baldwin & he has left the city. (Signed) Benj'm Smith.

Sworn to in open court before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832. Effingham Scheiffelin Justice of the Marine Court of the City of New York.