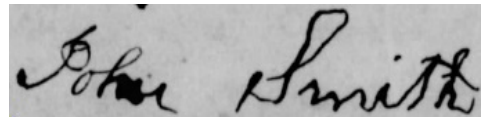




Wrights Mills to Lancaster during the whole of the summer of 1781 till in Nov'r. when some of the troops taken at York Town Va. [on 19 Oct 1781] arrived at Lancaster when he was discharged having served six months this tour as a private in the Pa. Ma. Here his services in the revolutionary war ended his health had become impaired by much exposure especially in his campaign of 1780 in the south and in 1781 in Pennsylvania. He served in all not less than three years and nine months as a private militia man and sometimes an Indian spie. He cannot now remember the names of regiments or their Nos. He saw in South Carolina regulars in the state and continental service. Pa. Va. and South & North Carolina troops He saw Generals Green – [Horatio] Gates – [Benjamin] Lincoln – [Anthony] Wayne – Washington – Lacy Watts – Potter and many others whose names he has forgotten He saw and then knew many Cols Majors &c in the regular and militia service whose names he cannot now recollect. He has no documentary evidence. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. [see endnote]

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.

Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid.



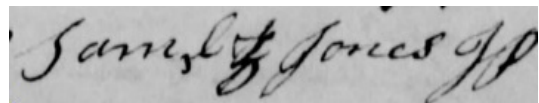
We John Schoolcraft [S7468] and John Hagle [S8669] resident citizens of Lewis county in the state of Virginia do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Smith who has signed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 78 years of age That he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and we concur in that opinion. Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid.

John hisXmark Schoolcraft

John hisXmark Hagle

And I the said Samuel Z Jones a Justice of the peace in and for Lewis county aforesaid in the said State of Virginia hereby declare my opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the war department that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And I the said Justice of the peace further certify that John Schoolcraft and John Hagle who have signed and before me sworn to the preceding certificate are resident citizens of Lewis county in the said State of Virginia. That they are both credible men and that their statement is entitled to credit. And I the said Justice do further certify that the applicant is too old and infirm to travel to court with great inconvenience and that there are no clergymen residing near him.

Given under my hand at my county of Lewis aforesaid in the state of Virginia this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1833.



[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

John Smith. applicant – Lewis County

this man has removed to Indiana. could ascertain nothing about his services – he came from the East – it is sufficient however in my opinion that the Lewis Gentry have had the management of his case. [See endnote] from that circumstance alone I would infer that he has no claim to a Pension

W. G Singleton/ Nov. 11 1834

John Smith/ applicant Lewis county.  
gone to Indiana./ not Entitled

[A card in the file reads as follows: "The printed list of 1852 gives cause of rejection as, "Fraudulent."]

NOTES:

Burgoyne's army was surrendered at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777, but it was not brought through Pennsylvania until late in 1778.

Pennsylvania militias were not attached to the army of Gen. Nathanael Greene in the South. Greene did not even take command of the Southern Department (at Charlotte NC) until about the time Smith's declaration claims he was discharged, and Greene's forces did not reach any of the places mentioned in Smith's declaration until late in 1781.

Since some of the service claimed in Smith's declaration is similar to that claimed in the declaration of Samuel Z. Jones, before whom the declaration was sworn, it is incredible that Smith would not have cited Jones as a witness.

The "Lewis Gentry" is Singleton's name for a group of prominent lawyers and others from Lewis and neighboring counties who were responsible for numerous fraudulent pension applications. Jonathan Wamsley was a leading figure in the Lewis Gentry, and was apparently Smith's agent, judging from a paper in the file that reads as follows: "Report to J Wamsly Weston Lewis county Va." Samuel Z. Jones, the Justice of the Peace who certified Smith's application, was also part of the Lewis Gentry.