

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Elias Pollock (Joseph Smith) S40279

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Maryland

City of Baltimore Sct

On this Twentieth day of August in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen personally appeared before me the undersigned Elias Pollock of the City of Baltimore and state of Maryland, aged sixty three years and upwards as applicant for a pension, under the late act of Congress, entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States during the revolutionary war" and then and there made the following declaration on Oath by me administered to him on the five books of Moses he being a Jew. 'that he enlisted on or about the month of May 1778 at Baltimore, by the name of Joseph Smith, was marched to, and mustered at Philadelphia in June same year into Capt. Joseph Marbury's Company 3^d Maryland Regiment commanded by Col. Mordecai Gist, there remained and performed duty for six months (say 'til after Christmas) then marched to Bondsbrook [sic: Bound Brook], new Jersey, and there went into Winter Quarters, remained there until the beginning of May 1779 - from thence marched to Buttermilk Falls on the North River, after which during the summer was in several expeditions particularly the taking of Stoney point [Stony Point NY, 15 Jul 1779] - assisted in building the four forts on the North River viz No. 1. 2. 3 & 4 - succeeding winter was placed into the Adjutants guard, wintering at Morris Town [Morristown NJ], during which was on several expeditions with Col Lee Hart [sic: probably William DeHart] under Lord Sterling [sic: Gen. William Alexander, Lord Stirling] on Staten Island [14 Jan 1780] after which returned to Morris Town, and on or about the 15 Ap'l. 1780 left there for Charleston S.C, but before they arrived, was engaged on the 16 Aug 1780 in the battle of Camden where [Gen Horatio] Gates was defeated, deponent wounded in the side, and taken prisoner, carried to Charleston and from thence sent as a prisoner of War to St Augustine East Florida, remained there until news of peace. then sent to Hallifax and liberated — returned to Baltimore — that his name hath never been placed on any pension list, therefore hath none to relinquish and from his reduced circumstances needs the assistance of his Country for support.

[signature illegible]

United States of America

State of Maryland

City of Baltimore SS.

ON this Eighteenth day of June 1821, personally appeared in open court being a court of record, that is to say "The Baltimore City Court" holden for the said City agreeably to law, Elias Pollock aged sixty six years, resident in the City of Baltimore in said State who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows: That he enlisted into the regular service of the United States at Baltimore aforesaid about the month of May 1778, by the name of Joseph Smith, went on to Philadelphia, there mustered in Capt Jos. Marberry's Comp'y in the 3^d Maryland Reg't com'd by Cols Mordecai Gist & N Ramsay [Nathaniel Ramsey]. continued in the service until taken prisoner 16th Aug't 1780 at Camden, at what has usually been named Gates' defeat, at which battle was wounded in the side. Carried prisoner to Charleston, thence to St Augustine and there detained until news of peace, when he was carried to Halifax, and there released & returned to Baltimore. Declarant further saith, that he made his original declaration before the Honorable Judge Brier at Baltimore on or about the 20th day of Aug't 1818, and was placed on the Pension List Roll of the Maryland Agency at the rate of \$8 per month, as will appear by reference to his pension certificate bearing date the 8th March 1819 and No. 7373

and I do solemnly swear, that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th March, 1818; and that I have not, since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress, entitled, "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the

land and naval service of the United States, in the Revolutionary War," passed on the 18th day of March, 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property, or securities, contracts, or debts, due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed.

Schedule, viz:

My property consists of Two Common Tables, one old Desk, seven chairs, some trifling articles of Crockery ware and Kitchen furniture - the whole worth about Twenty Dollars say \$20.00 That my family consists of a wife named Rebecca aged about fifty three years, now nearly helpless, two daughters under twelve years of age. And there are also with me and have heretofore been dependent on me for support, a daughter and her two infant children who were deserted by the husband and father and now left destitute.

I formerly manufactured Black Balls [see note below] on an extensive Scale by which and other small trade had supported myself & family with a comfortable home, but in consequence of becoming Bondsman for another have had my House, Furniture and property of every kind seized and sold under *Fieri Facia*, leaving me in such a state of penury as to be absolutely unable to support myself or family without the benefit of my revolutionary pension, or from private or public charity, particularly as I labour under severe affliction from a Rupture occasioned by hardships & colds experiences while in the army of the U. S. and from a Bayonet wound received at the Battle when I was taken prisoner, usually called Gates' defeat. [signature illegible]

NOTE: "In the 1770s, five Jewish families (Levy, Mordecai, Lyons, Hart and Pollock) moved to Baltimore.... In Baltimore, Jews were boardinghouse keepers, merchants, black-ball makers (a black ball was used by shoemakers to blacken the leather), ironmongers, distillers, grocers, tobacco workers, brokers, and tobacconists." Reiss, O. *The Jews in Colonial America*. Jefferson NC: McFarland, 2004, p. 65.