

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Smith W170

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Declaration

Of Catharine Smith, In order to obtain the benefit of the Acts of Congress passed on the 7th, July 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows," and the 3^d of March 1843, entitled "An act granting a pension to certain widows of Revolutionary soldiers," and 17th June 1844, entitled, "An act to continue the pensions of certain widows."

State of Tennessee } SS

Sullivan County }

On this thirteenth day of May One thousand Eight hundred and forty six, personally appeared before me Eli Marsh an Acting Justice of the peace in and for said County, Catharine Smith, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged Eighty years past, who being first duly sworn according to law doth, on her oath make the following Declaration in Order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of 7th July 1838, 3^d of March 1843, and 17th June 1844, as above named. Viz — That she is the widow of John Smith, who was a private soldier in the Continental Establishment, in the Maryland Line, during the war of the Revolution, under Capt. Peter Mance [sic: Peter Mantz]. She further declares that she does not know of her own knowledge how long he served in said war, but from information derived from her husband, the said John Smith, she believes he enlisted in Fredericktown State of Maryland under Capt. Peter Mance sometime in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six, and that he served as a soldier in the Maryland Line several years. Affiant believes that in a short time after his enlistment, he marched to the North and was placed under the command of Gen. Washington, under whom he was engaged in several battles, names of which is not recollected distinctly enough to state them - that he was afterwards engaged in the South under Gen. [Horatio] Gates or [Gen. Nathanael] Greene, and believes that she has heard him speak of being engaged in the battles of Cambden [Battle of Camden SC under Gates on 16 Aug 1780] and Eutaw [Battle of Eutaw Springs under Greene, 8 Sep 1781], in South Carolina. She has often heard him relate the particulars of his service, but owing to her advanced age, loss of memory, and the lapse of time, she cannot state the particulars of his Enlistment, service, names of officers &c, but she declares that she is fully satisfied he enlisted in Fredericktown Md. under Capt. Peter Mance - with whom she was personally acquainted in Fredericktown - in the early part of the Revolution, and that he served a considerable length of time, and that he was attached a part of the time to what was called the flying Camp. As to other officers under whom he served, Affiant cannot remember their names distinctly. For the proof of his enlistment Affiant relies solely upon record evidence, and refers the Department to the Rolls of the Maryland Line, which she supposes to exist in the War office at Washington City She further declares that her maiden name was Catharine Hohn, and was born below Annapolis Md. shortly after the landing of her parents, who had emigrated from Germany - which birth as she believes took place on the 14th November 1765, as the annexed record, bearing the names of Susannah & Christobher Hone and her own name will show - that the said Susannah and Christobher was her brother & sister and that said record was taken from her father's dutch [i.e. German] hymn Book now in her possession the title page of which bears date 1745 as the said title page hereunto annexed will show

She further declares that she was married to the said John Smith in Fredericktown, Frederick County, Maryland, after the publication of the bans [sic: banns], on the 5th of August seventeen hundred and eighty six [see note below] by Parson Cruikh a Dutch minister of the Lutheran Church.

For the date of her marriage and births of her children, she refers the Department to the annexed paper, which she declares is a true copy of the original family Register, kept by herself & husband, now lost or destroyed. She further declares that said Copy was taken from the Original, at her request and by their orders, and that it is in the handwriting of a Mr. Simmers of Frederick County Md. which copy she has always regarded as genuine.

That her husband the aforesaid John Smith died in Frederick County State of Maryland on the

18th February One thousand Eight hundred and Twenty one - that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st of January seventeen hundred and ninety four viz: at the time above stated, and that she has not intermarried but still remains his widow. For the proof of her husband's death, her Identity and Widowhood, she refers the Department to the Annexed testimony

Catharine herXmark Smith

[Extract from Peter Mantz's pension application W26238, 24 Aug 1832]

"he received an order from the Convention of Maryland, dated June 25th 1776 empowering him to enroll thirty effective freemen, and by so doing he should be entitled to a Captain's Commission, that said order was complied with and that he received a Captain's Commission, dated July 1st 1776... in Colonel Charles Greenbury Griffith's Battalion for the Flying Camp and sometime in said month he marched a company of upwards of seventy effective men to Annapolis, that part of his company was ordered to St. George's Island in the Potomac and with the Balance he marched to Leonard Town [Leonardtownt] in Saint Mary's County Maryland; that after laying some time there, he was ordered to Philadelphia, where he joined Colonel Griffith's Regiment. And that he there received from the Convention of Maryland a Commission as Major in said regiment... that they were then ordered to the city of New York and arrived there a few days before the city was evacuated by the American Troops with the Enemy on Harlem Heights about the 20 September 1776 from thence (to the best of his recollection) they were marched to a place called by the troops, "Tuckahoe Heights" where they lay in view of the British for several days - from thence they marched to the "White Plains" and arrived there the same morning that the battle commenced [28 Oct 1776] and were partly engaged therein; that after the Battle they were marched to Croton's bridge; where they lay a few days and were then ordered to Peekskill and from thence back to Fort Lee where they arrived a day or two before fort Washington was taken by the British [20 Nov 1776] - Fort Lee being then evacuated they were ordered to Hacinsac [sic: Hackensack NJ] and from thence were marched & countermarched to various places in New Jersey and arrived near Newark where they lay a few days & from thence proceeded to Brunswick and so on to Princeton, where they arrived about the 1st December 1776; from whence they were directed to return (as well as he recollects) to Philadelphia where they were retained some time for the purpose of settling with the paymaster, and after settling with the paymaster he returned to Frederick town in the County aforesaid (which is the place from whence he first started with his company) [illegible word] was on or about the 20th day of Dec'r. 1776, making the term of service, six months lacking four days."

State of Tennessee } SS
Greene County }

On this Sixteenth day of May One thousand Eight hundred and forty six personally appeared before me Gabriel Deford a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, John Smith junior, a resident of the County and state aforesaid, aged Fifty one years past, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following Affidavit relative to John Smith deceased affiants father, and Catharine Smith his Mother viz: - That he is the fourth child of the said John Smith deceased and his wife Catharine now his widow - that he was born in Frederick County Maryland in March 1795, which he ascertained from his mother prior to his leaving Maryland in 1816 - that he traveled a great deal and finally married and settled in East Tennessee, that in the year One thousand Eight hundred and Twenty Eight he went to Frederick County Md. after his mother and brought her to Sullivan County Tennessee, in November of the year aforesaid where his said mother now resides. Affiant has always understood that his Father & Mother were lawfully married, shortly after the Revolutionary War, in Frederick County Md by a Lutheran Minister and has never heard the marriage disputed.

Affiant further states that he has often heard his father say that he had served several years during the revolutionary war under Captain Mance and Bowyer, in the Maryland Line, had enlisted under Mance in Fredericktown Md. was under Gen. Washington in the North and at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. that he was also under Gen. Gates or Greene in the south and was engaged in several battles. he thinks that his father stated that he was at the battle of Cambden

and Eutaw - but cannot state the particulars of his fathers service as he related it. Affiant is fully satisfied that his father was a soldier of the Revolution from the fact, that to his own knowledge Capt. Mance and Bowyer, solicited his father in Fredericktown to apply for his pay due as a soldier, or for a Pension, and that they told him he was certainly entitled to it, and would render all the assistance in their power to procure the pay or pension, which his father neglected to do through poverty, negligence &c. He also states that it was generally understood in Frederick, that his father had served in the war of the revolution, and that no person ever disputed it to his knowledge.

He further states that his said Mother, Catharine Smith, is now a resident of Sullivan County Tennessee and resides at the house of his brother Gasper Smith, and that she is yet the Widow of the said John Smith his father. [signed] John Smith, Junior

State of Tennessee } SS
Greene County }

On this Seventh day of August One thousand Eight hundred and forty six, personally appeared before me Gabriel Deford a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, John Smith, a resident of the County and state aforesaid, aged Fifty one years past, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following affidavit relative to his father John Smith deceased a Revolutionary soldier of the Maryland Line viz: - That he is the son of John Smith deceased, and his wife Catharine, who is now an applicant for a Pension, that he was born in Frederick County state of Maryland, and for the date of his birth refers the Department to the family record of his mother, now on file in the Pension office. that his father the said John Smith was a saddler by trade, and always understood from him that he was apprenticed to that trade in Fredericktown. Affiant knows that his father was a saddler from the fact that Affiant worked with him in the same shop, and that he continued at said trade, making saddles, Harness &c until a short time prior to his death. Affiant further repeats, what he has already stated in a former affidavit, that, being in the shop, with his father a great deal, he frequently heard him converse as to his services in the war of the Revolution, and is positive that his father frequently stated that he served in said war with Capts Mance and Boyer, with the Maryland troops - and that his father was reputed and believed by the neighborhood to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and he knows that Capt Mance recognized him as such from the fact that he proposed to Affiants father to go with him to Washington City in order to obtain some pay or a Pension in Affiants presence.

[signed] John Smith Junior

NOTES:

The file includes a copy of "A List of Men enrolled in Capt'n. Mantz's Company" dated 13 July 1776 with two soldiers named John Smith.

The file includes a letter from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Frederick City MD with a translation from German of the marriage record of "John Smith, son of Peter Smith, deceased, to Catharine Hohn" on 13 Aug 1786.

The record of birth of Catherine Smith and her siblings reads as follows:

Chatanah honin Was born in the year 1765 November 14th

Christobher hone is born in the 17[last digits illegible] august 15

Susanah honen is born in the yer 1753 December 29th.

The family register shows "Catharina Hohn" born 14 Nov 1765 and lists the first four children in German with the surname Schmid. Births of the last four children, beginning with John on 12 Mar 1795, are recorded in English with surname Smith.

On 13 May 1846 Gasper Smith also deposed in his mother's behalf, adding that his father died in Lewistown MD.