Pension Application of John Smith R9766 Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. PA

State of Virginia } ss

Lewis county

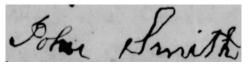
On this 22nd day of August 1833 personally appeared before me Samuel Z Jones [pension application S18474] a Justice of the peace in and for Lewis county in the State of Virginia John Smith a resident of Lewis county in the said state of Virginia aged seventy eight years on the 17th day of April last 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 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United states under the following named officers and served as herein stated

That in the spring of 1776 he entered the service as a volunteer in a company of Pensylvania militia under Captain Myers to serve six months. He was marched from Lancaster county up towards the head waters of the Susquehannah [sic: Susquehanna River]. He was at Lycoming Bald Eagle White deer creek and many other places defending the frontiers from Indians and Tories his cols. name he has forgotten but he remembers that General [James] Potter commanded all the troops sometimes He acted as an Indian spie on the branches of the Susquehannah and in November 1776 he was discharged by Captains Myers having served not less than six months as a private this tour. Then in the Spring of 1777 He again volunteered to serve six months with Pensylvania militia under captain Patton He was again Marched from Lancaster County Pa. up the Susquehannah to different places and on to the waters of Juniata at one time He was near the Munsie Towns [Munsey Indian Towns] He was often netached[?] to act as an Indian Spie on the head branches of the Susquehannah till in Nov. 1777 when he was discharged by Captain Patton He does not remember positively the name of his Col but thinks it was Watts. When he returned home the men captured of Burgoynes army were brought to Lancaster and then about the last of November 1777 He was drafted to guard the British prisoners at Lancaster [sic: see endnote] He was there engaged in guarding the prisoners and guarding forage waggons from Wrights mills to Lancaster till in May 1778 under captain Feltner and Col Lacy in May 1778 he was discharged. Then sometime in the year the British Indians and Tories massacred the inhabitants at a place then called Wyoming now Wilkesberry in Pa. [sic: Wilkes-Barre, 3-4 Jul 1778] at arrival of these news The Cumberland and Lancaster Militia in generally volunteered their services for six months of whom declarant was one in the company of captain McClure. Col. Maxwell and general Lacy who had been promoted from a col. marched up the Susquehannah to White deer creek to Titsells mills captn McClures company were detached to act as Indian spies of Bald Eagle Lycoming Munsie [sic: Muncy] and Penns creek till Christmas 1778 when he was discharged having served six months this tour. He returned home and April 1779. He again volunteered to serve six months in the Pa. Ma. under captn Myers his first captn. He was marched up the Susquehannah again under col. Chambers, they were again stationed at Tetsalls mills and spied on Bald Eagle Lycoming Penns creek Munsie and White deer creeks in this campaign several of the militia were killed and scalped by the Indians. in Nov'r. 1779 he was discharged having served not less than six months as a private malitia man this tour. Then in the Spring of 1780 as he now thinks The Pa. militia were ordered under a draft to the South [sic: see endnote] He march under one of his former captains Patton in Col (not recollected) regt. They were attached to General Greenes [Nathanael Greene's] army in South Carolinia went to Charlestown Beaufort - hanging Rock near Camden and to Eautaw Springs. He was drafted this tour and he thinks for nine months but cannot be certain He started on his march in the month of March and was discharged about Christmas 1780 and returned having been when he got home more than nine months gone in this tour. He got home in January 1781. Then in the spring of 1781 He thinks in April of that year he volunteered to guard the British prisoners at Lancaster in Pa. under Captain Blair Col. Myers who had been promoted from a captain He guarded said prisoners and provision and forage waggons from

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 Pensylvania. 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 Carolineia regulars in the state and continental service. Pa. Va. and South & North Carolinia 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.

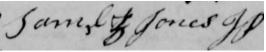


We John Schoolcraft [S7468] and John Hagle [S8669] resident citizens of Lewis county in the state of Virginia do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Smith who has signed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 78 years of age That he is reputed and believed in the 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 22nd 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 Indianna. 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 cty. gon to Indianna./ 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.