

and on the settling of these lands will make the half
that belongs to our own state very valuable to what
they and their heirs will ever be & I shall take all
these lands & made together as they lay six if I can
be permitted to make this purchase I think I can halve
my country & my self and this has always been my
wish. perhaps your excellency will think that I have done most
to serve the state - but permit me to state a few facts in relation
to my self & the services of my country in June 1775 at Trenton
I was then nearly thirteen years of age - I helped drive the
British out of Trenton in 1776 and after that went to Canada
with the army under the general St. Armand when defeated by the
Americans in the summer of 1776 - I was three days & nights in
the north of Newbergh of the snow half a year deep
without one mouth full to eat & nothing but ice water
to drink - in 1777 I was in the retreat when Burgoyne
was fighting the Indians & Tories were killing & scalping all they
could find of the British & our regiment
was cut off & they were by the Indians & Tories our
Colonel & General killed & our regiment lost
in 1779 I was with the general Sullivan up through
the Indian country destroying the Indian nations of Indians
here we were 34 days in the road fighting Indians
& Tories & for most of the time we had but 3 rations
of bread & beef here & all your day to live on except that
we got out of the Indian hands & after this we returned
home & I was to go to Trenton for my father
till the 24th day of February 1780 & 17 days without one
ounce of bread & found all our wood on our backs
held I for me to two miles - I have received two wounds
in my country's service - & I got the benefit of a college
education by serving my country & now I wish to have
been offered to go to France my country - I have finished
I mean to be independent & never have of the honor of New
York Militia & you know the first I have ever received
of a power house & I wish only to have you & your excellency
for which I tender you my sincere respects & take you
will not think I have lived only for my self - Dear Sir
be please to accept this small present from your servant
I should be glad to hear from you
Yours truly
J. M. Smith