

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information regarding William Smith Stevens BLWt2114-300

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/7/11: rev'd 12/22/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Hospital Department
(S. C.)

Stevens, William Smith

B.L.Wt.2114-300 Surgeon's Mate
Issued Dec. 21, 1796
No papers

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to William Smith Stevens, et al
Audited Account No. 7373-A

AA5SC

To the Honorable the Senate of the State of South Carolina

The Memorial & Petition of William Smith Stevens, John Ernest Poyas, Jr., & Joseph Hall
Ramsay most respectfully Sheweth.

That your petitioners inspired by a Love of their Country and earnestly interested in its Freedom & Welfare, did early in the late War enter into the public Service in the Continental Hospital particularly connected with this State. That they received Commissions as Junior Surgeons in the Hospital & served in that Capacity for several Years: That at the time of their Appointment & during said Service, they considered themselves & were by others considered as being in all Respects upon an equal Footing with the Regimental Surgeons in the Army, their pay being the Same, all other privileges fully equal & the same proportion of Lands at the Conclusion of the War allotted them by Resolve of Congress; which gave them reason to suppose that no future Distinction would be made to their Prejudice: That thinking themselves thus placed in a Respectable Situation & not at all doubting that they were equally with other Officers entitled to the Consideration of their Country, they cheerfully Submitted to all the Hardships attending the Discharge of their Duty determined to wait patiently for that Assistance & Compensation for their Labour which it was not in the power of the States to afford them during the Continuance of the War & connecting their own fate with that of the Commonwealth were willing to risk their Welfare on the Success of a very doubtful Contest: – That after being for a length of time on Duty under Various Circumstances of Inconveniences, Difficulty & Danger, they at the Surrender of Charles Town [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], became Prisoners of War & not all of them for the first time: – That during this State of

¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. The file number has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

Captivity, which Continued for near 14 months, they were not [indecipherable word]² as is usual with Prisoners, but were for that whole period as Constantly on Duty as if they had been in the Field. Having sacrificed their own private Interest to the good of their Country & Having faithfully performed the Duty of Citizens and the Service of Junior Surgeons, they doubted not of receiving those marks of Labour & Approbation from the Country which others were thought to be entitled to and did actually receive. But when on being Exchanged they quitted the Enemy's Lines with the flattering Hopes of Relief from their Distresses they had the [word too faint to discern] Mortification to find that their well meant Labour had not been either worthy of Reward or Approbation, with Surprise & Grief they learned that from the Day of recovering their Liberty they were by a new Arrangement of which they had never been Apprised discharged from the Service without any Consideration of their late Suffering or future Distress. The Office of Junior Surgeons in the Hospitals was established & their Expectations of Land & [indecipherable word], which they had been Encouraged to count upon, were totally annihilated. How they have deserved to be entirely neglected & as it was pointed out as the only Officers unworthy of Regard, they are at a loss to imagine as nothing has ever been laid to their Charge & the superior Officers of the Hospital are ready to give testimony of their Assiduous & faithful Attention to their Duty at all times & on all Occasions. Thus disappointed of the Approbation which they had most vigorously endeavored to deserve & cut off from those means of Subsistence on which they came to form a Reliance as to Exchange for them [text too faint to discern] & Resource: they find themselves under the Mortifying Necessity of again entering into the Hospital for a temporary Relief Support in the Inferior Rank of Hospital Males; they being the only Officers who after a long Service had the misfortune to be degraded instead of promoted. In this last Capacity they served until the Conclusion of the War & are now finally dismissed without any Allowance from Congress of half pay, which is granted to all other Officers although they should have been but a month in Service. Your petitioners beg leave further to represent that being in the Hospital instead of the Regimental Service they had the Additional Misfortune not to be considered among the Officers of this or any other particular State & were thereby deprived of those advantages which every State afforded to the Officers of their Respective Lines. Among those are to be enumerated the additional State pay allowed & the Clothing actually furnished as well to the Regimental Surgeons as other Officers of the South Carolina line, but not to the Officers of the Hospital who were Civilians of this State. Your petitioners have credible Information that some of the other states particularly that of Virginia have taken into Consideration [text too faint to discern] Case of those of their Citizens as are in the same predicament with your Petitioners & have made for them that provision which [text too faint to discern] equally with Regimental Surgeons had been first taught to expect but which had been omitted in the late Continental Arrangements. Your Petitioners having thus stated their Grievances & Relying with perfect Confidence on the Justice & Humanity for which this State is so eminently distinguished do in the most respectful Manner solicit such relief as your wisdom shall Approve; & the Minds of your Petitioners will ever be duly impressed with Gratitude –

S/ William Smith Stevens

S/ John E. Poyas, Junr.

S/ Joseph H. Ramsay

William Smith Stevens
John C. Poyas junr.
Joseph H. Ramsey