

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Smith R9694

f16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

State of Tennessee Tipton County

On this 3rd day of September A.D. 1832 Benjamin Smith personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Per Sessions of said County aged about seventy years 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

"As near as I can recollect it was in the year A.D. 1781 that in the County of Rowan North Carolina where I then lived I volunteered under Captain William Cole of a horse company for two months tour to go and capture Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] a conspicuous Tory who was doing great damage to the Whigs on Deep River, Bear Creek etc.. I served out these two months; and during the time we had but a partial skirmish with the enemy. Shortly afterward and before General Gates defeat I was drafted in the service of the United States under Captain Myrick Davis of the Militia. Our object was to joined the forces under General Gates – but before we could do so we heard of his defeat. My father had been taken prisoner by Bryant's men the Tories and carried to Camden where he died. Sometime after Gates defeat upon hearing of this my mother applied to General Rutherford who commanded the militia in that quarter and with whom my father had been in service in the capacity of Major and well known to the General, he granted me a furlough to stay at home for the present and assist in taking care of the family. After the battle of Guilford I was called upon by Quarter master McFlorence [sic, Cole Mountflorence] when I turned out to fulfill my engagement of three months & was employed under McFlorence in taking care of the Tory property which had been confiscated by collecting it and carrying it to Salisbury. I served no more after this – there being no more call for men thus making a service of four months for the United States in the capacity of a private Soldier. General Rutherford and Colonel Frank Locke were the officers who directed our movements. We were never with any regular troops I have now no documentary evidence and know of no person in this state who can testify to my Service but there are several in North Carolina and one Brother-in-law in Kentucky by the name of Isaac Lynn¹ if he is still alive by whom I could prove it. I was born in the County of Rowan North Carolina in the year 1763, where I continued to live until the year 1825 when I moved to Tipton County Tennessee where I have ever since lived. At the end of the last 2 months service under McFlorence I was discharged by him who gave me a

¹ I strongly suspect this is a mistaken reference to [Israel Lynn W9150](#) who served a 3-month tour as a blacksmith under. Cole Mountflorence as quarter master and who lived in Rowan County when he served in the Revolution and was living in Kentucky when he applied for his pension.

written discharge. I never esteemed them or thought they would be of any Service to me and took no care of them. They were consequently lost I know not how. Colonel Cole and McFlorence both gave me discharges and certificates of Service which I sold for 2 or \$3.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Benj. Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benj. Smith". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first letters of "Benj." and "Smith" being larger and more prominent.

[Michael Houllshouser and Efford Owen gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Rowan County North Carolina in the year 1763

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. There is an old family book which may be still in the possession of the family in North Carolina which contains my age – but I have none with me.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. This is fully answered in my declaration and believed it unnecessary to repeat here.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I volunteered for 2 months at first which I served afterwards was drafted for 3 months but by reason of the death of my father as stated in my declaration got a furlough – but afterwards served 2 months more as stated in my declaration.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. We never joined any regular troops. Captain Coleman attached to General Rutherford's Brigade Quarter master McFlorence and Colonel Locke I distinctly recollect as ordering our movements while I was in service which was in the manner as stated in my declaration.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I received a discharge from both Captain Cole and Quarter Master McFlorence at the expiration of each of the terms of service as stated above – but I took no care of them & they have been lost.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. Michael Houllshouser & Efford Owen

[p 3: On April 8, 1853, in Tipton County Tennessee, Mary Smith, a resident of Covington in Tipton County Tennessee, filed a power of attorney in which she states she is the only child and heir of Benjamin Smith.]