

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Bryant Smith R9699¹

f42NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/20/11 rev'd 3/17/15

[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.]

[If anyone has a better, more complete transcription of the following application, please submit it for posting on our database. The handwriting of the scribe is atrocious and very challenging, and the following transcription is far from complete or trustworthy.]

On this the twenty third day of June 1843 personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Marshall State of Alabama Bryant Smith of the County and State aforesaid aged eighty years and [indecipherable word] months who being 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 the Seventh A.D. 1832. That he was born near Winchester in the State of Virginia on August the 8th A.D. 1763. My father emigrated from there to North Carolina Randolph County when I was in my 3rd year where I was raised until within five months of my seventeenth year at which time I entered the service of the United States a private volunteer in a horse [?] Company under the command of Captain William Grady [William Gray?], commanded by Colonel Dungan [probably James or Thomas Dougan], we afterwards [indecipherable word] the Regiment commanded by Colonel Littrale [sic, John Luttrell?] on the first day of May A.D. 1780. We rendezvoused at Randolph Court House North Carolina from thence we marched directly to the main Army near Guilford Court House in Guilford County North Carolina. Two days after our arrival to the main Army the battle at Guilford Court House was fought which occurred on the fifteenth day of March A.D. 1781. We were commanded by General Green [Nathanael Greene] and the British by Lord Cornwallis. The engagement commenced about the middle of the day by cannonading after which the British advanced in a column and attacked that portion of our Army which was composed of the North Carolina militia which at the first attack ran, without firing a single gun, the next line fought with bravery and those of us who at first retreated returned to assist those engaged and we kept up a heavy fire for about two hours but at length we were compelled to retreat the British being more disciplined and better soldiers. We lost in this engagement between four and five hundred men killed and wounded. Cornwallis three or four days after the battle retreated toward a place called Washington [sic, Wilmington] —we pursued after him but had not marched over one hundred miles before the Company to which I was attached was backed to Randolph County North Carolina to suppress the predatory warfare that had broke out and was carried on by the Tories commanded by a man by the name

¹ A note on the cover of this file written in a modern handwriting reads as follows: " b [born] near Winchester, Virginia, August 8, 1763 – resided at entrance Randolph County North Carolina resided in 1843, Marshall County Alabama.]

of Fanning [David Fanning], in our excursion in this Country we came upon him and his company at Ransons Mills [sic, Ramsay's Mill] on Deep River where we had a [indecipherable word] skirmish which however was not attended [?] with any loss on either side as the Tories made their escape. We continued to pursue them which we could easily do from the traces of their depredations until we came upon them again at a place called Cane Creek meeting house where we had an engagement with them in which the Tories lost fifteen men we three[?]. We continued in the Country at two different stations in Deep River at Bells Mills & at the Cross Roads about five miles apart our services principally consisted in watching the movements of the Tories and preventing their depredations. I remained engaged in this a manner until my term of Service expired which was for one year, at which time I received my discharge from Col. Dangan, which has been lost many years ago by the burning of my father-in-laws' house with whom I lived in Surry County North Carolina I afterwards moved back to Randolph County from thence I moved to Hawkins County Tennessee thence to Blount County Alabama where I resided until the Territory belonging to the Cherokee Indians was ceded to the United States out of a portion of which the new County of Marshall was constituted in which I now reside. I know of no living person by whom I can corroborate this above statements 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 the Agency of any State if any only on that of the agency of the State of North Carolina.

Signed and sworn to before me this the 23rd day of June A.D. 18 43

S/ B. S. Parson, JP

S/ Bryant Smith, X his mark

[William C. Mynatt ?, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amended declaration of Bryant Smith

State of Alabama Marshall County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace [in and for the] County and State aforesaid, Bryant Smith who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise time and length of his service but according to the best of his recollection since making out his former statement that instead of joining the Army at the time therein specified he entered the Army early in the year 1778 and a Company of Cavalry under Colonel Dougan [sic, probably intended to be a reference to either Thomas Dougan or James Dougan] and Captain Gray for six months after the expiration of which time, and towards the close of said year Proclamation was made to raise troops for 5 years, or for during the War which deponent enlisted for 5 years, or during the War under Captain Shepard [Abraham Sheppard]. The name of the Regiment he cannot recollect, in Randolph County State of North Carolina, – as a private. Deponent further states that he was in the engagement at Guilford Court House, the American Army commanded by General Green, the detachment Deponent was under was commanded by General Huger. Deponent was in several Skirmishes with the Tories – one at Cane Creek Meeting House another at Ramsey's Mills – Deponent further states that he remained in active service stationed at different places (viz.) Bell's Mills, Speedwell's Iron works, the Cross Roads, Salisbury, Hillsboro, the Officers of the Army I can call to mind were Generals Morgan, Sumter, Huger & Green – the Colonels were Luttrell, Lee, Washington, Howard & Pickens. The Army was furloughed after the cessation of hostilities and permitted to go home in 1783 –

Deponent states that he received a Discharge from Colonel Dougan when the time of his

first service expired – which he lost by the Burning of his father-in-law's house. Deponent further states that he knows of no living witness in this Country to prove his Services by. Deponent further states that he was born on or about the 8th of August A.D. 1763 – entered the Army in the spring of 1778 in his 15th year served out his time (viz.) 6 months received a discharge and in the latter part of the fall of the same year (viz.) A.D. 1778 enlisted as above stated under Captain Shepard for 5 years or for during the war remained in the Army until the first of October A.D. 1783 when he was furloughed and returned home. Deponent lived after the war in Surry & Randolph counties North Carolina afterwards settled in Hawkins County Tennessee, thence to Blount now Marshall County Alabama.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and Declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed this the 25th day of December A.D. 1845

S/ Isaac Childress, JP

S/ Bryant Smith, X his mark

[Edward Cox and Thomas Hale gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 11]

State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Bryan Smith a private Soldier in Captain Sheperd's Company of the 10th Regiment, enlisted sometime in the year 1778; that a land Warrant was issued for his services on the 22nd day of October next 1783 for 342 acres, being the quantity of land allowed for 45 months service. The warrant is No. 146, and was obtained on the certificate of a Field Officer.

Given under my hand this 24th day of November 1843

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[p 12]

Raleigh 24th of November 1843

Mr. James T. Lourie

I herewith send you the certificate requested by your letter of the 14th instant. The fees & postage for your letter amounts to 65 Cents. South Carolina money is good here, but Georgia, Alabama & Tennessee is not.

My certificate is as full as I can make, containing all that appears on the muster rolls.

Yours,

S/ Wm Hill

[p 15: Certificate from the North Carolina Comptroller's Office showing payments made to a Bryan Smith for service during the revolution.]