

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Francis Smith R9732

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 July 2021.

[Punctuation modified for clarity.]

State of Virginia }

County of Washington } SS On this 25th day of April 1854 personally appeared in Open Court, for the County Aforesaid, Catharine, Wife of Alexander Findlay who in due and solemn form of Law, doth, on her Oath declare, that she always understood her Grand Father, Lieut. Francis Smith, was an officer in the war of the revolution, and by Certificate from the Auditor of the State of Virginia, it is shown that the said Lieut. Francis Smith was a Lieutenant in the Virginian Continental line, that he served in said War, and in said line from the 1st day of February 1777 to the 24th day of December 1782, that he received for said service from the State of Virginia, the amount of Bounty Land promised by said State Viz 2666²/₃ Acres, and that Warrant did Issue to the said Lut. Francis Smith for said amount of bounty Land on the 22d day of December 1782, marked and No'd 70. that the said Lut. Francis Smith did, on the 23d day of November 1784 receive sixteen hundred dollars Commutation pay, under the Act of Congress of 1783. that the said Lut Francis Smith died in the County of Chesterfield State aforesaid on the [blank] day of [blank] 1833, that under the Act of Congress of 1780 Granting to Officers half pay for life, the Heirs Claim said half pay up to the passage of the Act of 1783, Granting five years full pay, the pay under the act of 1780 is two years and seven months at 320\$ pr anum, or half that am't. that being the monthly pay will make the sum of \$413 they claime Interest on that sum from the year 1783 up to 1854 – making seventy one years which makes the sum of \$2171.38 this is the Am't. of Claime under the Act of of 1780.

the Heirs next Claime under the Act of Congress passed on the 15th day May 1828 Granting full pay for life to take Effect from the 3d of March 1826 and that he never received said full pay, which from March 1826 to [blank] 1833 is seven years at \$320 pr annum will make the sum of 2240 they Claime Interest on said sum from the year of his death 1833, up to 1854, making Eleven years, at six pr Ct will make the sum 3718 this Amt Claimed under Act of 15th of May 1828, added to the Amt. under Act of 1780 will make the sum of \$5890.7[?] Exclusive of 200 Acres of Bounty Land promised by Congress.

That when the said Liut. Francis Smith died, he left no widow, but left the following named Children. Viz. Rebeca unmarried, who died in the County of Chesterfield in the year 1850; Francis, who resided in the County of Washington who is dead, & left Issue one Daughter Wife of Wyndham Robinson of said County; Catharine, who married Hickman Spiller, who is dead, leaving Issue two Children, Catharine Findlay the Declarant, of Washington County, and her Brother William H. Spiller of the County of Wythe; Lewis Smith of the County of Washington, who is dead leaving Issue one son, Ballard, of said County; Ballard and William Smith of the County of Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier]; Sarah Smith, who married Frederick Y. Roddy, a widow, residing in the town of Manchester; Joseph Smith, who is dead, leaving Issue three Children, Viz Elizabeth, who is the wife of John D. Mitchell of Washington County, Francis who resides in the State of Callifornia & Catharine who was the wife of Alexander Campbell of the County of Smyth, who is dead leaving Issue (viz. Thomas, Joseph, Francis, Elizabeth, and Ellen S. Campbell. these are the children and Grand Children of the said Leut. Francis Smith, and his Heirs at Law, the Heirs set forth their Claim on the facts, 1st, that Leut. Francis Smith did perform the service claimed which they prove by Certificate of the State Auditor, 2^d. for that service he re'd. part of his pay to wit his Bounty Land from the State of Virginia, 3^d. that he did receive \$1600 under the Act of 1783 up to 1788, at which time said act Expired, 4th What they now Claime is under the act granting Bounty Land, 200 Acres & half pay under the Act of 1780 to the passage of Act in 1783 Called Commutation; they Claime the Interest; 5th, they Claime under the Act of Congress of the 15th of May 1828 taking Effect in 1826 up to the day of his death, and the Interest thereon till paid, 6th they pretend not to Claime under the Act of the 7th of June 1832 believing such a Claime would not be just nor would be recognised by Law

Catharine A Findlay

[Peter J. Branch stated that Catharine A. Findlay was 58 and was born and raised in Chesterfield County.]

[Another document in the file adds the following]

3^d his place of residence, when he went into the Army, was Chesterfield, where he lived and died in 1834 19th April.

4 that he may have been, and believe he was Adjutant of the army in Virginia in 1780.

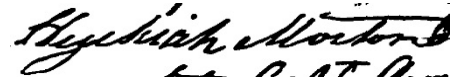
5th. that he actually served six years & nine months, to near the close of the war, his Grand Daughter says he resigned in consequence of sickness of his wife & death of a child in Chesterfield County Virginia....

7th he was Born and raised in Virginia, & never resided Elsewhere... Leut Smith, when a young man, was not rich, when he married, he re'd. by his wife a tract of land in Chesterfield, on it, he resided he was by Trade a Carpenter, and after the war was over, for many years followed his trade, although he became rich by inheritance & labour, he kept his work bench in his yard to the day of his death, although a [illegible word] he was of the Old School of Virginia Gentlemen in some things very eccentric, would talk for hours of his trials in the War, fought his battles over & again, when I was a boy 17 years of age in 1814[?] on my way to service I stayed at his house with Capt Wm his son, – he set up half the night, talking of nothing but the Rev War, it was his only theme from that day to the present, I have been Intimately acquainted, not only with Ballard and William, but some of those who are dead (Lewis I knew no man better than I did him

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files assumed to pertain to the same soldier.]

I do certify that Francis Smith Entered the Service of the United States about the begining of February seventeen hundred and seventy seven, and was afterwards appointed a Lieutenant in the Army on Continental Establishment, and as such continued to the end of the late war. Given under my hand this 23rd day of August 1807.

Hezekiah Morton [BLWt69-300]
Late Capt Army

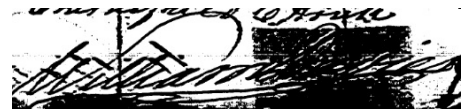


[Prince Edward County]

Lieut Francis Smith has drawn 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres, the certificate states for service “from the 1st day of February 1777 to this day.” and is dated 29th November 1782. Wm Price Reg'r/ Oct 29 1807

I do Certify that Lieut Francis Smith acted as Adjutant for the year 1780 from the first day of April to the [illegible] of October following, at the Gen'l Rendezvous at Chesterfield C House

William Davies [BLWt597-500] Col



NOTE: The pension file consists of 148 pages, most of which concern administrative matters. One document in the pension file states that Francis Smith married a Miss Price. On 18 June 1855 William Smith of Greenbrier County stated that his nephew, Dr. Francis Roddy of the City of Richmond, had informed him that his father, Francis Smith, died on 3 Apr 1833. In the account book of "Fr. Smith, Jr.," executor of Francis Smith, the date of death is 19 Apr 1833.