

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Smith R9767

VA PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 July 2021.

[Punctuation partly edited in all documents.]

Virginia. Logan County to Wit

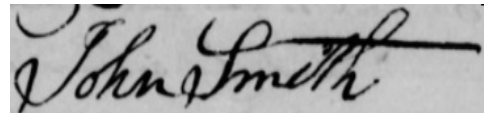
On the 18 day of January 1836 Personally appeared before the Court of the County of Logan, John Smith, a Citizen of this County Aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, Doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit, of the Act, passed on the 7th of June, by the Congress of United States; in favour of the officers & soldiers of the Revolution: – 1832:

That he volenteered into the service of the Army of the United States in the month of February 1777 at a place called White point on the Delaware river, five miles below Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Company of Capt Stewart in the Regement Commanded by Colo. John Speedwell; the Regement No. he does not recollect.

Shortly after he joined the Regement they marched to Crony Island where they remained two months, and there had an engagement with a body of Hessians; about the end of 1777 or in Jan'y. 1778 was Elected by the Company, who were all Volenteers, their Captain and was duly Commissioned at Egg harbor [in New Jersey]; William Nugent was Commiss'd. as Lieutenant & Asa King was Commiss'd. as Ensign in his Company, which continued under the command of Colo [George] Butler of Boston, with whom he continued until the Battle of Stony point [sic: Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779], at which place he was severely wounded in the face by a pine splinter from the enemies Artillery. He subsequently in consequence of his wounds received a discharge (the scar on his face was now exhibited to the Court) – On the affiants recovery he left Philadelphia to return to Corolina [Carolina] in a visit to his friends, but on his way at Fredericksburgh [Fredericksburg VA] He was induced again to join in the defence of his Countrys rights, and enlisted in the month of October 1779 in the 5th Virginia Regement of the line on the Continental line establishment for & during the War. The Reg't. was then commanded by Colo. Lilburn Lewis [see endnote]. John Cole was then Major of the same. He received a Commission as Lieutenant and marched with the Regement to Charlottesville barracks [sic: Albemarle Barracks near Charlottesville VA], where they remained some short time, when they marched down to a town a few miles above Richmond, where they remained some months. About this time he was transferred to the 7th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Campbell & served in the company of Capt'n. Boyer. [See endnote.] He then marched with the Regement south and crossed the Roanoke river at Boyds ferry [near South Boston], where they were joined by another Regement & remained some days, when He received the appointment of adjutant in the month of march 1781 William Price was Major of the Regement at this time.

The decaerent further states that they marched farther So[uth] across enoree creek [Enoree River in South Carolina] & took a small party of Toreys [sic: Tories], was with the Army at the battle of the Eutaw Springs in September 1781 [8 Sep 1781] after He was marched to the Malvern hills some miles below Rich [15 mi SE of Richmond] in Virginia, where he was stationed some weeks under the command of General Nellson [sic: Thomas Nelson], when he was marched from thence to Fredericksburgh where he continued to act as Adjutant & was employed to receive the arms & have them packed away &c &c. that in the Winter of 1782 - 1783 He was honorably discharged by Captain Boyer [see endnoe] – that his discharge & commissions were destroyed by a fire in house where all his property was burnt.

He declares that his name is not on any pension roll and that he has never received any & that he relinquishes every other claim but this, which he hopes will now be freely granted him, as he is now in very humble circumstances and unable to provide for himself & family.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Smith". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

Interrogatories put by the Court

1st. Where & in what year were you born?

Answer. In the City of Philadelphia in the year 1758 on the 18th of Nov'r [18 Nov 1758].

2^d. Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Answer. I have it in my family bible & what was extracted from such a record kept by my Father.

3^d. Where were you living when you entered the service, where have you lived since and where do you now live?

Answer: I was a Citizen of Philadelphia when I entered the service & for some time after the War I lived in Richmond Va. I then removed to Floyd County Kentucky & resided there for several years & have for many years last past been a Citizen of Logan County Virginia.

4th. How were you called into service?

Answer. I volunteered in the Continental service of Pennsylvania & served until the Battle of Stony pointt, when I was so severely wounded that I was compelled to retire from the service. I subsequently entered the continental service in the Va line & served during the War.

5. State the Names of the officers under whom you served and the general circumstances attending your service?

Answer. I served under Colos. George Butler, Major William Bell, Colo. Lilburn Lewis of the 5th Regement of Va, Major Wm. Price [William Price], Major John Cole, Colo. William Campbell [sic: see endnote] of the 7th Va Reg't of the line, with Generals Washington, [Anthony] Wayne, Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], Nellson, [Daniel] Morgan & Lafayette. the general circumstances of my service are fully set out in my Declaration.

6^h. Did you ever receive a Commiss'n. and if so, what has become of it and by whom were they signed?

Answer. I Received 3 Commissions. 1st as Lieutenant in the service of Pensy[lvania] 2^d. I Re'd. a Captain's Commiss'n. in said service. 3^d. I was commiss'd. as a Lieutenant in the 5th Reg't of Va on continental establishment, all of whom were however burnt in my house some few years after the Revolutionary War.

7th State the names of persons in your present neighborhood who can testify to your character for veracity & their belief in your services as an officer in the Revolutionary War

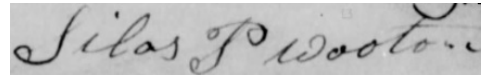
Answer. John B Clark, Sheriff of the County. Henry Farley Jam[es?] Slater. James Star & Pyrrus McGinness Esq'r. & the Rev'd. Richard Brooks.

[On 30 Jan 1837 Smith made a similar application for a pension, with the following differences: The field officers under whom he first served were "Colonel George Butler of Boston and Major William Bell." He was disabled for three months by the wound received at the Battle of Stony Point, having served more than 19 months as Captain. His second enlistment as Lieutenant in Oct 1779 was in the company of Capt. Marks [possibly John Marks W4542]. From Albemarle Barracks he marched down James River to another barracks a few miles above Richmond. One of the Tories against whom he fought was named John Lane. He remained six or seven weeks at Malvern Hill. His discharges and commissions were destroyed by fire while he lived in the city of Richmond. Anthony Hall (W1764) made a supporting deposition that he knew Smith at Boyds Ferry up until shortly after the surrender at Yorktown.]

State of Kentucky. Lawrence County to Wit

Personally appeared before the subscriber to the undersigned certificate, a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Silas P. Wooten [sic: Silas P Wooton S40730], a Citizen of this County and being duely sworn according to Law, deposes as follows. That in the month of March 1780 he enlisted at a place called Boyds ferry on the Roanoke river in Virginia into the 7th Regement of Virginia Militia on the line establishment, commanded by Colonel Campbell, and there became acquainted with Lieutenant John Smith, who he was informed had been in the service for a considerable time, remembers said Smith was appointed adjutant & inspector in said regement, & he the deponent served in the company of Captain

Boyer and with Lieutenant Smith at the battle of Eutaw Springs at what place deponent was wounded and was there left to be conveyed with the baggage when the Regiment marched back to Virginia; and your deponent was left at Salisbury [NC] and did not see Lieutenant Smith afterwards, until lately. and further saith not
[20 Nov 1834]



[On 26 Feb 1834 Wootton made a similar but less-detailed declaration in which he referred to Smith as an Ensign before he was made Adjutant.]

State of Kentucky, Lawrence County to Wit

This day [24 Nov 1834] personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, John Hargess a old revolutionary soldier, and after being duly sworn, deposeeth as follows; That during his service as Ensign in the 13th Regiment of Penselvania, He became aquainted in the year 1778 with Captain John Smith of the 5th Regiment and served with him at the battle of Stoney point, where Captain Smith was severely wounded, which compelled him to retire some months from the service. The deponent further states, that sometime in the fall of 1778 or spring of 1779 again met with Captain Smith, then a Leutenant in the service of Virginia, he believes in the 7th Regiment commanded by Colonel Campbell and Boyers company; they marched together from near Boyds ferry on the Roanoke, South, and were both present at the battle of Uutaw [sic] Springs in the year 1781, after which their Regements were seperated; deponent remembers that Leutenant Smith was highly spoken of for his great bravery and good conduct in the battle. deponent cannot recollect precisely the whole period of his acquaintance with Capt'n Smith but believes that it exceeded four years. John hisXmark Hargess [This deponent is apparently John Harges, although his pension application S35382 states that he served in the 13th Virginia Regiment, and it does not state that he was at the Battle of Stony Point.]

The statement of John Hargiss one of the old Revolutionary war pensioners do state on Oath of what I know of John Smith being in the Old War I here do state that I was acquainted with said Smith in the Old Revolutionary War and in the year of 1777 he entered the service in the 13th Regiment in Pennsylvania and was Captain in the said Regiment until 1779 after the battle at Stoney Point where he Rec'd. three wounds two on the forehead and one on the face from thence he went where I do not know then in the year 1780 I saw him again in the service in the virginia Continental Army under the command of Capt Boyer and Colonel Campbell and after the battle at the Eutaw Springs after the battle I no not what become of him until I saw him the said Smith here in Kentucky and I am bound to credit the said Smith for his valliantry as an Officer and a good soldier in the United States Army – and I do state that my age is now 89 years and drawing a pension from the United States of American for the sum of \$240.00 pr year. Witness my hand this 8th day Mar 1834. John hisXmark Hargiss

The affidavit of William Meade [S19394] of Logan County and State of Virginia in suport of John Smith's Claim for a pension the said Meade being first duly sworn for that purpose deposeeth and sayeth that he first saw the said John Smith in the service of the united States in the War of the Revolution in the South not far from the Eutaw Springs he was then in the army commanded by Col Campbell the said Smith was then acting as Adjutant that he had some acquaintance with said Smith and conversed with him there about the War Smith told him then that he had been in the North in the service and showed him a wound that he received at the battle of Stoney Point the scare was then not healed up after the war of the Revolution & upwards of 50 years past the said Meade states that he settled on New River in the County of Montgomery and he then met with the said John Smith who give him a lenthly account of his services in the War aforesaid he states that ever since that time he has been acquainted with the said John Smith and that he never doubted his having served in the War and in the manner that he stated ever since the Revolution he has been known and believed to have been an officer in the Revolution the said Meade States that many years past he has heard John Harges and others speak of having served in the army with

the said Smith the said John Harges draws a pension as Ensign and the said Harges & John Smith is both men that is entitled to full faith and credit given under my hand this 3 Day of may 1836 Henry Farley JP

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). The file also includes the same documents as in the above pension file.]

The Memorial of John Smith of Logan County in the State of Virginia to his Excellency Littleton W. Tazewell Governor, of this Commonwealth, Humbly Sheweth. That your Memorialist, Volenteered into the service of the United States in the year 1777 and received a Commission as ensign in the United States in the 5th Regement of Pensalvania; and after serveing four months as Lieutenant in said Corps, He was elected Captain of his Company, all Volenteers, at Egg harbour; – marched north with his Company and was severely wounded at the batle of Stoney point in the year 1778.

He was compelled to retire some months from the service on account of his wounds and received a discharge signed by Major Bell; on his recovery He your memoriaolist, set our from Stoney point on a visit to his friends in Caralinia and on his way he inlisted into the Reg. of Virginia Militia on the Continental establishment [sic] commanded by Coln Lilburn Lewis; Major Cole, and was Commissioned as Leiutenant in the Company of Captain Marks; then at Fredericksburg marched to Charlottesville and was stationed some time & at barracks a few miles above Richmond. About this period your memorialist was transferred and received the appointment of adjutant in the 7th Regiment of Virginia light Infantry Commanded by Colonel Campbell; in the moth of March 1781 was marched South by Boyds ferry, attached to the Company of Captain Boyer, and in the month of September 1781 was at the batle of Eutaw Springs, after said battle he was marched north to Malvern hills below Richmond where he remains six or seven weeks under the Command of General Nellson, from thence they marched to Fredericksburg, where your Memorialist continued until the winter of of 1782-1783 serving as adjutant receiving and parting[?] the arms, and was finally discharged by capt. Boyer in the Spring of 1783; your memorialist then settled in Richmond where his house was unfortunately burnt in 1785 with all his property to the value of several thousand dollars with all his commissions & discharges; your memorialist has never received his Land bounty promised by the State of Virginia. He therefore prays your Excellency will enquire into his Case & grant him a Warrant for said bounty Land, as he is by Law entitled too & your memorialist will ever pray &c &c

[8 November 1834]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Smith". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background and is positioned to the right of the main text block.

1835 Ap'1 18 Rejected

NOTES:

No Col. Lewis was in the 5th VA Continental Regiment. A Lilburne Lewis was Colonel of the Albemarle County VA Militia. I could find no reference to Maj. John Cole. Lt. Col. Richard Campbell commanded the Virginia Brigade at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, where he was mortally wounded. Capt. Thomas Bowyer commanded a company in Campbell's Brigade. William Campbell was a Colonel of militia. Commissioned officers did not receive discharges; they left the service either by resigning their commissions or by being cashiered.

A letter from one Ed Robertson dated Logan Courthouse KY, 12 June 1836 reads in part: "There is an application of 'John Smith' of this County for a pension This same old man about 1832 or 1833 came into Court and subscribed his declaration in the name of John Smith Bawden by which name he always went in our records &c. The papers were sent back for some cause, since which he has subscribed a declaration signing his name John Smith leaving out Bawden. I have enquired into this mystery and learn from him & others that Bawden was an adopted name in consequence of his having an uncle or step Father of that name – as to the truth of this I cannot say. He seems very minute in his detail and I am sure that he must have served as an officer or soldier. He seems to be well enformed and must

have seen much better times in early life.”

Smith’s applications were apparently rejected by the Pension Office, but the file contains a copy of a Congressional bill for the relief of John Smith dated 2 Jan 1839.