

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Smith R9768

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of North Carolina } Court of pleas and Quarter Sessions November Term 1832
Iredell County }

On this 20th day of November personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record now setting John Smith a Resident of Iredell County State of North Carolina, aged 74 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

That in the spring of the year 1779 he entered the service of the United States at Baltimore in the state of Maryland he enlisted in the Naval Service on board the Solicitor of 16 Guns commanded by Captain Ebenezer Hill for twelve months, that the said privateer cruised mostly in the West Indies Seas and continued in those parts untill the Solicitor was Captured by a British Privateer after a short engagement, that he remained a Prisoner sixteen days when he was set ashore on the Island of Tortola from which place he escaped to St Thomas and took a passage thence to Edenton in North Carolina where he landed in the spring of the year 1781 & thence he returned to his Residence in the State of Maryland near Georgetown. After his return he was drafted into the land service under Captain Moore for three months and was at the Siege of Cornwallis at the time of his surrender [19 Oct 1781] having arrived there a few days before that event, after which he was discharged and returned home. He never had any written discharge He says that from the time he entered on board the Solicitor in the spring of the year 1779 until the Capture of Lord Cornwallis in 1781 he was not more than one month at home.

He says he was born in Prince George [sic: Prince Georges] County Maryland in the year 1758 as recorded in Bible now in his possession & lived there at the time he entered the service. He continued to live there until about the year 1792 when he removed to Iredell County North Carolina where he now lives. He refers to Henry Stull Esquire and Robert Gracey.

And I hereby declare that I have no documentary evidence and I know of no person whose testimony I can procure to testify to my service.

And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid John hisXmark Smith

NOTE: Although privateers were sanctioned by Congress, they were privately owned and therefore not considered part of a military force. Consequently Smith's application was rejected, because he did not serve at least six months in the military.