

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Smith R9769

fn22SC [sic GA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/1/11

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

Georgia Henry County: Inferior Court Henry County Sitting for Ordinary purposes 1836

On this the 4th day of January 1836 in open court Personally came John Smith R H aged seventy-three years and after 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 7th in the year 1832 for the Relief of Revolutionary Soldiers. That he this deponent entered into the Militia service of the United States the summer of Floriday [Florida] expedition in South Carolina General Williamson's Brigade Major Middleton's Battalion Captain Pace's [Drury Pace's] Company under the command of Lieutenant Henry Grable, our duty was to scout and guard the women & children whose husbands were gone to Floriday in the Expedition we cut their wheat and took care of it for them till their Husbands returned during which time the Indians came in on the Ogeechee Georgia and killed some of the Inhabitants. Lieutenant Grable raised 25 volunteers of which I was one we went out as far as Fulsom's fort where we met the Inhabitants retreating the Indians had also retreated: we returned back to our station again and continued to do duty when need was, we divided into small parties and spied and scouted occasionally till the men returned from Florida there was a guard kept at Major Middleton's Ferry on Savannah River (it being the Line) as the British took possession of the state of Georgia about that time a British Colonel Camble [Archibald Campbell] took possession of Augusta, General Williamson took possession of Liberty Hill opposite Augusta there were several Battles fought to wit at Kettle Creek in Wilkes County Georgia and one at Burke County Jail; from Floriday expedition till the British took Augusta nearly nine months during which time we were always on the alert at a minutes warning not knowing when nor where we should be called for: we (that is my father's family) [were] refugees (when the British took the state we moved from Georgia into South Carolina) into the same company that I did the first duty: my brother Alex Smith substituted in the room of John Harvey for 3 months, (I was not compelled to do duty being under age but man being scarce) I was admitted to do duty as the I had been, it was the winter after Floriday Expedition how long I served during Floriday expedition and guard at Middleton's ferry I can't recollect as I kept no record I suppose it might have been 2 or 3 months included. I was admitted to relieve my brother every 2 weeks while he served as a substitute it was in the same company that I did the first duty; during the time I was in camp at Liberty Hill the Indians came in on Ogeechee and was doing mischief the Drums beat up for volunteers I turned out for one Colonel Leroy Hammond commanded we went and had a battle with the Indians at Rocky Comfort we killed 8 Indians and wounded one white man we took 3 white men prisoners a Captain Branham and two by the name of Linercum and three Indians we lost our Major Ross [Francis Ross] who commanded the right wing he got wounded and died soon after we got to camp at headquarters. Colonel Camble retreated from Augusta about this time Colonel Ash [General John Ashe] came

out with a party of men and went in pursuit of him and led his men into the fork of Brier Creek and Savannah River, where the British came on him and defeated him to his disgrace; my Brother's time was out soon after: we both happened in camp when we marched off to Beach Island where we remained near 2 weeks, Then we started for Stono Expedition and joined General Lincon [Benjamin Lincoln] and served during that Expedition in the same Regiment and company aforesaid we were 2 months and 12 days gone on hard fatigue and duty: the Battle was fought my Brother was in the action I was on guard, when we returned from Stono my father moved the winter following into Georgia again into Wilkes County the lower corner of it near the Bigs holes on Savannah River where we remains to this day (my father and mother has been dead many years) my Father let me go and live with John Dooley [John Dooly] who commanded Wilkes County John Cunningham was Major, old General Clark [Elijah Clarke] was Lieutenant Colonel. I remained in Colonel Dooley's family until the siege of Savannah and some time after, the Colonel went to the Siege & I staid at home, when he returned he was sick and much discouraged; the British took the state of Georgia again; duly sent to the British commander Colonel Brown [Thomas Brown] (who took possession of Augusta) soon after for a Parole for himself and as many of his regiments as chose to take it, I being one of the family I was included in the Parole: the Tories Captain Wilder with a company came and killed him Colonel Dooly in his own house notwithstanding his Parole and I narrowly escaped I took to the woods and lay out, during which time I was taken by the Tories and confined 2 weeks and was let loose again I then concealed myself generally; till Colonel Clark and Cunningham and Williamson came in (as they had not taking parole but had fled: that he with many other officers and men came in when I joined them the exact time I lay out I can't tell but it was a whole winter and part of the spring and fall [fall?]) Major Williamson Colonel Dun George Dooly who was a Captain Walker with many others Major Shelvey [Isaac Shelby?] with his mountain men all came in: we kept a scouting and flying camp seldom staid 3 hours at a place till we got strong enough to lay close siege to the town or forts; there were 2 forts one commanded by the British Colonel Brown, the other by Colonel Grason [James Grierson] the Tory Colonel, we took them both; Colonel Lee came to our assistance with his Infantry & horse troop Major Eaton fell there by the Tories; I continued on hard duty and fatigue during the siege from April to August when Grierson's Fort was performed I was there when Brown surrendered I was there also and was one of the men that was stationed in Grierson's Fort when Brown surrendered they gave us all the Tories to do as we please with them Colonel Lee took charge of the Regulars he marched them off I do not know where – I belonged to Captain Walker's company when the siege commenced but not liking to be confined in camp, I enlisted in the state troops of South Carolina Colonel Samuel Hammond's Command the terms of our enlistment was we were each man to receive a Negro of such a value when we took Augusta; what we put into the service of our own was valued we were to receive the same value when we were discharged. I put in a horse and saddle worth \$100 which I lost finally he was stolen the night after Brown's Fort was taken and I never saw him more when things were adjusted Captain Bartley Martin who enlisted me, he took the smallpox and lay during the siege or from the time he enlisted me, and had done no duty he came however on the ground where we were stationed which was at Colonel Leroy Hammond's; where he mustered us and made a demand for our Bounties, the Colonel refused to comply, the Captain flew in a violent passion drew his sword and swore if the Colonel did not comply he would take his life, the Colonel left the ground the Captain threw down his commission and stamped it in our presence he took out his muster roll and called our names who all answered, he told us we were dismissed and he had no more command over us, we got no written discharge neither do I

believe there was paper enough to have drawn a regular return for rations for my part I was orderly Sergeant mate, I do not recollect that I ever saw a return made either for men or rations during this siege; so I was dismissed without clothing arms or ammunition, we were spearmen; we had to give up ours the spears, swords and pistols and my horse being gone, I was obliged to return to my father's cabin on foot in a state of poverty and without health, in an enemy country I lay there 6 long weeks in the slow fever when I had sense, I was afraid of my life as the Tories were scouting about in small parties like wolves – when I recovered my health I went immediately on duty again the first duty I did was to guard five Tories that was taken in Wilkes County by one of our scouting parties we took them to Augusta I think there was three out of the five men hung in South Carolina on horns Creek as they belonged to that quarter they were given up to their own quarter where they belonged to be dealt with as the law directed.

I still remained in Captain Walker's company sometimes on duty and sometimes off; I being classed on the minute rolls there was one half placed in the back forts along the frontiers the other half stayed at home and was to be always ready when called for we remained so till peace was made; I substituted in the room of John Kilgore of Richmond County and served 2 weeks; there was a guard kept in Augusta, where the governor Heard stayed during which time General Green [Nathanael Greene] lay at the High Hills of Santee, there was a command of 15 in number picked out and sent under Colonel William Few to General Green for powder (that article being very scarce and times dangerous) I was one of that command we went through great danger and difficulty through the Tory settlements and returned safe, brought 1500 pounds of powder and a quarter cask of Rum to the governor: I then returned home I stayed a short time; then I substituted again in the room of one of my cousin George Smith of Richmond County for 2 months we went under the command of Captain Townsend we went and reinforced General Wane [Anthony Wayne] when he lay at Ebenezer we did hard duty and lived hard it was in the year 1781 in the months of January February and a part of March the British had possession of Savannah at that time, salt was scarcer we drew one gill each day for 20 men the beef was so sorry we could not eat it, it was poor cows suckled down the officers eat the yearlings and the men might eat the cows or do without, we quit drawing the beef and they gave us double rations of rice there being no bread we subsisted as well as we could there was neither vinegar soap nor candles drawn by the soldiers that ever I saw my time ran out and I returned home again to Wilkes County Captain Walker's company, soon after to wit in May the Indians and Tories came in on fishing Creek in Wilkes County to Heard's Mill and killed 5 of our men we all went that could go in pursuit of them Major Anderson of South Carolina joined us with a command of men Colonel Clarke commanded we went and made a scrimmage near the big Shoals of the Oconee [River] we killed 2 Indians and one white man and took 2 white men prisoners whom we hung to a stooping hickory at the lower end of the big Shoals. We lost Captain Holloway we were gone 5 days and had little to eat bread being scarce in them days in the frontiers of Wilkes: I did a 2 weeks tour of duty in Gunnels's Fort in the room of brother Alex Smith who was stationed there it was in oat harvest that same year of 1781 sometime afterwards the Indians came in near the Cherokee corner in Wilkes I think that was in the year 1785 I will not be certain as to the exact date they killed a family by the name of Stuart they killed some Negroes for Samuel Knox and burned their houses the people were all fortified in the frontiers in them times – I went and did a 2 weeks tower [tour] of duty in Benjamin Knox's Fort I got no receipt for that. I moved my residence and went to the frontiers and lived with one of my uncles. I served 21 days in Joseph Seats Fort under Captain lane [Lane], I got a receipt for that it was in the year 1786 May and June I returned then to my old company and was ordered out again to the big Shoals of the

Oconee where I served 2 weeks as a spy, there was 40 men of us under the command of Captain Robert Ware, we built a Blockhouse on the Oconee River at the big Shoals I got no receipt for that whither [whether] Captain Ware kept any record of the duty that was done I do not know, then Shoulderbone Treaty came on (there was a vacancy in our company of 2nd Lieutenant) I offered my service and was elected and before I got my commission was ordered with 12 men (which was the quota required from our company) to the Treaty aforesaid where I served 20 odd days. I had a certificate for that duty but have lost it (it was in the fall of the year 1786 say 20 days) General Twiggs commanded I belonged to Major Graves' Battalion Captain Burcks Company while I was in service; I went again to the frontiers and lived till the end of the War. Colonel Freeman got the command of the Regiment Colonel Barber was Lieutenant Colonel Major John Clark commanded the Battalion Captain Pots commanded the company I belonged to – I did many small tours of duty 2 days at a time I can't recollect all I was at the battle at Jack's Creek old General Clarke commanded we had a hard fight we whipped the Indians but it cost us dear, we lost 3 captains Brownfield, Elsberry and Wilson, with several good soldier; I was out 5 days then on scant allowance as well as the rest; and hard duty having very little for man and horse only what nature of forted; when we defeated the Indians we got there provisions which was parched corn flour that and cold water was a great support to us who had been 3 days on very little; as for him any more duty what I did I can't recollect: all neither will I pretend to do it. I received no pension or pay except \$30 I received at Stono and some more while I guarded at Middleton's ferry the sum I don't recollect it was small and of little value I have drawn no pension nor anyone for me agreeable to the answer I received from the war Department to a letter I received recently.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Deponent states that he has no discharge or written evidence of his services.

William T Bartly [?], Samuel McClesy [?], Archibald Henderson<sup>1</sup> & Alexander Smith<sup>2</sup> his brother all witnesses of his Services.

He was born in Pennsylvania, York County 1761 – has no original record of his age but has copied his age into his Bible at his residence. When called into service first he lived in Richland County Georgia, he has since the war lived entirely in Georgia the is in Richmond, Wilkes, Oglethorpe, Clarke & Henry County Georgia

He has stated (before how he was called into service & the officers under whom he served –

He is known to William Crawford & E. D Vaughan who are acquainted with him (& are his neighbors) who can testify to his character for veracity &c

Sworn to and subscribed this 4 day of January 1836

S/ Jno Smith R H

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jno Smith R H". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. There are some ink smudges and a horizontal line below the signature.

<sup>1</sup> May be the same as [Archibald Henderson R4866](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Alexander Smith S16530](#)

[Nathan Talley, William Crawford and Elijah D. Vaughan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]