

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Johnson Smith R9813

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Ohio        }       Court of common Pleas June Term 1818  
Gallia County Ss    }

This day personally appeared before me John Thompson President of [blank space] Johnson Smith a resident of said county of Gallia aged about fifty three years, who being by me duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions of the late act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War –

That The said Johnson Smith enlisted in Albemarle County in the Commonwealth of Virginia at the place where the Prisoners taken with Burgoine were then stationed ["Convention Army" surrendered by Burgoyne at Saratoga NY on 17 Oct 1777 and brought to Albemarle Barracks near Charlottesville in Jan 1779] in the fall of 1779 as he believes, and was first enrolled in Capt Mattersons [sic: Ambrose Madison's] Company, who afterwards resigned [23 Sep 1779], when one [James] Burton who was serving as Adjutant of the Regiment (designated as the Regiment of Guards; commanded by Col. Fountain [sic: William Fontaine] and afterwards commanded by Col [Francis] Taylor) commanded said company. That from Albemarle he marched to Winchester with said prisoners [Feb 1781], & from thence was marched to York in Virginia where he remained during the siege of york [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] where he received a flesh wound with a bullet in his left arm the scar of which is still visible, though the wound in no way disabled him. that after Cornwallis surrendered he marched with the prisoners there taken again to Winchester, where he remained until he was honorably discharged which was in the same fall of the year in which Cornwallis surrendered. That at the time when he was discharged the company was commanded by said Burton, & his discharge signed by Col Taylor. And that he is in feeble and reduced circumstances and absolutely stands in need of Assistance from his country for his support – and that he has no other evidence at this time within his controul to prove said services –

[signed] Johnson Smith

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On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1820, personally appeared in open court, (being a court of record for said county Johnson Smith, aged about fifty seven years, resident in said County of Gallia, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows.

That he enlisted under Lieutenant Burton in 1779 as well as he can recollect and was enrolled in Capt Mattisons company in the "regiment of Guards in the virginia line, then commanded by Col. Fountain afterwards commanded by Col. Taylor, in which regiment he served about two years, & until he was honorably discharge. which will more fully appear by his former declaration on which he has obtained a pension certificate numbered 11563

And I the said Johnson Smith do furthermore solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income of any nature whatsoever, nor any property of any description to enter in a schedule.

And I the said Johnson Smith furthermore swear, that I am by occupation a farmer, & that I have a family consisting of a wife and six children Anna aged about 24 years – William who is my almost entire support aged nearly 21 years – Rachel aged about 18 years, Sally aged about 14 years, Polly aged about 11 years – & Betsy aged nine years. and that I could not support myself were it not for the assistance I derive from my eldest children who are subject to leave me at any time they chose.

[signed] Johnson Smith

NOTE: On 25 Nov 1853 John Dyer deposed that Johnson Smith died on 4 Apr 1837, and his widow, Nancy Smith, died 22 Jan 1842, leaving three daughters as follows: Anna Smith; his wife, Rachel; and Elizabeth Smith. He estimated that Johnson Smith and Nancy were married about 1791, since Anna was then in her sixtieth year. The following affidavit is in the file:

State of Ohio Gallia County Ss

On this Nineteenth day of September AD. 1853 personally appeared before me Samuel B. Rathburn a Judge of a Court of probate within and for said County, David Lambert a Citizen of the County aforesaid who after being duly sworn as the law directs declares that he was raised in Augusta County in Virginia, and that while he was a young man, and residing in said County, he became acquainted with a young man who was hired as a farm labourer to a farmer by the name of James Johnson, whose name was Johnson Smith, which was some when about the year 1790 or 1791 – that about that time a man came from Albemarle County in the state aforesaid, with his family and settled in Augusta County aforesaid with whom came also, a young woman by the name of Nancy Phillips, that in a short time after their location this same Johnson Smith and this same Nancy Phillips were married but how they obtained a license, he could never tell, because the law was then as it is now, that if a girl is under twenty one years of age her parents consent must first be obtained, – he had always supposed it was by publication of their intention to be married, – after their marriage, they gathered up some household furniture and went to keeping house near where he, David Lambert resided with his father that subsequently this Nancy Smith's mother and family (the father being dead) removed to Augusta also and settled near his father also, and in time he, himself was married to Nancy Smith's sister, that they continued to live neighbours in Augusta a number of years, and afterwards Johnson Smith, himself, and William Phillips their brother in law, with each his family, removed from Augusta aforesaid and settled in Gallia County Ohio, where they continued to be nigh neighbours, until the death of Johnson and Nancy Smith

He further states, that this same Nancy Smith had often said in his hearing, that her friends had opposed her marriage with a young man in Albemarle, and she had then made up her mind, to go out of the County, and next time would get married without consulting them, that when her and Johnson were married they made a kind of secret marriage for fear of opposition. He therefore declares, that he well knows that the aforesaid Johnson Smith and Nancy Phillips were married at Augusta County in Virginia about the year 1791 or 1792, as their oldest child Anna Smith who now resides in this neighbourhood, is in her sixty-first year and that the aforesaid Johnson Smith died in Gallia County aforesaid on or about the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1837 – and Nancy his wife on or about the 22<sup>d</sup> January 1842, that they had ever since their marriage lived together as husband and wife and were so reputed and that of their children born during coverture, none are now living but Rachel Dyer, (John Dyers wife), Anna Smith and Betsey Smith

And further deponent said not

[signed] David Lambert

[William Phillips deposed similarly but in less detail.]