

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Nathaniel Smith R9817

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } S.S.

Maury County }

On this 3rd day of May 1836 personally appeared before the Honourable, the circuit court of said county of Maury, the Honl. Edmund Dellahunty judge, Nathaniel Smith, a resident of the said county of Maury, & State of Tennessee, aged 74 years, on the 5th. inst. who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th June, 1832; That he was born 5th of May 1762, in the county of Brunswick, State of Virginia – that his age was recorded by his parents, in a volume of Bailey’s Dictionary, & which book is now in the possession of one of his sons – that he was living, at the time he entered the service in the State of Virginia, in what was called at that time Henry, now [since 1791] Patrick County – that he has lived since the Revolutionary war in that county until 1816, at which time he removed to the County of Williamson, Tennessee; he lived there two years, & from there he removed to this (Maury) County, & has resided in this County ever since. That in the year, as well as he recollects, of 1779, in the summer of that year, a man by the name of Letcher, living in the same county, was killed by the Tories [William Letcher, murdered in his home in The Hollow on 2 Aug 1780] – a call was made for volunteers, and a company was raised by one Capt Eliphaz Shelton [Eliphaz Shelton], which company he joined – it consisted of some forty or fifty men – that in this company he served a tour of about three months, in keeping down Tories – that in this tour they caught a man, whom they suspected to be an Englishman with two kegs of powder for the Tories – being of suspicious character, we took him administered Lynch’s law, and turned him loose [see endnote]. In the same tour we took two others, one of them an Englishman & the other a Tory by name of Davy McGoun [David McGowan or David McGowin] – being also of suspicious characters, they were handcuffed and taken to our Capt. Jonathan Hanby’s in said County of Henry, but not having sufficient evidence against them of any criminal intentions, they were let at liberty & that some time afterwards, as well as he recollects, in the fall of the same year a call was made for volunteers against the tories in the Sorrytown [sic: Saura Town] & Pilot mountains in the Counties of Stokes [formed from Surry County in 1789] & Surry, North Carolina – that this company was not commanded by any regular officers – he recollects that Randall Miller, William Deatherage, William Carter [pension application W3385], belonged to the company – that they served something like one month, in ranging & keeping down the tories – that in the year 1781 he again volunteered under Capt. Eliphaz Shelton & started to join Gen’l. Green’s army [sic: Southern Department commanded by Gen. Nathanael Greene], that they served a tour of something like a month in this trip – That there were two other companies, volunteers, one commanded by one Capt. Lyon, and the other by Capt. Hairston – that in the year 1782 he again volunteered & joined a company, commanded, he thinks by the same Capt. Shelton – that the Captain gave to him, William Carter, & Peter Scales a furlow to go in search of some delinquent drafted men – that they went into the mountains, & with the assistance of others, they found & took thirteen of these delinquents that they carried them before the proper authorities at Prince Edward Court house – that they were delivered up to the said authorities – who gave to him & his associates a discharge for a six months tour for each man – that in this tour he served between one & two months – that the discharge thus given him, he has lost; and he has no knowledge where it is – that he knows of no person in this country by whom he can prove his services – and has no evidence of the fact, except the affidavit of William Carter under date the 14 of November 1833, given in Patrick County, State of Virginia – that he has no documentary evidence in his possession, of his services, having lost the discharge given as set forth in this declaration, which affidavit he makes a part of this his said declaration –

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; – that he is acquainted with William Aldridge & James L. Crawford who can testify as to his character for veracity, and as to their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution – [signed] Nath'l. Smith

State of Virginia }

Patrick County }

this day Mager William Carter of the county of Patrick and State aforesaid personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid and made oath that he was well acquainted with Nathaniel Smith now of the County of Maury State of Tennessee in the time of the revolutionary war and for many years since that the said Smith served in the Revolutionary war with this affiant the following named tours one tour under Capt Eliphas Shelton in the county of Henry state of Virginia against the tories at McGowns in Henry County aforesaid the length of time he does not recollect another tour under Capt Shelton against Cornwallis at the time the battle was fought at Guilford Court house N Carolina in [15 Mar] 1781 the lenth of the tour not recollected – the tour at Mc he says was in 1779 to the best of his recollection

sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of November 1833

[signed] Wm Carter

Martin Cloud JP

NOTE: "Lynch's law" refers to torture of suspected Loyalists, sometimes by being hanging by the neck until nearly dead. The phrase is said to derive from the harsh justice imposed by Col. Charles Lynch of Bedford County VA or to the vigilante actions of William Lynch of Pittsylvania County VA.