

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Smith R9831

Polly

fn36NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/23/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

[fn p. 13]

I first entered the service of my Country under Captain Moseby of the Militia in Surry County North Carolina as a volunteer to serve nine months. This was in consequence of a call for men to go and defend Charleston when it was first threatened by the British, I think in 1776. The Tories became very troublesome soon after I volunteered and as my mother was a widow and I was the oldest son she had at home, through her influence I did not go but hired a Substitute who performed the service. For this service I received a discharge ^{or dismissal from a draft for 2 years as all the} volunteers for 9 months were not liable to be drafted for that period of time which was long since lost. My continuing at home was no relief to me as the Tories very soon embodied and formed themselves into companies with Officers and were so troublesome that the Whigs were compelled to form companies of which they called minute men who were obliged to be always ready and were in almost continual service either pursuing or flying from the Tories, who were engaged in this pillaging warfare for nearly two years. During this time we received no pay from the public but furnished our own arms, ammunition, horses etc. Joseph Williams was Colonel of the Regiment to which I will company belonged. Robert Lanier was also Colonel in that part of the State. Major Winston was also with us and Colonel Cleveland who lived 40 miles above. I was sometimes with one and sometimes another of these officers. Morgan & Samuel Bryant, Ayres Headspeth and Elrod were Tory officers in that quarter. We had several skirmishes [indecipherable word] at Surry Courthouse, at Allen's Iron works – at the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River], after which the Tories retired to the British Army and we had more quiet for a short season.

When Cornwallis entered North Carolina I think in 1780 the Tories again became very troublesome so that the Whigs were in continual danger of being killed and having their property plundered and their families murdered. Myself and two others were appointed to convey the boys and horses from our neighborhood to Virginia for safety. We went with them to Henry County and left them there. On my return I found that the militia had been called out and were gone to meet the British. The Tories had mostly gone also but enough remained to annoy and plunder. Colonel Lanier collected a small company of men mounted and armed with guns, swords & pistols to protect the neighborhood, recover slaves who had been seduced or stolen from their masters. I was one of that company. We were engaged sometimes in watching the

movements of the British Army and sometimes in suppressing the Tories and Negroes. After the Battle of the Cowpens, General Morgan having passed the Catawba River retreating before Cornwallis we were kept very busy in spying the British who were pursuing and defending our families from the Tories. After watching the British Army until it struck camp at Colonel Hunt's not far from the Shallow Ford we started to Virginia to join Colonel Joseph Williams who was then the commander of the Militia from Surry County and had gone to join General Greene. We joined them in Pittsylvania County, crossed over Dan River into North Carolina and marched towards Guilford Court house where the armies met and fought. Myself and two others were sent to see what the British and Tories had done with our families which prevented me from being present at that battle. After Cornwallis had gone to Wilmington, the Militia of North Carolina were ordered to Wilmington under the command of General Rutherford. I then volunteered under Captain Wright. He belonged to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Smith. When we reached the neighborhood of Wilmington we were engaged several days in endeavoring to get possession of the Red or Brick house on the other side of Cape Fear River from Wilmington which was garrisoned with British & with four hundred men under the command of Bryant a Tory. This service was assigned to Colonel Smith and effected by him. I was of the party. Major Grimes was dispatched with 80 picked men to Waggamaw river [sic, Waccamaw River?] 70 or 80 miles, I suppose from Wilmington to disperse some Tories who with the British officers, were reported to be engaged in recruiting men for the British Army. We had several skirmishes while we were gone and killed a British Lieutenant and some Tories. Captain Charles Poke [sic, Charles Polk?] was in company and killed one or 2 Tories who were found having some of our forces in possession the morning after we had been attacked in the night. We lost one man killed and 2 or 3 wounded. My messmate was killed. After our return we were discharged and returned home. I served a short tour in Virginia under Captain Wilson of the militia. The date of this service I do not recollect as it was very short and when I was there on a visit to my friends. I think I can safely say I served my country in the manner stated above for at least 3 and probably more than 4 years.

I was born in the year 1759 on the first day of June in Cumberland County Virginia. In 1773, my father having died in 1768, removed to Surry County, North Carolina. In 1784 I went to Virginia to the City of Richmond and continued there 1 ½ years, and returned to North Carolina. In 1786 I removed to Spartanburg District, South Carolina. In 1789 I removed to West Tennessee, 3 or 4 miles from Nashville where I had several routes after the Indians in company with our present chief magistrate General Jackson [a reference to President Andrew Jackson]. In 1792 I removed to Green County in East Tennessee where I made a short stay and removed to Green County Georgia. In 1798 I removed to Jackson, now Clarke County where I now reside.

I know my age from the record kept in the family Bible.

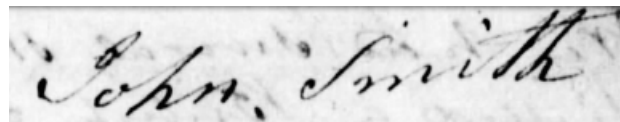
I received several discharges but you may have been long lost and I do not recollect with certainty by whom they were given but supposed by the officers under whom I served.

The Honorable A. S. Clayton and the Reverend Thomas Stanley have been long acquainted with me and will testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the Revolution

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 22nd October 1832

S/ Robert Ligon, Clerk

S/ John Smith



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.

S/ John Smith

[Thomas Stanley, a clergyman, and A. S. Clayton, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 4: family record]

John Smith son of Robert & Sarah was born in Cumberland County State of Virginia on the first day of June & year of our Lord 1759 – was married to Polley Mapp on this 2nd day of February and year of our Lord 1789 in South Carolina Spartanburg County. She was born on the 2nd day of January 1768 started from Cumberland Tennessee on 6th of September 1789 arrived there on 24th of October following

[entry partially missing] & year Child dyed on 26

Cynthia Bishop daughter of John & Polly Smith died on the 4th of September 1831 she was delivered of a Female child on the 17th of August the Instant Expired on the 11th of September 3 weeks & 4 days old

John W Smith was taken on the 30th of January 1835 with a sore throat & pain in his side & expired on the 14th day of February Entirely resigned to his fate 3 weeks & one day of sickness]

[fn pp. 28-30: 3-page handwritten letter dated December 1836 from the veteran addressed to J L Edwards as Commissioner of pensions in which he largely restates the services related above. I assume this letter is in the handwriting of the veteran himself and consequently may be of particular interest to his family members.]

[fn p. 7: On July 5, 1847 in Clark County Georgia, The court made findings that John Smith a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution at the rate of \$80 per annum died July 18, 1838 leaving Polly Smith his widow; that she remained his widow until her death on December 27, 1839 leaving Edith Dobbins of Walker County Georgia, Nancy wife of James Walker of Troup County Georgia, Polly wife of Henry Jackson of Itawamba County Mississippi, Susannah wife of John McCalpin of Greene County Alabama, Fielding Mapp Smith of Walton County Georgia and Sarah wife of Aaron F. Nunnally now of Clark County Georgia her only surviving children and heirs at law; that said Aaron F Nunnally is an administrator of the Estate of Polly Smith.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina service.]