

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Smith R9844 Sarah Smith VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 July 2015.

State of North Carolina }
Surry County } on this the 22nd day of July 1844 personally appeared Before the undersign'd one of the acting Justices of the peace & a member of the Court of pleas & quarter sessions for the s'd County of Surry Sarah Smith a resident of the aforesaid County & State Aged 80 years who being first duly Sworn according to law Doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress past July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows.

That she is the widow of John Smith Dec'd who was a private soldier in the war of the Revolution that lived in Buckingham County Va. this Declarant alledges that her Dec'd husband the s'd John Smith Serv'd the United States several tours in the war of the Revolution

That she has often heard him speak of being in the war of the Revolution that he Enlisted in Buckingham County Va, and serv'd the United States two tours of 18 Eighteen months each in Cavalry in the Virginia Continental line & furnished his own horse

That he afterwards Volunteer'd & Serv'd twelve months or more as a private of Infantry, That he serv'd a part of his time under the command of Capt. Smith the other officers not recollected. That he pass'd from Virginia through N. Carolina to Georgia where he was taken prisoner by the British under the command of General Campbell [sic: Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell] & kept as prisoner of war above six months he was afterwards at the Siege of little York where Corn Wallis was taken [sic: Siege of Yorktown VA, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781, where Cornwallis was taken] That his Discharges which Duly testifies to all these statements are lost. That this Declarant Does not know of any person surviving with whom her husband serv'd But she has frequently hear'd her Dec'd Husband the s'd John Smith talk with persons who serv'd with him in the war of the Revolution particularly one John Newman [pension application S1299] who are now Dead. Therefore she is deprived of their Testimony & must rely on his other companions in war if there be any yet surviving.

This Declarant further sets fourth upon her oath that her Husband the s'd John Smith Dec'd on the 23^d Day of March in the year of Eighteen hundred & twelve (1812) And she Further sets fourth upon her s'd oath that she was married to the Aforesaid John Smith on the 9th Day of March in the year of Seventeen hundred & Eighty Eight that she was not married to the aforesaid John Smith prior to his leaving the service, But the marriage took place previous to the first Day of January Seventeen hundred & ninety four Viz at the time above stated (1788) in further proof of the s'd marriage the Declarant herewith sends her original Family Record. Sarah herXmark Smith

Mr James A. Craig Siloam PO Surry Cty N.C.

Sir June 3^d 1843

I Rec'd yours of the 24th May Last, which stated agreeable to Mr. Pickard's Report that my mother was willing to give half of the first draw to him for collecting her pension Rising or ought to be rising to her from the services of my Father John Smith as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Yes that was my agreement with Mr Pickard.

The List of pensioners comemerated on your letter my mother don't Recollect of hearing my father say any thing about serving with any of those men it has been 31 years since the Decease of my Father if she ever heard him say any thing about it, it has slip'd her memory

Your Questions

Where living when married} I Ansr In Henry County, Va

Who married you} A. Joseph Anthony A preacher of the Gospel

Have you a family Record. A I have.

How long did your Husband John Smith Serve A. He enlisted for two 18 months Towers at the commencement of the war Then He served as a private on foot During of the war with service any time between towers

Where living when He served A He was Bred and Born in Buckingham County Va and started from there to the service of his country.

Was He a private in the cavelry in the war and if so who were his officers he served under. A He was a private in the cavelry as for his officers in the Cavelry She have heard his say But cannot recollect there names now

Was John Smith in any Battles and if so in which Battles A He was in a hard engagement near Savannah [Girardeau's Plantation, 29 Dec 1778] under General How [sic: Robert Howe] Samuel Elbert, Col [of the Georgia Brigade], Major More [sic: Francis Moore, Georgia Light Infantry] Capt Smith [probably William Smith] was his Capt Capt Smith was sent to a church close By where the Brittish ships was Anchored, with a company of men to watch there movements and when the Brittish landed and marched under Gen Campbell close to the church Smiths Company fired from the church and stoped the whole British army for some minutes killed and wounded many of them the company then joined the american army and they all stationed them selves where How had ordered them and was taken prisoner by the brittish in the forks of two rivers after giving the Brittish a smart contest my father remained a prisoner the best part of a year He was also at the Siege of little York who was his officers she don't Remember more than he fought under General Washington he says her see the brittish march out to lay down their arms the french on one side and the Americans on the other which formed an Avaneue for the Brittish prisoners to march through

Had he any discharge A he had a couple of Discharges when he left his fathers to go up in Henry County. he left them at his fathers and they got Distroyed and he never got them any more he never expected they would be any service to him therefore he was careless about them, & his time was nearly out when he was taken prisoner and put on board of a prison ship when he got away from them or got Released he was further from his officers than he was from his fathers and he went home to his Fathers and never went after his discharge so he missed his Bounty land soldiers pay and discharge

Where did John Smith Die A in Henry County in a half a mile of where he was married did he ever draw a pension in his life time A. no he died Before the institution of the pension law

My Mother says that she Recollects two of my fathers Brother soldiers that come to see him after they were married but she cannot think of their names. She and Father was married in the year 1788 March 9th her oldest son was Born March 17th 1789 – they lived together as man and wife untill the day of his Death

Yours Respectfully Henry Smith

June 2nd 1843

PS} If you should want any more Inteligence you will let me know By letter & I will try to give you all I can &c H. S.

NB Sir I let Mr Pickard have the Sertificates of the lawfulness of my Father & mothers marriage and the Date &c {Henry Smith

Siloam P.O June 2nd 1844

Dear Sir [James A. Craig/ Ruffins Mills/ Orange Cty N.C.] I rec'd yours of the 4th of Apl last Relative to my Mothers pension claim with the Inquiry first where did my father live During the war of the revolution. His father lived in Buckingham county and that was his viz my Fathers Residence when he was not in the service he never see'd Henry Cty untill after the war he married in Henry Cty and lived there the remainder of his life

As for there being so many John Smiths in the Va. Continental States line how you will Identify my Father I am at a loss to inform my Father was a small lame man always walked with a limp in consiquence of having his hip put out of place when he was small his height was was something about 5 feet 10 In, some times their height are taken in the army If you could be in Buckingham Cty Va. you would stand the best chance to get information as he was bred and born there and lived there untill he

went into the service likely some old man may be living who knew something about his going into the service his Fathers name was Henry Smith he lived not far from Carters Ferry [now Cartersville] on James River

you wish to know if mother knew of any one who was in the service at the same time with my Father She has heard him talk of many who was with him but she cant Remember their names only one and he is dead long since his name was John Newman she recollects his name from a circumstance which she & my self both have heard him talk of that is he was fighting by my fathers side and there came a canon Ball and took of one of his arms above the elbow I can reccollect of seeing him myself and hearing him and my Father talk about their Battles and hardships she has heard him talk of many but she has Forgotten she being old

The time my father was made prison to the south I think it was in 1778 from the circumstance I have heard him talk of Viz, a company of men being sent under the command of Capt Smith to a meeting house adjacent tot he sea or where they landed to watch the motion of the enemy they was in view of their landing and see them marching up towards the house the above nam'd company (which my Father was one) waited untill the enemy came close by and the company give them a very spirited encounter and than retired to the american army and was taken prisoner that day being ordered to fight or Die on a certain ground chosen by General Howe the whole Va corps was taken but Col S Elbert himself who swam a river to make his Escape The North Carolina or other Corpse formed in mass or close column and Broke the British line as it was expanded to encircle them all and made their escape so it was the invasion of of Georgia that my Father was imprisoned which was the year 1778 – She donot know the name of any who was taken prisoner at that time with him he was detained prisoner six months

My Father was afterwards at the siege of Little york which was the Close of his service in the war of the Revolution please write to me for more information if you want it If we can give you any we'l gladly Do so I should be glad you would write to me in your next to let us know if there is any probability of obtaining a pension from what you now see

I think it advisable to be as quick about it as the nature of the case will admit as my mother is old and cant stay here long though in common health at preasant If you should want the ages of my Father and mother and their children They are Recorded in a large Bible at the Widow Elizabeth Stones in Henry Cty Va on Horsepasture Creek. theres is where my Father & mother Married and there lived untill the Death of my Father which happened in 1812

So I Remain Dear Sir your Most Respectfully [signed] Henry Smith

State of Virginia }

Henry County }

On this the 25th day of July 1844 personally appeared before the undersigned, one of the acting Justices of the Peace & a member of the Court of Pleas & quarter sessions in and for the said County of Henry, Elizabeth Stone a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged 77 years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on her oath make the following statements to wit: That she was well acquainted with the late John Smith Decd. and his wife Sarah who now resides in the County of Surry N Carolina, & is applying for a Pension for the Revolutionary services of her Dec'd. Husband, the said John Smith, That this deponent was present and witnessed the solem nization of the rits of Matrimony, between the aforesaid John & Sarah Smith, That they were married on the 9th day of March in the year of Seventeen hundred & Eighty Eight (1788) (That this deponent does know the aforesaid marriage took Place on the 9th of March 1788.) From the circumstance of being married herself on the same day & at the same Place. This deponent further sets forth upon his oath that Sarah Smith who resides in the County of Sury N. Carolina, & is applying for a Pension for the services of her decd. Husband in the war of the Revolution is the Identical widow of John Smith decd. who bore the reputation of having been a soldier in the war of the Revolution, that the aforesaid Sarah Smith has not married since the death of her said Husband John Smith but remains his widow.

Sworn to & subscribed on this 25th July 1844 before Elizabeth herXmark Stone
Josiah W. Hereford

State of Virginia Henry County} S.S.

on this the 28th day of April 1845 Personally appear'd before me William A. Taylor one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the said County of Henry, William Dillen a resident of the said County & State aged Eighty five (85) years and made Oath in due form of Law Viz.) That he was a neighbour of John Smith Dec'd. who died about the year (1812 eighteen hundred & twelve) and whoes widow now resides in Surry County N. Carolina; that he lived a neighbour to the said John Smith for many years previous to his the said John Smith's death, and was intimately acquainted with him, and often heard the said John Smith speak about his serving in the Revolutionary War, and said that he Enlisted and served three years in the regular army in the Virginia Continental line, in the war of the Revolution, and this deponent does believe that the said John Smith did serve in the War of the Revolution as he stated, from the many circumstances which he related that happen'd during his service in the war, but the said John Smith has been dead so long much of his conversation about his service inthe war has escaped this deponents memory, that he remembers of hearing the said John Smith tell of several Battles which he was in during his sevice but this deponent is unable at this time to specify them particularly, but he is of the opinion that the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] is one which the said John Smith was in. and furthermore that the said John Smith always bore the reputation in his neighbourhood of having been a soldier in the Revolutionary war. & further this deponent saith not) Sworn to & subscribed on this 28th Apil 1845 before me [signed] William Dillen

W. A. Taylor J.P.

Supplementary Declaration In order to obtain the benefit of the acts of Congress Passed July 7 1838, March 3rd 1843, June 17 1844, and Joint Resilution of the 23rd January 1845;

State of North Carolina }

Surry County }

On this the 23^d day of October 1845 Personally appeared before the Undersigned one of the acting Justices of the Peace in & for said County, Sarah Smith a resident of said County aged 86[?] years and doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the above named acts of Congress; that she is the widow of John Smith Decd, who livd in Buckingham Co. V.a. in time of the Revolutionary War, and who was a soldier in the war; That her Husband was a Regular Private soldier in the V.a. Cont'l. line two Eighteen months tours; that she is under the impression he served the first tour in Cavalry and the other she does not know whether it was in Cavalry or Inffantry, and that he served several other tours in the Va. Militia and was in all of the Revolutionary War, with the exception of short intervals, that the two above named Regular tours were Rendered in the first part of the War; and she believes that her Husband the said John Smith Enlisted in Cavalry both tours but is of the opinion was transfered during the 2nd tour from Cavalry to Infantry; that he was under the command of one Capt. Smith; Mager Moore; Col. Samuel Elbert; Col. Mercer [see endnote], and the American Genrl. How, that he was under the forgoing officers some part of the time he seved, and other officers which he served under she does not Recollect; that he was in a scrimmage at a Meeting House in Georgia when Georgia was Invaded by the Brittish, and was there taken Prisoner by the Brittish, she believes this was in the year 1777, or 1778 that it is impossible for her to tell what Regiment her Husband was in when in the service of his country, that she made a Declaration last year in application for a Pension which she sepposes to be on file in the Pension office the foregoing statements I have made to the best of my knowledge and belief and what I understood from my Decd Husband the said John Smith in his life time; that she still remains the widow of the said John Smith; that her Husband the said John Smith was lame from the time he was not more than seven years old & was frequently called by his acquaintances "Hopping John Smith" and further saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed this 23rd day of October 1845 Sarah hisXmakk Smith

Before me/ J. Whitaker JP

North Carolina }

Surry County }

on this 9th of February 1847 personaly appieard before me Drury Hodges one of the acting justices of the piece for s'd. cty Benjaman kidd a resident of said

county aged ninety one years and made oath that he lived in Buckingham county State of Virginia in time of the revelutary war and was intmatly and well acquainted with one John Smith who allso lived in the said county of Buckingham and was a privit soldier in the revilutionary war and whos widdow Sarah Smith lives in surry county North carolina and as this deonant understands is an applicant for a pention that he lived in three miles of the said John Smith in time of the war of the revolution and well recollects of the said John Smith leving home to serve in said war, and of his returning from the same. that said John Smith did searve three years in the Virginia continental line as a privit soldier, that he is not confident whether the said servis were rendred in one tower, or two, but is certain that the said John Smith did leave home to serve in the regular servis as aforesaid, that the said John Smith was a lame man from his first acquaintance with him sworn to & subscribed this 9th February 1847

Benjamin hisXmark kidd

State of Virginia }
Buckingham County } On this 30th day of June 1847 personally appeared before me Edward J Gilliam, one of the acting Justices of the Peace, in ad for said county of Buckingham, Elizabeth Morris, and made oath in due form of law, that she is Eighty two years old, and was born and raised in said county of Buckingham, and still resides in said county of Buckingham, that she well remembers of one John Smith, who lived in said county of Buckingham, State of Virginia, Enlisting and serving as Private three years in the Virginia Continental Line, that she was raised by said John Smith's Father (to wit, Henry Smith,) and remembers the very day that said John Smith Enlisted in the War of the Revolution, but cannot tel the date But thinks it was in the early Part of the War, that she well recollects of said John Smith leaving home to serve in the continental service as above stated, and it was three years and upwards before he returned, and when said John Smith returned from the war, she recollects, that his feet were Badly Frost bitten, that he left home on foot, and returned on foot, and she never understood that he rode while in the service, but is fully of the opinion he served in the Infantry, ie, "foot" and that he served several other tours after the above tour of three years, and that said John Smith was a criple, that is, he was lame from the time he was quite a small boy, and that there was one Benjamin Kidd, that lived a neighbor, and was well acquainted with said John Smith in the days of the Revolution
Sworn to and subscribed this 30th day of June 1847 before me Elizabeth herXmark Morris

Rockford 8 Febr 1848

Mr James A Craig

Dear Sir I rec'd yours of the 6 Jan, which stated that you requested G M Pickard to come and see me last summer he did not come but wrote me a letter In answer to your interrogations I will inform you first that my Father first Enlisted in Buckingham Cty Va and was detained in Virginia some length of time waiting for orders where to go, at length orders was rec'd for them to go southardly they ware stationed in georgia and was there something like two years before he was in an engagement at length the Brithesh arived on the course of Georgia and a detachment of Brittish landed at or near Savannah commanded by an officer of the name of Campbell R Howe the jeneral my father said he was under ordered the capt that he was under by the name of Smith to a meeting house near savannah to watch the motion of the enemy and give them Battle at length the enemy hove in sight marching along a causeway more than a quarter of a mile in length with a ditch and a swamp on each side my Father said that If there had Been a sufficiency of cannon fixed at the meeting house instead of a captains command of Infantry we might have repuls'd the enemy but Capt Smith and his small Force gave them a tolerable sharp contest as he said Before they retreated this was the first engagement he s'd he was in The nixt he said he was in under Gen [Benjamin] Lincoln on a little creek near Savannah River [Battle of Briar Creek GA, 3 Mar 1779]. The Brittish officer was by the name of [James Mark] Prevost, he said his Colonel was by the name of Elbert who commanded the Continentals and there he said he was taken prisoner he said after Col Elbert had faught hard he was overpower'd and was obliged to surrender for the militia fell into confusion in early part of the engagement, my Father said he was put on boart a Brittish prison ship of

Savannah and was detained six months on Board, & he said that the American soldiers was taken with a swelling in their Bodies and nearly all dyed My Father said that while he was a prisoner his time of service expires he said at length they put him on land and after staying a while with them on land he made a shift to Desert them – when he got to his own men the officers that he serv'd under he could not find therefore he was deprived of getting a discharge he said he then went home to his parents but did not remain long at home for he said he could not set folding his hands when the enemy was in the Country so he volunteer'd and went a gain and was in the service a considerable time sometimes in one place and then was removed to another I have heard him say that he had serv'd under an officer by the name of Mercer but cant remember where, principally all his first servitude as he said after leaving Virginia was in the southern states se said when he was taken prisoner his last eighteen months was nearly expired and then he was detained near six months before he got released he said his tongue could not express his sufferings while a prisoner crowded on board of a ship in an unhealthy climate he said he was in engagements frequently with the enemy but I missremember where persisely but it strikes me it was part of the time in south carolina under lincoln the last was at york town at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis he said he was there the whole siege and see the brittish march out to lay down their arms The Americans was formed on one side headed by Washington and The French formed on the other side headed by Rochambeau which formed an avenue Between where the Brittish prisoners had to march Cornwallis sent his surrender by Jen Ohara [Gen. Charles O'Hara] but washington would not recieve the sword from a Brigadier Jen but assignd it to some of his Brigadier Gen [Gen. Benjamin Lincoln] to received it as I before stated I have heard my father say he had servd under Mercer but I did not know where it is possiple it may be at the seege of york town, I have given an outline of what I have heard my father say relative to his service in the Revolution & In relation to evidence Mr Benjamin Kidd [probably pension application R5906] states that he was well acquainted with my Father and know of his going in the service and his coming out and knows that he served theree years at least and Mr Kidd is a man of unblemished character as was realized in his evidence formely taken The Rev. Mr Dickason [sic: Griffeth Dickenson S20896] of pittsylvania Va was in the same corps with my Father in the south came to my Fathers in his lifetime they was the best part of a day and night talking over their sufferings in the revolutionary service Wm Dillen of Henry cty Va says he knows he has been in the service of his County he has heard him tell so much about it So I close my short but true narative of what I have heard my Father say relative to his services in the Revolution I have often heard him say he servd 7 years out of 8 years Respectfully &c

[signed] Henry Smith

N.C Rockford Feb 8th 1848

Mr James A Craig

Dear Sir My Husband as he said Enlisted in the County of Buckingham Va and was detained in Virginia some length of time waiting for orders where to go at length they were ordered to the South they were stationed in Georgia and was there som two years before he was in an engagement at length the Brittish arived on the course of Georgia and a detachment of them was sent to march intto the country and from where they landed there was a long corseway they had to pass of more than a quarter of a mile Jeneral Howe who was the Jeneral my Husband was under at that time sent Capt Smith and a small detachment to a meeting house at the termination of the corsway to watch the motion of the enemy Soon the Brittish hove in sight and when they come in a respectable Distance of the meeting house Capt Smith and his little band give them a tolerable fierce reception for a whill and then retreated to the main army, my Husband was in that engagement the next engagement he was in in as he said was under Col Elbert near the Savannah River he said the North Carolina Militia in an early part of the engagement fell into disorder and retreated Elbert stood his ground and fought Bravely but was overcome and had to surrender My Husband was in that engagement and was put on board a prison ship and detained as a prisoner six months soon after he was taken prisoner his term of service expired that he enlisted for after he was put on land he found a chance to desert from the enemy and when he came to his people he could not find his officers and consequently got no discharge I have often heard my

Husband say that he was at the siege of Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered he was in the whole siege but the names of the officers he was under there has slipped my memory as it has been 36 years since my husband died & I never charged my memory with it. The evidence of Benjamin Kidd is that he was well acquainted with my husband and knew of his going in the service and of his coming out and that he was in at least three years. Mr Kidd is a man of good character as has been realized also The Rev. Mr. Dickerson who was in service with my husband came to see him in his lifetime and had much conversation about their hard fare in the service. A man by the name of Newman who had his arm shot off while fighting by my husband's side came to see my husband and stayed with him some time and had much conversation about their hardships & struggles for liberty and others who once knew of his service who are gone to eternity to reap their reward. Finally all circumstances is plain to me that he served near all the old revolution. Age has erased further information from my memory.

Sally herXmark Smith

Pension Office/ Feby 28 1852

Sir [Geo. C. Ames, Esq'r/ Present]: I have examined the claim of Sally Smith, widow of John of NC under the Act of 7 July 1838, but find no sufficient evidence to identify her husband with any one of the nineteen persons of that name who served in the Va. Continental Line during the war of the Revolution. She alleges that her husband was a Dragoon, but we have no evidence that any one of that name performed cavalry service.

NOTES:

There were two Colonels from Virginia named Mercer. Hugh Mercer of the 3rd Virginia Continental Regiment was mortally wounded at the battle of Princeton NJ on 3 Jan 1777. John Francis Mercer became a Lieutenant Colonel of the Virginia Militia in October 1780.

In the file is a copy of the minister's return stating that Joseph Anthony married John Smith and Salthiel Spencer in Henry County on 9 Mar 1788. On 4 Oct 1841 in Henry County VA Elizabeth Stone certified the marriage of her sister, Sally Smith, to John Smith.

A document dated 16 Aug 1851 certifies that Sally Smith died on 3 Jan 1851 leaving the following surviving children: William Smith about 62, James Smith about 60, Henry Smith about 58, Nancy Derris about 55, Elizabeth Wood about 53, and John Smith about 51. A document dated 10 Nov 1851 states that Sally Smith died 8 Jan 1851 leaving the following children: Henry Smith, 59; Elizabeth Wood, 54; and Sally Reeves, 51. The family register referred to in the pension application and transcribed below is on a blank page at the end of an Old Testament with a handwritten copy of Malachi 4:1 dated July 8 1782 signed by John Stone and bearing the name Wm Smith.

Wm Smith was Born March 17th 1789

James Smith was Born August 29th 1790

Henry Smith was Born March 16 1792

John Smith was Born June 26 1794

Nancy Smith was Born December 30 1795

Betsy Smith was Born February 22 1797

Mary Smith [ink smeared, but date appears to be February 9] 1800

John Smith was Born November 2th 1760

Sarah Smith his wife was Born June 9 1764

Sarah Smith was Born Febr 28th[?] 1802

Patsey Smith was Born July 17 1804