

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Stafford Smith R9859

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana } SS Green [sic] County Circuit Court
Greene County } April Term 1833.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of an act of congress of the 7th June 1832

On this the third day of April A.D. in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Amery Kinney president Judge of the 7th Judicial circuit in and for the State of Indiana aforesaid, and the Honorable, Samuel K Gavins, and the Honorable John Robinson Esquires associate Judges, in and for said countys of Green, The same being a court of Record Stafford Smith resident of the county and state aforesaid aged 80 years some time in last Fall towit in the fall of the year 1832. That he was born in the county of Antrim in that part of the Kingdom of Greate Brittain and Ireland, called Ireland, from whence he emigrated to the Colonies in America; when he was about Eighteen years of age, and landed in the city of Baltimore as he now believes some time in the latter part of the month of August in the year 1770. from thence he moved up into the interior of the country and settled in the county of Cumberland in the State of Pennsylvania where he resided until some time in the fall of the year 1776 when he went on a trip from thence to the south west a view to see the country; and on said Trip he entered the service of the United States as an enlisted soldier, that he enlisted as herein stated some time in the fall of the year 1776 and as he now belives from the best of his recollection that he enlisted some time in the month of September afs'd year, that he enlisted as herein stated in New Town in the county of Bartley in the State of Virginia [sic: probably Berkeley County now in West Virginia] for the Term of three years or during the war. That he enlisted as aforesaid in the company commanded by Captain Joseph Mitchell, in the regiment commaded by Col. [James] Wood in the 12th Regiment of the Virginia line, and commaded by Brigdier General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens], That the sublatlens [sic: subaltern] officers of said Capt. Mitchell, as this declarant remember from the best of his recollection was first Lieutenant Swergengum [sic: Swearingen] 2^d. Lieutenant Swerengum that the 1st and 2^d. lieutenants of s'd. company were borthers, and that Russle was the ensign of said company; that from the time of his enlistment as herein stated that he remained in New Town where he enlisted until some time in the spring following towit some time in the month of of March 1777 and (was during said period engaged in the recruiting service) and that some time in the month of March or April 1777 as herein mentioned that he was orderd under the command of said captain Mitchell to Winchester in Virginia to join the regiment under Col. Wood where he was stationed during winter quarters and this deponant only remained at Winchester about three weeks when he was ordered to march to Philadilphia to join the main body of army and joind the same some time in the latter part of April or first of May 1777 – that he he remained at Philadilphia but two or three weeks when he was ordered to Somerset in the State of New Jersey, where he remained but two or three days; and was from there marched to Smith's Clove, or Bonbrooke near New Brunswick [sic: Bound Brook 9 mi NW of New Brunswick] where in a few days he was attached and transfered from said Captain Mitchell's company to the command of Captain Thomas Butler. That said last mentioned company was also commanded by Pierce Butler [first name not clear: possibly Percival Butler] who was first Lieutenant and also borther to said Thomas Butler in the redjiment commanded by Col. [Joseph] Wood but not the same Col Wood under whom he was first under as herein stated, that the number of said Regiment to which this declarant was attached as herein last mentioned was the third Pennsylvania Redgimt. and that soon after This declarant was transfered as herein stated, that the last mention Col. Wood was succeeded by Col. Thomas Craig that this declarant remained at Smith Clove or Banbrooke for the greater part of the summer of 1777 and that during its time the American Army lay at Banbrooke as herein stated that the brittish had the possession of New York

and New Brunswick. That during the time the American army lay at Banbrook as herein stated that the British army were on their march from Middletown Light to Philadelphia under the command of Sir William Howe, and this deponent was ordered under the command of Lord Stirling or General Sterling [sic: Gen. William Alexander, "Lord Stirling"] who then with a force of about two thousand Americans met the British army at the Short hills where we had an engagement with the British army and where the Americans were compelled to retreat. This action as well as this deponent remembers was on the 19th [sic: 26th] of June 1777. after the said battle of the Short hills under Lord Sterling as herein stated, that this deponent with said detachment under Lord Sterling returned to Banbrooke where the main body of the American army were still stationed, and where we remained but a short time before we marched from thence through Philadelphia to Darby where we remained but a few days before the battle of Brandywine [sic], and that this deponent was in said battle of Brandywine; That said battle was as well as this deponent remembers on or about the 12th [sic: 11th] day of September 1777. that this deponent was also in the battle of German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] or the battle of the White horse [White Horse Tavern] as it was termed by some that last mentioned battle was but a few days after the battle of Brandywine, whilst the British were on their march to Philadelphia That after the battle of German Town as herein stated that we were stationed and encamped at the White Marsh Church [Whitemarsh] until we went into winter quarters at the Valley Forge in the winter of 1777 and 1778 where the American Army lay until March or April in the year 1778 – and from thence marched to Monmouth and that this deponent was in the battle of Monmouth, which was on the 28th day of June 1778. from thence we went to Quibble Town in New Jersey near Hackensack [Quibbltown, now New Market, 30 mi SW of Hackensack] where we remained until time to go into winter quarters and in the winter of 1778 and 1779 took winter quarters at Baskinridge [sic: Basking Ridge] near Morristown (which was head quarters) and where we remained until some time as well as he remembers in the months of April 1779. That during the summer of 1779 That we marched through various parts of the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey but was not in any very active service, and that in the winter of 1779 and 1780 we took winter quarters at Norfolk in the State of Virginia [see endnote] where we remained until early in the Spring of 1780 when this deponent was discharged between the White Marsh and Philadelphia the day of the month this deponent was discharged he does not precisely remember but thinks it was some time about the middle of April 1780. that he received said discharge in writing from Col. Thomas Craig and that the same was signed by s'd Craig. That he lost his discharge some way or other by casually not paying much attention to it and supposing it to be of no value. that after he received his discharge as herein stated he returned home to Cumberland County in the State of Pennsylvania and soon afterward returned to the Army, where he remained one year after he was discharged, after which he removed to Washington county in the State Kentucky and resided in different parts of Kentucky for the period of about thirty years, after which he removed to Harrison county Indiana where he resided about twelve years – from thence to Washington county Indiana where he remained three years – from thence he removed to Green County the place of his present residence. That he knew and was acquainted with Gen'l. [Charles] Lee, Gen'l. [John] Sullivan Gen'l. [Benedict] Arnold, Gen'l. Anthony Wayne, Gen'l Maxwell [possibly William Maxwell of NJ], that he also seen and knew Gen'l Washington, and that he remembers to have seen Marquis De Lafayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] at the battle of Brandywine. That he has no written evidence of his age, but from the tradition of the family he believes that he was born some time in the year 1752 in Ireland as herein stated, That he has no written or documentary evidence of his serving, nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove his services other than by his own declaration and the statement of Felander V Hollister [signed Philander V Hollister] a regular minister of the Gospel of said county, and William Paggett, Henry Overman, and Joshua Dobbins citizens of said county Neighbors of this declarant. That 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 any State or Territory as a pensioner Stafford his Omark Smith

NOTE: Washington's army entered winter quarters on 1 Dec 1779 at Morristown NJ.