

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Smith R9865

fn15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/26/11

[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.]

State of Virginia Kanhaway County [sic, Kanawha County]: SS On this 15th day of October 1833 personally appeared me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Kenhaway & State of Virginia Thomas Smith a resident of the said County of Kenhaway and State of Virginia aged 79 years who being first duly sworn according to law on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1779 in the State of North Carolina in the County of Mecklenburg on the first day of March of the year last aforesaid declarant was Drafted for a tower [tour] of three months as a private soldier and was placed under the command of Captain Robert Smith, Lieutenant George Johnson Ensign's name not recollected. Declarant remained in the town of Mecklenburg and the Country round about said town engaged in repelling the hostile Army of the Tories who were bitterly opposed to the American Revolution and were endeavoring to communicate all the intelligence they could to the Enemy declarant was engaged in several skirmishes with the Tories during the time he was under the command of Captain Robert Smith and succeeded in taking them prisoner and Hanging them according to the law and usages of the Country. Declarant continued in the above service until the time for which he was drafted had Expired it being three months at which time he was discharged by his said Captain Robert Smith having served three months as a private soldier again in the month of July in the year 1779 in the town of Mecklenburg State of North Carolina declarant volunteered his services for nine months and was again placed under the command of Captain Robert Smith Lieutenant George Johnson Ensign's name not recollected and was engaged as in his first tower in defending the State of North Carolina against the hostile Army of the Tories declarant was not marched any great distance but was kept during this tower of service almost constantly on the watch for the Tories were numerous and actively engaged in conveying all intelligence they could to the British declarant recollects of taking three Tories prisoners on one Expedition and one of them was severely wounded in the contest so much so that he died shortly afterwards in North Carolina and particularly that part where in Claimant lived and served there was a continual scene of [indecipherable word, looks like "bussll" possible intended to be "bustle"?] and confusion – it was a war of brother against brother declarant served out the time for which he volunteered and was discharged by his said Captain Robert Smith having served nine months as a private soldier

at the time declarant served this Tower there was Great confusion in the State of North Carolina it appeared about the time that declarant was discharged this second Tower that hostilities were about to abate but the scene was soon changed in March 1780 the Tories broke out more violent than ever and there was an immediate call for men by draft declarant was drafted for a tower of six months in the month of March 1780 and was placed under the command of the same Captain to wit Robert Smith declarant does not recollect who were the other officers declarant was still living in the town of Mecklenburg State of North Carolina when he was drafted the tower of six months where declarant was drafted this tower he understood that he was to march against the British but was stationed in the town of Mecklenburg to defend the town and Country against the Tories declarant continued in the service of his Country in the performance of the same kind of service as mentioned in his first and second towers in routing the Tories and bring them to punishment until the time for which he was drafted had expired at which time he was discharged by his said Captain Robert Smith having served six months as a private soldier declarant then moved to the State of Virginia in the County of Greenbrier in the winter season he thinks in the month of February 1781 and where he remained in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia he found the people in a great state of fear and apprehension the Indians had been in the habit of visiting there Country so soon as the winter broke and committing many acts of savage [indecipherable word] accordingly in March 1781 the Indians made their appearance and on the first day of April following 1781 declarant volunteered his services as an Indian Spy in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia on the first day of April ensuing placed under the command of Major Hamilton and was stationed at Keenys [?] stationed [station] on Cinqing [?] ¹Creek in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia and was engaged in spying the Country on the waters of Greenbrier River New River by regular Towers until sometime in the month of December 1781 at which time declarant was discharged by Major Hamilton having served at least eight months this tower as an Indian Spy as a private soldier declarant says that he has no documentary evidence of his services neither does he know of anyone by whom he can prove them – he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State.

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid

S/ Thomas Smith, X his mark

To the several interrogatories prescribed by the war Department declarant answers as follows says (1) I was borned in the State of North Carolina in the town of Mecklenburg in the year 1754 in what day of the month I do not know

2. I have no record of my age I have the recollection of my parents who told made the year I was Borned in

3. When called into service I was living in the State of North Carolina in the Town of Mecklenburg every Tower except the last one then I lived in the County of Greenbrier State of

¹ C. Leon Harris did some great detective work at my request in trying to decipher what appears as "Keenys [?] stationed [station] on Cinqing Creek." Leon notes: *The closest match I can make with the passage in question is Keeney Station (Fort). From the location and command stated by [William Smith W6094](#) Fort Keeney seems to have been the same as the station usually called Fort Arbuckle. It was located a couple of miles north of present Palestine WV. At one time it was commanded by Capt. [William Hamilton R4513](#), said to have been known as "Major Hamilton of Muddy Creek." Fort Arbuckle (Keeney) was at the mouth of Mill Creek where it empties into Muddy Creek. I can't squint my eyes tightly enough to make the creek in the pension application look like Muddy or Mill. Instead it looks like "cinqing" i.e. Sinking Creek. There is a Sinking Creek about 10 mi to the north of Keeney Fort, so the veteran may have mistaken the name.*

Virginia since the revolution I have lived in the counties of Nicholas, Mason and Kenhaway where I now reside I mean I now reside in the County of Kenhaway State of Virginia

4. My first and third I was drafted my second and fourth I volunteered

5. During my first, second and third towers I solve and became acquainted with Captain Rudder [?] and Hain [?] and the Capt. under whom I served to wit Robert Smith what regiments I belonged to I do not recollect during my fourth tower in Virginia I solve and became acquainted with Major Goines and Hamilton Sol Donley and Capt. Stuart and Arbuckle

6. All my discharges were signed by the officers under whom I served to it Smith and Major Hamilton but they are all lost or mislaid.

7. I am known to George Smith and Daniel Meane [? McUne?] who reside in my neighborhood who can testify to my character my age and as to their belief of my having been a soldier of the revolution.

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year above written.

S/ Thomas Smith, X his mark

[George Smith and Daniel Meane [?] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p 11: "The printed list of 1852 gives cause of rejection as 'did not served [sic] six months'."]

Addendum to the pension application of Thomas Smith R9865

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated hundreds of pension applicants in present West Virginia. For details, see the appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).]

Thomas Smith – Applicant.

the undersigned saw this man on the 6th of January 1835 when he stated that he was in service in North Carolina but could not tell in what year or years. – How long he was in Service or under what officer or officers – and that after the defeat of Cornwallis he started with an army to Quebec, thinks he was gone some five or six months but did not remember the name of his officers – nor who commanded the army destined for Quebec.

Charles Young aged 75 says he is a brother in Law of Thomas Smith, and has known him intimately for 40 yrs. that Smith never done one Hours duty in the war of the revolution, nor never pretended that he had until the pension Law was enacted. Young was present when Smith was detailing his service – and told Smith to his Face that he had never done Service.

Col. Alex Daley aged 60 has known Smith all his life says Smith was never in service as a soldier during the War of the Revolution –

Smith admitted that he was at the time of making his Declaration, and still is able to travel to the county seat – that he is in the practice of going there every month of his life – his Declaration was made before Magistrate in the country and written by William L. Mitchel [sic: William L. Mitchell] – he has not a shadow of a claim to a Pension A Copy/ W. G Singleton/ Jany 6th 1835

War Depart./ Pen. Office/ March 16, 1835

Sir: The claims of the following named persons, two pensioners under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, the merits of which, have been thouroughly investigated by Mr W. G. Singleton, a Special agent, appointed by this Dept. for that purpose, have upon the receipt of his report been rejected, to wit –

Martin Hammock [pension application R4529] and Thomas Smith, both of Kanawha County Va. You will please inform them of this decision on their claims. I am
Clerk of Kanawha Co./ Kanawha C H/ Va.