

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Smith R9874 MD MA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 Feb 2015.

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions  
Chatham County } May Term 1834

On this 12th day of May AD 1834 personally appeared before the Justices of said Court William Smith a resident of Chatham County in the State of North Carolina aged 79 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777 with Capt Sutton and served in the [blank] Regiment of the Continental line under the following named officers.

He was born in Buckingham England in the year 1775 he enlisted in the British Army and came to America as a Private in the 16th Regiment of Infantry and joined Gen'l. Howes [William Howe's] Army at Halifax Nova Scotia; he remained with Gen'l. Howe's Army and was with him as the Battle of Flat Bush in the State of New York on Long Island [Battle of Flatbush, 22 - 23 Aug 1776] from thence he went with some troops to Quebec where he joined Gen'l. Burguoyne's [sic: John Burgoyne's] Army from thence he went with the army and was with them at the Battle of Still Water [Stillwater or Freeman's Farm near Saratoga NY, 19 Sep 1777] where he was taken Prisoner by the Americans under the Command of Gen'ls. [Horatio] Gates and [Benedict] Arnold he was marched as a prisoner of War to the Hudson River and down the same to Fish Kill [Fishkill] about 40 or 50 miles above the city of New York where himself and a number of other Prisoners Enlisted in the American Army he was placed in a company which he thinks was commanded by Captain Shaw in a Regiment Commanded by Baron De kalb from thence he marched to Morristown [NJ] and joined the Grand Army commanded by Gen'l. Washington and from thence he marched under Gen'ls. Gates, Arnold, and Baron DeKalb to the Valley Forge and went into winter quarter afterwards he was in the Battles of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], Camden [SC, 16 Aug 1780], Guilford Court House [NC, 15 Mar 1781], and Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] the whole of which time he thinks he was commanded by Captain Shaw and Brevet Captain Davis Shortly after the Battle of Eutaw he was marched to Charleston So Car and about 20 miles from Charleston he was discharged at Bacon's Bridge his discharge was signed by General [Nathanael] Greene which he preserved for many years when his House was burnt and his discharge consumed being a very illiterate man and his memory much impaired by age and infirmity he cannot state of his own recollection the time of his entering the service or his discharge therefrom he thinks however that the Battle at Eutaw springs was fought on the 16th August the year he does not recollect and from the above causes he cannot state the precise length of his service but he thinks he is positively certain that it could not have been less that Four or Four and a half Years during the whole of which time he was actively engaged in the American service and was not employed in any Civil pursuit –

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 Agency of any state or Territory in the union

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid William hisXmark Smith

State of North Carolina } S.S.  
Orange County }

This day Personly appear'd John Bawdy [ John Boudy (Bondy, Bodray), pension application W5858] in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of his age a resident citizen of orange aforesaid who being duly qualified according law – sayeth upon his oath that in the year of 1782 & 83 while in the southern army under Gen'l. Green, remembers well of seeing William Smith of Chatham County in North Carolina aforesaid, that sd Smith was a regular soldiari under Green, & remembers well of seeing him at Bacons Bridge & in Charlestown the winter following when that place was surrender to Gen'l. Wayne [Anthony Wayne, 14

Dec 1782].

and this affient further states upon his oath that the s'd. William Smith he always understood was in the united States Service, and serv'd untill the close of the war.

Sworn and subscribed before me this the 15th day April 1835      John hisXmark Bawdy

State of North Carolina } S.S.

Orange County }

On this the 17 day of May A.D. 1835 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for the county aforesaid John Baudy a resident of Citizen of Orange aforesaid and an United States pensioner, who being first duly qualified maketh oath that during the War of the Revolution he was a Soldier of the Maryland line and with Gen'l. Green at Round O, Ashley Hill, Bacon Bridge, & Charleston and remembers of William Smith of Chatham County, now an applicant for a pension was with our troops; was a private and thinks he was of Col. [John Eager] Howard's Regiment. I first remember of seeing said Smith (as well as I now remember) was at Sander's near the Round 'O' and remembers of occasionally seeing said Smith, till the Surrender of Charleston to Gen'l. Green in Dec'r. 1782 and always understood said Smith was of the Continental Line and a Good Soldier, and served the United States faithfully till the war ended or nearly thereto

Sworn and subscribed the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 1835, before me      John HisXmark Boudy

Additional proof to the Declaration of William Smith of Chatham County, North Carolina for a pension Made this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 1835. (Act May 15<sup>th</sup> 1828.)

that he was made prisoner to the American arms at the battle of Still water in the fall of the year 1777, that after being made prisoner he was sent down the Hudson to Fish Kill (an American post.) That after remaining there a short time he enlisted in the United States Service. One Sutton he thinks was the enlisting master, and the Co. he was first attached to, was commanded by Capt. Davis, was also commanded by Capt. Shaw. Subsequently was marched to head quarters which was at Valley forge – and remained under Command of Gen'l. Washington. In the Summer of the next year was in Col. Wesson's Regiment and was under him at the Battle of Monmouth. his regiment was was partly of Delaware & Maryland troops – he thinks his regiment was called the Ninth. Remained with Washington till the Spring of 1780, when he enlisted for the war & was placed under Baron De Kalb & was sent on to the South. Davis was then his Capt. he thinks. Howard was Col. we were De Kalb 'till Genl. Gates overtook us at Deep River in N.C. and assumed the command – was in Gates defeat [Battle of Camden] – rendezvoused at Hillsboro' – was then ordered by Green (still under Morgan & Howard) to the South was under Howard in the battle of the Cowpens – was in the Guilford battle under Col. Gunby & Howard. When Morgan left us Col. Williams took his Command. was at the Battle of the Eutaws under Howard who still commanded our Regt. & thinks it was now the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland. – after this engagement I was marched to the Round "O" still under the same officers – next went to Jacksonboro' – then Bacon Bridge – then to Ashley Hill. I was in no other general engagement after the Eutaw – after he marched into Charleston, rumor of peace soon reached us and in the April following I got a discharge from Col. Howard: (he thinks) & Greene also signed it –) drew three days provisions and with others set out for Hillsboro' N.C. and in Orange County & this County (Chatham) has been living ever since. and this is as minute account as he can now render – & that from old age & loss of memory he cannot give on oath a more minute account of his services.

William hisXmark Smith

State of North Carolina } S.S.

Chatham County }

On this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1835, William Smith sr, a resident citizen of Chatham aforesaid, (now about 80 years of age) this day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for Chatham County and after being duly sworn according to Law, maketh the following statement in further proof and explanation to his original Declaration for a pension, now on file in the War Department

Pension officer – Videlicet

While he was a prisoner to the American arms at the Fish kill in New York, in the fall of 1777, he (with many other prisoners) enlisted in the United States Service, under an enlisting master named Captain [blank] Davis (he thinks) under whom he was marched to General Washington's head quarters then at Valley Forge. That Davis was only an Enlisting master, and left the camp soon after he delivered his recruit there. That for some time after enlisting which he thinks was not for Two years, he was employed mostly as 'drill Sergeant' which he does not think necessary to mention – whose regiment this winter he was in he does not now remember – but when in the Jerseys next Summer was in Col. Wesson's [James Wesson, 9<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts] regiment and was in the battle at Monmouth court House in Wesson's regiment, remained with Washington's army 'till the period for which he enlisted had expired & was duly discharged –

In the Month of April 1780 (he thinks it was) he enlisted under one Sutton he thinks (an enlisting master) for the term of Two years. Joined the forces under Genl. De Kalb near Morristown in New Jersey – that Sutton went with the army as well as he now remembers to Petersburg Va or Hillsboro' [Hillsborough NC] and has no recollection of seeing him afterwards and is under the impression that Sutton's health was bad and he returned home to enlist. That when at Deep River, they were ordered preparatory to marching to the South. that he was in the 1<sup>st</sup> (he thinks) Maryland regiment. That [John] Gunby was Colonel Commandant & Howard Lieutenant Col. – and [Henry] Dobson was his Captain – that he was under these officers at the battle of Camden that Summer. That he continued with them in their retreat to Charlotte. From Hillsborough, the fall following was one of the detached troops sent under General [Daniel] Morgan first to Yadkin River [in NC] then to Wateree [in SC] – was in the battle at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] – Dobson was Capt. Howard Colonel: In guarding the prisoners & conveying them to Guilford County, thinks he was under command of one Captain Anderson – when at Guilford was put under Colonel [Otho Holland] Williams, who had now the command of the 'covering party' to the main army in their retreat to Virginia [Feb 1781]. Some Time in the next month the light guard was discharged and I again fell under Col. Howard of Maryland & Gunby – was under them at the Guilford battle – remained under Gen'l Greene 'till at Bacons Bridge in April following [sic: not until 1782], when his time of enlistment had expired. Howard still my Col. from whom I got my discharge & it was signed also by Greene. One of his former Captains Anderson was killed before this Deponent left the service, and thinks it was at Eutaw.

That the first term of his enlistment he served as drill Sergeant, and it may be that previous to April 1780 he is on the rolls as William Smith drill Sergeant – In fact he acted part of the time in that Capacity in the winter after they left Hillsboro'.

This deponent further says, that he has proved previous to this, that he was in the United States Service at Fish kill in the fall of 1777 and again at Bacon's Bridge in the Spring of 1782 – both of which Depositions are forwarded to the Pension office, War Department to accompany his original Declaration for pension.

The reason why he did not apply for a pension earlier than he has, was because he was foreigner, and in the early period of the war, fought against the Liberty of the Country – and until a year or two past was able to get a support by his Labour – but now being too infirm to get a subsistence, and being exceedingly poor, and without any relations that he knows of this country. He is admonished by his infirmities to make Declaration for pension.

That he came to this Country with the hessian Troops and was under Gen'l. Heister at Flat Bush – thence to Quebeck, and afterwards was under Gen'l. Burgoine and with Burgoine was made prisoner at Still Water, near the hudson in New York.

That he enlisted in the United States' Service at Fish kill, soon time after he was made prisoner – that one Davis (he thinks) enlisted him that his Capt. name he cannot remember, but thinks it was Shaw. Wesson was his Col. all under General Washington. that in his two years he knew Genl. Greene Gen'l. [Charles] Lee, Gen'l. Wayne, Col. Stewart, Lafayette & others.

That the second time he enlisted, he was under command (at first) of genl. De Kalb. Gunby, Col. John

Howard Lieutent Col. – Dobson Captain & part of this last two years was under Captain Anderson. That his superior officers (after de Kalb) were, Genl. Gates – [William] Smallwood. Genl. Greene. His Colonels, Wesson – Gunby. Lieut. Howard & Col. Williams – His Captains Commandant – Shaw (under Wesson) afterwards, when in the Maryland line Dobson and Anderson – and he thinks he was when on detached service under others, but from the great lapse of time cannot now narrate more particularly, than he has, the names of all his Captains.

William hisXmark Smith

State of North Carolina } S.S.  
Orange County }

On this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 1836 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting justice of peace in and for Orange aforesaid John Hughes Sen'r. [W3818] of the aforesaid County about 81 years of age and an United States pensioner, who being duly qualified maketh oath that in the war of the revolution, he was a private in the United States' Service in the Maryland Line, and remembers of William Smith Sen'r. (an Englishman) being a private in the Mayland line, was with us at Valley Forge under Washington and remembers of said Smith being at the Battle of Monmouth Court House and that he marched from the Jerseys under De Kalb to the South and that he did not see Smith after that period; That he remembers said Smith Sen'r. was reputed a good Soldier and served in the United States faithfully, as I have ever understood.

John HisXmark Hughes Sen'r

State of North Carolina } S.S.  
Orange County }

On this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1836, William Smith, Sen'r. a resident citizen of the aforesaid County this day personally appeared before me (being too infirm to attend Court) and after being first duly qualified maketh on oath the following statement (viz)

“That he was born in Great Brittain some time in the year of 1755 as he has always understood; and that in the early period of the Revolutionary war, he came to the United States as a private in the British Service, was with the enemy at Flatbush under General Hester, was subsequently sen to Canada and then fell under Gen'l. Burgoyne's command, and continued with him 'till he surrendered to Gen'l. Gates at at Saratoga thence with many other prisoners were marched to the American post at 'Fish Kill' on the North River.”

And this Declarant makes the following statement 'Supplemental' to his Declaration for pension, in order that he may obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

“That he enlisted in the American Service, about the latter part of November or 1<sup>st</sup> of December, after Burgoyne's Surrender, that the name of the Captain under whom he enlisted was [blank] Davis he thin – many other prisoners at this place ('Fish kill') also enlisted and were marched under said Davis to Washington's encampment, which was then at 'Valley Forge'. The length for which he enlisted was Two years, as well as he now remembers, but he Col. of his regement he cannot now remember but thinks it was a Maryland Regement he was in – remained under command of Gen'l. Washington, and was in the Battle of Monmouth Court House. Remembers of Col. Stewart that day and of Col. Wesson, Genl. Greene, Genl. Wayne & others. Remembers that when the American army retreated that day Washington ordered the regement he was in and another to check the advance of the British army, that they did so, till the main body of the American army reached the troops that were engaged by Washington's orders. From Monmouth Court House, we marched to White plains and encamped this winter at Middle Brook – & was at Morristown in the Jersey's when his term of Two years and he received a discharge therefore. This Declarant deems it proper here to state that during his two years enlistment he occasionally acted as 'Drill Sergeant.'

This Declarant says he enlisted a Second time in the United States Service for Two years on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of April following to wit 1780. the object of this enlistment was to raise troops for the Southern army under Genl. [Benjamin] Lincoln then at Charleston. the regement to which he was now attached was the 1<sup>st</sup> (he thinks) Maryland Regiment. Gunby was Col. Commandant and Howard Leut. Col. – that he

enlisted at Morristown in in the Jerseys, marched to the Elke [Elk River at present Elkton MD] and took shipping at that place for Petersburg Va thence marched to Hillsboro North Carolina, thence to Wilson's Mills on Deep River where Gen'l. Gates overtook us and assumed the Command. Was in the Battle near Camden where Gates was defeated and in the rout from that battle was accompanied by his Col. Capt. Dobson & others. that they got a small booty in the route or retreat (wine) which officers and soldiers shared equally with each other. That they retreated to Charlotte – thence to Hillsboro' where they rendezvoused – at this latter place, he was detached under Genl. Morgan to Mecklenburgh [sic: Mecklenburg County] & afterwards to South Carolina, and was under Col. Howard at the Battle of the Cowpens – that they retreated to Salisbury or rather to Guilford C. H. that in this retreat, he remembers of Captains Dobson & Anderson, the former he thinks was his Captain. At Guilford Court House, he was put under Col. Williams, who now had command of the 'light troops' that were designed to check Lord Cornwallis and cover the retreat of the main Army into Virginia – that afterwards, he was put under his form Col. Gunby and was under him at the Battle of Guilford C. H. Continued with Genl. Greene. was at Ramsey's Mills – Camden in South Carolina, Ninety-Six. In the battle at Eutaws thence to High Hills of Santee – at Round 'O' and Bacon's bridge. At this latter encampment my term of Enlistment expired, and I got a discharge from Col. Howard. I remained with the army, in a private capacity till the next Spring when I with some other soldiers, came to Hillsboro' in Orange County, in which County & Chatham I have lived ever since, the Spring of 1783;

The reason why he did not apply sooner for a pension was, he felt a diffidence in so doing, in consequence of his having fought in the ranks of the Enemy in the early period of the war, and moreover was enabled 'till very recently to get his support by his labour – but the infirmities of old age now admonish him to present his claim in common with other Revolutionary patriots. This Declarant says he served the United States faithfully for at least Four years, in the most arduous and perilous periods of the Revolutionary War. And that he cannot give a more minute and detailed account of his services than he has here given. In the lapse of 54 years finds it is exceedingly difficult to narrate the events in which he took part with that accuracy he could wish – being entirely illiterate he cannot procure the aid of reading, and has therefore to rely altogether upon much impaired by Four score years.

That he was born in Great Britain, in the year 1755.

That he has no record of his age.

That he was at the 'Fish Kill' on the Hudson River when he enlisted.

That when he entered the United States Service, he enlisted.

that He knew Genl. Washington, [Israel] Putnam, Wayne, Lee, Greene, Steward, Smallwood, Wesson, DeKalb, Gunby, Howard, Ford. Col. Williams, Gates – [Richard] Caswell, [John] Butler, Genl. [Andrew] Pickens, Genl [Pinketham] Eaton, Genl. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] & others

That he received a discharge for his first term of enlistment, but cannot now remember who was his Col. but that it was either Wesson or Stewart of the Maryland troops; and seems most inclined to think that it was a Maryland regement he was in, and recollects of seeing many of them in the recruits that came to Green's army at or before we were at Bacon's bridge, with whom he had served in his first enlistment.

This Declarant trusts that as he enlisted in 1780 and served for Two years, the proof thereof he can more easily procure and trusts that the evidence of this last two years service will be satisfactory to the War Department (independent of his first term of enlistment) making of itself Two years Service.

That for his period of enlistment under Howard he rec'd a discharge from him at Bacon's Bridge, in April 1782. But that both his discharges have been for many years lost and thinks that they were destroyed when he had his house burnt many years ago.

that he is known in his neighbourhood to Horace D Bridges, formerly Sheriff of Chatham County, Henry Golden (their affidavits were forwarded with former Declaration) & others who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

This Declarant in conclusion says, that he has now become infirm and is in penury, & has no relations in America that he knows of.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and

declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

William hisXmark Smith Snr

State of North Carolina }  
Orange County }

On this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 1836, personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting justice of the peace for the County aforesaid John Baudy, a resident citizen of orange aforesaid, now in the 79 year of his age, who being first duly qualified maketh oath that in the war of the Revolution he was a private in the Maryland line and when at Morristown in the Jerseys in the Spring of 1780, remembers that William Smith Senior (now of Chatham County) enlisted as one of the troops for the South, and as such some time that spring marched off Southward under General De Kalb. I did not see said Smith any more, till I joined Green's army and distinctly recollect that said William Smith Sen'r. was there at Bacon's bridge and of the Maryland line under Howard (I think) – my impression is at this place his two years expired & he was discharge.

Said Smith, says he joined Washington's army at Valley Forge after Burgoyne's defeat I do not remember of his at that place but do recollect of him near Monmouth Courthouse a year or two afterwards; – as a private in the United States Service John hisXmark Boudy

State of North Carolina } SS.  
Orange County }

on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1837 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Charles Wood [S42084], a resident of Orange aforesaid now about 89 years of age, who being first duly qualified according to law maketh oath that he is well acquainted with William Smith of this County (formerly of Chatham) who has become an applicant for pension. This affiant stateth upon his oath That in the Winter of 1777 while at Head quarters at Valley Forge, he remembers very well that William Smith above mentioned came to our army at Valley Forge an Enlisted Soldier in the United States Service for Two years this affiant thinks; and was in one of the Maryland Regiments.

This affiant remembers of seeing said Smith at the Battle of Monmouth Court House the next Summer after Smith joined us – s'd Smith informed me, and I have always so understood it – had been a British soldier and made prisoner to the American army at the Surrender of Burgoine. After I came to Hillsboro' at the close of the war said William Smith I saw frequently. he lived in this and Chatham Counties. Smith, in the Army, was sometimes called "British Billy Smith" in consequence of his having come to this Country in the English service. Said William Smith "British Billy" was a good soldier in the United States Service for several years and is meritorious of pension. I have been acquainted with him since I saw s'd Smith at Valley Forge and know him to be the said Smith that was in the Service at Valley Forge & Monmouth Courthouse and I repeat he was a good Whig.

Charles hisXmark Wood

NOTES:

On 1 Oct 1835 the Land Office at Annapolis MD stated that no Captains named Sutton or Shaw could be found in rolls of the Maryland Continental Line. The names of two soldiers named William Smith were found on the rolls: one in Capt. Dobson's company was made prisoner of war on 26 Apr 1779, and the other was in a company whose captain's name was illegible, and who deserted on 10 Aug 1780.

The file includes an additional statement by Smith dated 9 April 1835, as well as other statements, but they add nothing to the ones transcribed.