

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Smith R9875

f21SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/3/11: rev'd 9/28/16 & 1/19/22

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina Beaufort District

On this day the 13th day of November A.D. 1838 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas for Beaufort District in the State aforesaid now sitting William Smith, a resident of Beaufort in the District of Beaufort aged Seventy-four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his affirmation make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the militia service under Colonel William Harden, Major Ladson Cooper,¹ Colonel William Davis, Captain Fitts [John Fitts] and Lieutenant Buckner² in the early part of the year 1781 and continued in service through the year 1781 and a small part of the year 1782 when he left the service. At the time of his entering the service he resided with his father on his Plantation called Springfield near Pocotaligo in Beaufort District aforesaid. Declarant was a volunteer in the service. He went up from his Father's Plantation to Augusta and there joined Colonel Harden by whom he was received into his family and immediately proceeded to assist in the siege of a Fort commanded by a British officer named Colonel Brown [Thomas "Burntfoot" Brown]. Another Fort nearby commanded by another British officer named Colonel Grierson [James Grierson], had been previously vacated and taken possession of by the Americans.³ The siege of Brown's Fort continued from ten days to a fortnight when the British surrendered. The next engagement in which Declarant took part was the Battle at Parkers Ferry in the June or July of the same year.⁴ In this Battle also Declarant fought under Colonel Harden who was assisted in the battle by a force under the command of General Marion [Francis

¹ This MAY be the officer named "John Cooper" who J.D. Lewis identifies as having served as a Captain and Major under Col. William Harden. J. D. says Cooper served in the Upper Granville County Regiment of SC militia. It is also possible that the officer the veteran was trying to identify was Thomas Ladson, a Major in the Colleton County militia. See: http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/patriot_military_sc_majors.htm

² This MAY be the officer named Jacob Buxton who served under William Harden. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/patriot_military_sc_lieutenants.htm J. D. Lewis does not list any "Lt. Buckner" in his list of SC officers.

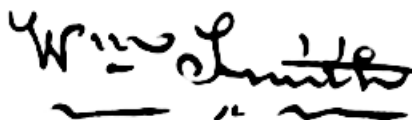
³ Siege of Augusta [May 22-June 6, 1781] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>. Both Brown and Grierson were Americans who served as officers in the British provincial forces, not in the regular British Army.

⁴ Parker's Ferry #2 [August 31, 1781] http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_parkers_ferry_2.html

Marion]. The battle commenced at about 4 O'clock ^{P.M.} and at the end of it the British marched down to Parker's Ferry which is about Thirty five miles from Pocotaligo, and about the same distance from Charleston, and the next morning at an early hour we were in possession of the Battle-ground. Declarant has no documentary Evidence and his Brother James Smith whose deposition is hereto appended is the only person who can testify to the above facts so far as his knowledge extends. All his other witnesses are dead. Declarant claims compensation for his services as a Militia man only although he acted for Two or Three months as Assistant commissary under and by appointment of the Commissary General William Hort Esquire: But having lost his Commission in the washing of some of his apparel he supposes some objection will be made to his claim for compensation as such. Declarant 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.

Affirmed and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me
S/ J. L. Richardson, Associate Judge

S/ Wm Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Wm Smith".

[Reverend John D Moody, a clergyman, and Edmund Rhett gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 6]

Interrogatories

First: When and where were you born?

Answer – I was born in Dorchester in the year 1764

Second: Have you any record of your age? And if so where is it

Answer – In the family Bible in my Father's handwriting

Third: Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer – When I was called into service I was living in my Father's family on his plantation near Pocotaligo in Beaufort District. Since that time I have lived excepting one year in Georgia in the same District, and for the last 20 or 30 years in the town of Beaufort.

Fourth: How were you called into service? Were you drafted? Did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And for whom?

Answer – I served both as a volunteer and as a drafted Militia man – but served as a drafted Militia man only a few weeks. As a volunteer I went up to Augusta in the early part of the year 1781, and served under Colonel William Harden in the Siege of a Fort there, which we captured after ten days hard work and hard fighting: My service as a common soldier continued until sometime in the year 1782, but not much of that year.

Fifth: State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the Troops where you served – Such Continental and Militia regiments as you recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer – I served all together with the militia the officers were Colonel Harden, Colonel Davis, Major Ladson Cooper, Captain Fitts, and Lieutenant Buckner. I think there was a Major Macclanchlin also at times with us from St. Paul's Parish. Fitts and Buckner were our Parish officers as before stated. After the fall of the Fort at Augusta we were discharged for a short time

but soon afterwards were called out again to intercept the progress of the British force marching through the Country towards Charleston. We were stationed in the woods by the Roadside about a mile from Parker's Ferry and fired Three brisk rounds upon the enemy as they passed in haste down to the Ferry. The battle was fought at about 4 O'clock P.M. and in very hot weather. I used a rifle lent me by my Lieutenant Buckner. Many of the British were killed – at an early hour next day we took possession of the field and marched down to the Ferry and disinterred a number of the Enemies dead. General Marion assisted us in this Battle. As a drafted militia man in the latter part of the year 1781, I was engaged in the pursuit of Major Andrew Deveaux who with a plundering or Guerrilla party left the island of St. Helena and visited the lower part of Prince Williams Parish. His great temerity hazarded his life—but he escaped our force which was commanded by Captain Fitts. I was also stationed and served out my time at Purysburg under the command of Buckner. Our services were of a broken kind, my officers would permit me at times to go home and stay a week or Two and when not under a Draft or Stationary marching backwards and forwards through Colleton and Beaufort Districts. I never was a substitute for anyone.

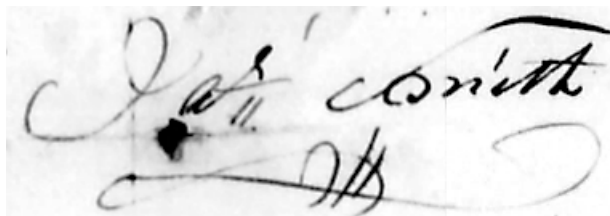
Sixth: Did you ever receive a Discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer – I never received a written discharge nor do I remember exactly how it took place.

Seventh: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer – I refer to the Honorable R. W. Barnwell, the Honorable Wm J. Grayson, the Honorable R. B. Rhett, the Reverend Richard Fuller, the Reverend Daniel Bythewood, Colonel R. DeTrevilu [?] – the Reverend John D Moody and Edmund Rhetts Esquire.

[p 10: On February 9, 1837 in McIntosh County Georgia, James Smith, 71, gave a supporting affidavit in which he states he is the younger brother of the applicant and he states what he recalls of his brothers services during the revolution as set forth in the veteran's application. He testified that his brother served near two years in the Revolution. He also testified that his brother, William, and his father at one time during the war were both Commissaries with to one Hort.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Smith". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There are some ink smudges and a small dark mark near the beginning of the signature.

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[A letter in the file from the Commissioner of Pensions indicates that the claim was not allowed because the veteran failed to specify his services with sufficient detail.]