

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Smith R9878

f13GA/NC/SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[Note: Ancestry.com version is much more legible than the Fold3.com version]

State of Tennessee Giles County: SS

On this the 5th day of November in the year of our Lord 1838 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of said County and State aforesaid, now sitting at the Court House in the town of Pulaski and County and State aforesaid, William Smith a resident of said County of Giles and State of Tennessee, aged seventy-six 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 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 after stated, That deponent entered the Service of the United States as a private sometime in June or July 1780 in a company of drafted man. Drafted in the County of Macklinburg [sic, Mecklenburg], State of North Carolina said Company was organized in said County and was commanded by Captain Richard Spring [Richard Springs], he deponent entered said service and said Company as a volunteer, not being at that time subject to the Draft because he had a short time before the draft men taken with the White Swelling which at that time in some degree rendered him unfit for active military duty. Owing to the disability he was exempted from the draft but as above stated joined said Company as a volunteer, and on account of his inability to perform active service was selected as a waggoner, in which capacity he was sent with a wagon to either "Polks" or "Hoods" Mills in said County of Mecklenburg, but owing to great length of time and his advanced age he is unable to state which of said Mills, he recollects of having hauled from both during this tour of duty, he was sent after a load of Flour for the Army and after procuring the load of Flour at one of the above mentioned Mills he started to join the Army then under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] at a place called "Ramsour's" but after crossing the Catawba River he ascertained that the Army under General Rutherford left "Ramsour's" and marched to Salisbury [several words torn and illegible] to the latter place where it was received by the Army. Shortly after the delivery of the first load of flour he was sent back to one of the above mentioned Mills he thinks to "Polks" Mill for a second load, which he procured and again joined the Army still under the command of General Rutherford at a place called "Ronpers" [?]¹ from this place he marched on with the Army to the

¹ Ronpers

mouth Rocky River at which last mentioned place he discharged his load of flour and was again sent back to one of the Mills above mentioned for another load of flour, after obtaining his load he joined a detachment of volunteers under the command of Major White on their march to join the Army, he overtook and again joined the main Army between "Cheraw Hills" and "Big Lynches Creek" in the State of South Carolina near the main Army at the time he overtook it between the two points above mentioned was under the command of Major General Horatio Gates, who formed a junction and succeeded General Rutherford in the command of the main Army, during his last absence he continued with the Army on their march as a waggoner until it reached "Hanging Rock Creek" in said State of South Carolina at which place he discharged his load of flour and was immediately sent back to one of the above mentioned Mills for another load of flour, it was during his absence on this last mentioned trip was fought the Battle of Camden South Carolina [August 15-16, 1780] in which the Army under Major General Gates were defeated by the British forces. After the defeat and retreat of the Army from South Carolina he again joined the Army near Charlotte in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina where it had been collected after the defeat, near Camden, he remained with the Army in the neighborhood of Charlotte until discharged sometime in September or October 1780, after serving three months as above stated and owing to his being a volunteer and being attached to a wagon train he did not receive any discharge in writing from any of his officers. Deponent next tour of duty commenced about the time the British Army took possession of the town of Charlotte [late September and early October, 1780] in said State of North Carolina and in the same year of his former service, he believes he entered the service again in September or October 1780 he entered the service in the County of Mecklenburg in State of North Carolina as a volunteer in Captain Oliver Wyley's [Oliver Wiley] Company. This Company was raised and stationed in said County of Mecklenburg North Carolina to keep watch on the British and Tory forces then in the Town of Charlotte North Carolina and the neighborhood during this tour of duty he was sent on several scouting Parties and had some skirmishing with the Tories and took some Prisoners. This last mentioned tour of duty was of several months duration the time and duration not distinctly enough recollected for him to state it precisely or positively, he believes this Company of volunteers under the command of Captain Wyley were never regularly discharge from the service, if it ever was he never did receive any discharge in writing from his Captain or any other officers – Deponent's next tour of duty in the service of the United States, was as one of what was called "Sumter's Ten Months Men" – sometime early in the year 1781 to Captain Thomas Shelby raised a company of "Listed Men" in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina for a tour of ten months in the southern service, a Brother of him (Deponent) by the name of Samuel Smith was one of the "Listed Men" in said Company commanded by Captain Shelby. This company after its organization was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Polk after said company had marched to South Carolina, he believes in July 1781 his said brother (Samuel Smith) who as above stated was a member of Captain Wyley's Company was taken sick and placed in the Hospital at Camden South Carolina for the purpose of getting his said Brother home to North Carolina and procuring his said Brother's leave of absence from the Army, he Deponent about he believes the middle of July 1781 substituted himself for and in the room and stead of his said Brother Samuel, he also at the same time procured a furlough from Captain Wyley [balance of the sentence is so compromised that it cannot be read] North Carolina, he again joined the Army after carrying his said Brother home a few days after the Battle of "Eutaw Springs" [September 8, 1781] and about the same time it was thought necessary to reduce the number of officers and make the Companies larger, this reduction of this

number of the officers place deponent under the command of Captain Nathaniel Martin and he was one of the Company attached to the Regiment under the command of Colonel Wade Hampton, from the time he joined the Army – after the battle of Eutaw Springs, he was under the immediate Command of General Thomas Sumter and engaged in active service in various expeditions and scouting Parties through the most of the middle part of the State of South Carolina up to some time in the month of December 1781 or early in January 1782 at which time his company was sent to the State of Georgia under Major Moore, he was stationed for several days at a ferry on the Savannah River called the Two Sisters at this place he was for three or four days under the command of General A. Wayne [Anthony Wayne]. He was thereafter placed under the command of Major Habersham [John Habersham] and remained under his command up to the expiration of the ten months of service which expired about the first of March 1782 at which time he was dismissed from the service without a regular discharge in writing with directions and understanding that his Company would meet again in May 1782 at some place on the Congaree River South Carolina and at that time and place they would receive their regular discharges from the service. At the time said company was to meet for this purpose deponent's brother (Samuel Smith) had recovered his health, and attended at the prescribed time and place, and received a discharge in writing from said service, deponent did not attend at the place of discharge being only a substitute in the room and stead of his Brother (Samuel Smith) deponent therefore did not receive any discharge in writing from any of the officers, but the discharge from this tour of duty was received by his said Brother as above stated. This was deponent's the last tour of duty in the Army of the United States. Shortly after being dismissed as above stated, he returned to private life in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina, deponent has never received any Pension or annuity of any kind from the United States in consequence of the above Services, and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State., Sworn to and subscribed in open Court as aforesaid this the 5th day of November 1838



[Elem Stephenson, a clergyman, and James Huggins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Examination by the Court – Question 1st by the Court

Where and in what year were you born? Answer by deponent – In the County Derry of Ireland in 1762

Question 2nd by the same: Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer by the same – The only record of my age was in the Family Bible which has been destroyed or lost for many years.

Question 3rd by the same Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer by the same – At the time I entered the service of the United States I lived in the County of Mecklenburg State of North Carolina where I settled and married and shortly after my marriage I removed to the County of Green, State of Georgia, where I lived 30 years, from thence I removed to Madison County, State of Alabama and lived there 10 years, from thence I removed to Giles County State of Tennessee my present residence where I have lived up to the present time.

Question 4th by the same How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer by the same – In my Declaration above I have stated all the facts [text damaged and illegible] manner I entered the service and the reason why I was exempted from a draft – how I

volunteered and under what circumstances I substituted myself in the place and room of my Brother Samuel Smith

Question 5th by the Same State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer by the Same – besides the officers already named in my Declaration I recollect General Green [Nathanael Greene], Cadwallender, Marion, Sumter & Gates – Colonel Lee, Laurens and Hampton Major Washington and others – such Continental and militia Regiments and other circumstances of my service has been as fully stated in my declaration above as my memory and age will admit.

Question 6th by the same – Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer by the same – I never did receive any discharge from the service in writing the reasons why I never received a written discharge from the service has been set forth in my declaration, where they will fully appear.

Question 7th by the same – 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer by the Same, – Honorable E. J. Shields, A. V. Brown Esquire, John Bass, William McLaurine, James McCollum Esquire, Early Benson, Robert McLaurine, Joseph Goode Esquire, James Abernathy, Thomas Battle and Robert P Harney

[p 10: "The printed list of 1852 gives cause of suspension as "service as a waggoner not provided for."]