

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Philip Smell S11414

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } ss.

County of Monongalia } On this 26th day of August, in the year 1833, personally appeared before the County court of Monongalia now sitting, and in open court, Philip Smell, a resident of said county aged seventy five 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. That in the summer of 1776 he turned out as a volunteer from Bucks county Pennsylvania for two months under Capt. John Ludwick of the Pennsylvania militia, that three or four other companies marched at the same time to Amboy, from Amboy down opposite Staten island, where we could see the Hessians evry day, soon after the Hessians left the island and we were discharged by a general discharge after two months service.

That during the same summer, he was drafted in Bucks county in a company of Pennsylvania militia, commanded by Jacob Burk, from there we marched to Philadelphia, and were taken in Row gallies down to the Delaware to Billings fort, on the Jersey side, where we were put to work to finish it – that he beleives his company was there about ten days, and from thence we were marched to Wilmington – that he was in the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], that we retreated into Pennsylvania, the enemy moving off towards Philadelphia – that he recollect the place where he was discharged in Pennsylvania, but it was after two months service, by a general discharge.

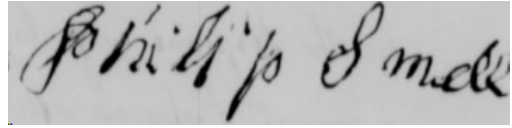
That a short time before Christmas in 1777 the militia were again called out, and he was again drafted in Bucks county Pennsylvania, in a company of Pennsylvania militia commanded by Capt. Christopher Weigner – that we were soon marched down with several other companies to the White marsh [Whitemarsh], where we found Gen'l. Washington with the army, from the White marsh the militia were marched across the Schuylkill, and about two miles from the river met the enemy, who attacked us and forced us to retreat across the river, which we forded at Sweates ford [Swedesford] – that we remained on the north side of the Schuylkill untill we were discharged by a general discharge at the end of two months after he was marched from Reading.

That in the month of April or May 1778, in order to avoid being called out so frequently in the militia he enlisted with ten others in Bucks county Pennsylvania, by a man named Star or Steer, for the purpose as he stated of driving teams, for one year, that they were marched to Reading, where he was ordered to take charge of a team – that from Reading he drove his team to Valley forge where the army was encamped; from Valley forge he followed the army with his team to Monmouth, and arrived the day the battle was fought [28 Jun 1778] – from Monmouth he followed the army to Brunswick, we crossed the North river to the White plains [NY], and from thence to winter quarters (for the teams) in a small town in New Jersey the name of which he has forgotten, that he remained with his team at this small village untill some time in May 1779, when he was discharged after being a year in the service by a written discharge, which he has long since lost, beleiving it of no value – that he cannot now recollect the name of any other officers than those already named – that he does not know of any person by whom he can prove his services or any part of them.

He hereby relinquishes evry claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any state.

That he was born in Bucks county Pennsylvania, in the month of April 1758, that his age was recorded in his fathers bible, which he beleives is in the family of his brother George who lived in that county – that he has a long time been personally acquainted with Rev Joseph A. Shackelford, Col. Dudley Evans, Col. Richard Watts, Col. Samuel Hanway, and many others, and who he beleives can testify as to his character for veracity and their beleif of his services in the Revolution – That he removed from Bucks county county Pennsylvania about the year 1790 to Berkley county [sic: Berkeley County] Virginia, and

from thence into this county in the fall of 1794, where he has ever since resided
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Smell". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated hundreds of pension applicants from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote "Entitled" on his report.]

Philip Smell, draws \$20.

I the undersigned Philip Smell at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my age and Revolutionary services to Wit. I am 77 years old

Some time during the Revolutionary War (I cant tell in what year) I volunteered in Bucks county Pennsylvania under Capt Jno. Ledwick & marched to Amboy, there several companies at this station. we were guarding the River or the sounds. the Hessians were at Statten Island on the opposite side of the River. I don't recollect how long I remaned in Service in this tour – when the British had possession of Philadelphia [26 Sep 1777 - 18 Jun 1778], I was in service At [undeciphered word], Philadelphia and on the Delaware under Capt. Jacob Burk for two months.

In the next succeeding winter I served a nother two months tour on the Schoolskill, under Capt Hinsman

I then was in service as a waggoner for nearly one year and thus ended my Revolutionary service. T. P. Ray wrote my Declaration.

In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name.

Nov 3 1834

Philip Smell

Jacob Cooper,

Note this man is frail in body, and of very little mind

W. G Singleton/ Nov. 30 1834

NOTES:

Smell received a pension of \$20 per year for only six months service, his 12-months tour not being credited, because the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards, erroneously believed that militia tours were never for such a long period.

A letter in the file indicates that Philip Smell died on 20 April 1835.