

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Smithy S1254

f16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/7/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Woodford County Sct.

On this 8th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Woodford County now sitting William Smithy a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged nearly eighty-three 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 was born in Caroline County and State of Virginia. That the first year of the War of the Revolution he became a volunteer in the militia of that State that he was in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Mathews (the names of the company officers not recollected) when he was marched to Williamsburg. In a few days the Regiment was marched to meet General Wayne after the meeting took place in the Regiment was again marched to Williamsburg where they remained until he was discharged. This tour he believes he served three months. That the next tour that he has a distinct recollection of he served under Captain Daniel Coleman, Benjamin Carter was the Ensign Colonel Mathews in command of the Regiment he was marched below Williamsburg from thence to Richmond where he was discharged he served this tour three months. The next tour he served under Captain Weir [perhaps a reference to Capt. John Ware of Caroline County] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Matthews this tour he was marched to the neighborhood of Williamsburg from thence to the neighborhood of Richmond where he was discharged this tour he thinks he served three months the last tour he served was just before the close of the war and at the time Cornwallis was taken [October 19, 1781] he was marched from home (the names of his officers he has escaped his memory) and on his way to the siege he joined the French troops and marched several days with them he was on the Gloucester side of the River when Cornwallis surrendered and under the command of a French officer whose name he does not recollect he was one of the guard over the British after the surrender until he was taken sick when he was discharged this tour he served four or six weeks periods besides the tours before stated he served several others which he is not able to designate either the time or the officers under whom he served all his service was rendered in the militia either as a volunteer or drafted none of the tours he believes was of longer duration than three months and some of them a shorter time he verily believes he served in all between two and three years as he was generally from home in the service always two and sometimes three tours in the year for the greater part of the duration of the war. Some years past all his papers were stolen among which he believes there were several discharges, he has no documentary evidence of his services. That he knows of but one man living who served with him and he lives at a distance. And that he is much afflicted with disease as much so as to render it impracticable to see that man he well send with his declaration the evidence of a woman who was quite young at the time the service was rendered. 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 the agency of any State or Territory

S/ William Smithy, X his mark

[Ahmed Rucker, a clergyman, and T. W. Sellers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Commonwealth of Kentucky Woodford County Sct.: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid William Smithy who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time he served in all but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the whole time mentioned in his declaration say between two and three years the whole of his services were rendered as a private in the Militia he cannot recollect the names of any officers under whom he served in addition to those already mentioned except Major Armistead under whom he recollects to having served one tour – he further states that his health is extremely bad and his condition a helpless one he thinks it entirely impossible and is so with him to state more precisely after a lapse of more than 50 years the exact length of time of such services.

S/ William Smithy, X his mark

[f p. 7: On ___ day of ___ 1832, in Woodford County Kentucky, Phebe Smithy gave testimony that she is the daughter of William Smithy who served in the revolution; that she is now near 58 years old and has a perfect recollection of her father leaving home to go to the war some 2 or 3 times; how long he was absent she cannot say but recalls his having said that he served 2 or 3 years. The affidavit was attested by T. W. Sellers, JP and does not bear a signature by Phebe Smithy or her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia.]