

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Smith S14482

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 26 July 2015.

State of Virginia }
Giles county } SS

On this 14th day of June 1834 personally appeared before me Ralph Lucas a justice of the peace in and for the county of Giles and state aforesaid John Smith a resident of said county aged seventy eight years on the 24th of February last, 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 the 7th June 1832.

That in August or September in the year 1776 or 1777 [1776] in the county of Franklin Virginia [sic: formed from Bedford and Henry counties in 1786] he volunteered in Capt. Lynes [sic: James Lyon's] company to serve six months against the cherykee [sic: Cherokee] indians

That he was rendezvous at Henry court house and from thence he was marched across the blue ridge at a place then call'd Renick bag [sic: Runnett Bag Creek in Franklin County]. from there cross'd the Pilot mountain and crossing new river at Ingles ferry [at present Radford] and rendezvous'd at Fort chissel in the county of montgomery [sic: Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County] where they were attached to other companies.

From thence they was marched to the long Island of Holston river [at present Kingsport TN] where they rendezvous'd for several days and was there joined by some troops from the state of north carolina.

From thence was marched through a wilderness conducted by Pilots along what was then called the indian war road. cross'd the french broad river and on to the indian towns situate on the Tennessee River on our approach the inhabitation evacuated the place, of which we took possession and remained there several days during our stay there caught several indian horses, kild some of their cattle for beef, distroyed and eat their sweet potatoes. had no engagement. some of the chiefs came in and sued for peace, which was agreeded on, and the treaty was to be necotiated the following spring at the long islands of holson [Treaty of Long Island signed 20 Jul 1777]. he recollects that one of the chiefs was by the name of Connistoto [Oconostota] – he also recollects that after this stipulation was entered into there was found an indian kill and the lock taken off his gun. the chiefs were roused and appear dissatisfied at such treatment from the enemy. the officers ordered the troops to parade, and when in ranks, made a faithfull but inefectual serch to discover in whose possession the gun lock would be found, he afterwards understood that if the lock had been found in the possession of any person that person would have suffered death on the supposition that he had kild the indian.

From thence they marched up the Tennessee river to some other towns. when they arrived at these towns the inhabitation also fled at their approach with an exception of one old indian man who through age and bodily infirmities, remained in one of the huts (near the margin of the river) in the evening and was missing in the morning he supposes he had been thrown in the river some time in the night by some of the soldiers. at these towns the place was yet apparent where they burnt a prisoner. no engagement took place but distroyed the towns by fire. having completed their campain, set out on their march for home where he received a written discharge from Lieutenant Peter Hurston [sic: Peter Hairston], who was authorised by Capt. Lynes to give discharges – which discharge he preserved untill the year 1814, in which year his house was burnt down. he recollects of frequently reading his discharge and as well as he can recollect was in these words. I do hereby certify that John Smith faithfully served in an expedition against the cherykee indians and is hereby discharged &c.

That again in August 1781 in the county of Franklin [sic] he was drafted in Capt. Rubles [sic: Owen Rubell's] company to serve a three months tower in the virginia Malitia his Lieutenant was William Rentfrow [William Renfro] and Gideon Smith (his brother) ensign.

He rendezvous at Henry court house and marched from thence through Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] to Sanders point [probably Sandy Point] and remained there several days – thence crossing James river at Jamestown thence crossing through Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] to Yorktown, where he was attached to the main army to what regiment he does not recollect soon after he arrived there he in company with others was order to march out into a wood under the command of an officer he thinks by the name of Lewis. when they was commanded to march he expected they would be stationed somewheres for some purpose but they was only marched into the woods for the purpose of making what he calls large baskets they had some other name for them which he does not now recollect [fascines]. they were prepared for the purpose of siting along the edge of the entrenchment. and after night they was filled with earth for the purpose of brestworks. he followed this imployment for some days, (remained there during the siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]) Lord cornwallis march out and surrender. his prisoners was marched to Winchester and he was discharge by Capt. Ruble which discharge was also distroyed by the burning of his house in 1814. he has no documentary evidence whereby he can prove his service there was when last heard of, one or two persons living in the county of Franklin Virginia who he could establish his service by but if they should be dead he knows of none.

(Interogatories ans'd)

1st– [He was born] In the county of Halifax Virginia in the year 1756.

2^d. he has a record [of his birth] taken from his fathers bible

3^d– [When he enlisted was living] in Franklin county Virginia untill the year 1791– he moved to New river in the county of montgomery virginia and in the year 1828 he moved about two miles lower down the river which is in the county of Giles where he has lived ever since–

4th– he volunteered and he drafted 5– went against the indians he has forgotten the field officers names. he only recollects in 1776 or 1777 Col Christy [William Christian] in the year 1781 he recollects General Washington Lafayette. Colo. Richason [sic: Holt Richardson]–

6th in 1777 he received a discharge from Lieutenant Peter Hairston and in the year 1781 from Capt. Ruble. both of which was distroyed by fire.

7th. the Rev. Thomas Kirk and Joseph Darr can testify to my character for verasity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pention or an anuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension role of any agency of any state Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

John Smith