

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Charles Smith S15649

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Jackson County to wit

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 personally appeared in open court before the justices of the County of Jackson now in session Charles Smith a resident of said County of Jackson and State of Virginia aged sixty nine years and eight months, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress pass'd 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832

Declarant states that he entered the services of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the month of December in the year 1777 as well as declarant recollects and in Battletown in the County of Frederick [2 mi NE of Berryville now in Clarke County] and State of Virginia he volunteered as a private under the command of Capt Trueston [sic: Charles Thruston] but declarant does not recollect the names of the subalterns he states that they marched from Battletown in the county of Frederick in the state of Virginia to Winchester Va thence to Frederick town in the state of Maryland thence to Lancaster in the state of Pennsylvania leaving Philadelphia to the right owing to the small pox being there, thence to the neighbourhood of Morristown in the state of New Jersey and were there incorporated into a regiment but does not recollects the the names of the field officers. declarant states that he was engaged in guarding the garrison and fought in the battle against British at Morristown aforesaid [probably Battle of Punk Hill near Amboy NJ, 8 Mar 1777] and was discharge in the latter end of March and returned home after having served six months as a private soldier. That in the month of May in the year 1779 [see endnote] he volunteered and march under Capt Heiskill [sic: Adam Hiskill], Lieut. Calimese [sic: Marquis Calmes, pension application S12674] and ensign Catlet [sic: Catlett] to Harpers ferry across the Potomac River - crossed into Maryland, thence to Fredericktown in the state of Maryland thence to Lancaster in the State of Pennsylvania and was employed in guarding the prisoners taken from Winchester in the State of Virginia and was discharged in the month of August 1779 after having served three months as a private soldier and returned home again to Battletown in Frederick County and State of Virginia Declarant further states that in May in the year 1781 he volunteered and marched under Capt. Calimese and Lieut Calimese [probably William Calmes S9303] through the Counties of Fauquire [sic: Fauquier], Culpeper and Caroline and went through Richmond Va. thence to New Castle [now Old Church in Hanover County] Va. at which place declarant states he was incorporated into General Layfayett's [sic: Lafayette's] Regiment but shortly after was selected out and served as flying light infantry and as such marched under the aforesaid Capt and Lieut Calimese to yorktown Va. and was there engaged principally in tracing the enemies lines for the purpose of makeing discoveries and bringing on an attack frequently marching fifteen miles at night and returning before day. he (declarant) fought in the battle at yorktown and witnessed the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. was discharged in October 1781 and returned home after having served six months as a private soldier. that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

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

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid [signed] Chas. Smith

To the several interogatories prescribed by the war department declarant answers as follows and says

- 1 He was born in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1763.
- 2 There is a record of my age in the hands of William Morton of Lexington in the state of Kentucky
- 3 I was living in Battletown in the County of Frederick and State of Virginia and continued to reside in that County until the year 1812 when I moved to the Ohio River in the County of Mason Va. but by the formation of Jackson County Va. that part of Mason county fell into

Jackson County where I now live

- 4 I volunteered
- 5 I was acquainted (at Yorktown Va.) with General Lafayette, Col Morrow [probably John Morrow of VA Militia], and Col. Read [possibly Thomas Read of Charlotte County Militia] but do not recollect at this time whether they were regular or Militia officers or not does not recollect
- 6 I had a discharge but I do not recollect by whom it was given, it is lost or destroyed, I do not know what has become of it
- 7 I am known to George Casto and John Rardin residing in the neighbourhood with me and who can testify to my character my age and as to their belief of my having been soldier of the revolution

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] Chas. Smith

War Department Pension Office December 12<sup>th</sup> 1833

Sir: The declaration of Charles Smith has been examined and is suspended for further explanation.

It appears from his declaration that his first term of duty was performed in 1777 when he was only fourteen years old, and that its duration was 6 months. the applicant has also alleged to have performed one other tour of six months.

I will here remark that the Militia did not perform continuous tours of duty in actual Service for such a length of time during the revolution, but always for short and limited periods, such as one, two and three months

The age of the applicant also renders a further explanation necessary.

Yours respectfully Yr. Obt Servant

J L Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions]

R. Lowther Esqr Jackson Court House Va

Virginia Jackson County to wit.

Personally appeared before me Nehemiah Smith one of the Justices of the peace for Jackson County aforesaid Charles Smith of said County and after being first sworn, gives the following explanations concerning the tours he served in the Revolutionary War, his age &c, first. that at the age of fourteen he was inspired with the love of liberty and encouraged by his friends, who had taught him it was better to die in the cause of freedom than to live in bondage, he therefore determined to volunteer his services, and entered the service of the United States under Capt Truston and served six months but he then being very young does not now recollect the cause of his continuing that length of time in the service. Secondly - that he volunteered and served other six months under Capt Calamese but does not recollect the cause for being continued so long in the service, but remembers well the hardships they underwent, and difficulty of raising men to march against the foe and when they could get men to continue longer than the ordinary terms they were continued, and deponent thinks that was the reason for his being continued &c.

Subscribed and sworn to this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 1834

[signed] Chas. Smith

[The following affidavit is in the handwriting of District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

I the undersigned Samuel Kircheval of Frederick county aged sixty eight years last February certify that I have known Charles Smith late of Frederick County (but now as I am informed of Jackson county Virginia) for sixty years or upwards. that the said Charles Smith is now about seventy three or four years old - that I was intimate with him in former days and had frequent conversation with him on various subjects. - I am under the impression that Charles Smith was a soldier in the war of the Revolution but of this I cant speak positively. I derived the impression no doubt from conversations with Smith himself, or some one else. I cant pretend to say what are my impressions as to the length of time he was in service - Smith was never considered a man of veracity - never heard of his doing any malicious act, or speaking slanderously of

anyone. he was a man of vain disposition and fond of boasting. May 13, 1835

[signed] Sam'l Kercheval

I, Charles Smith of Jackson Cty Va. in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary at war, give the following narrative of my age and Revolutionary services, viz.

I shall be seventy two years of age on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June next. I resided in Battle town & vicinity during the Revolutionary War and until about twenty years ago.

About the commencement of the Revolutionary war I cant recollect the date, I volunteered under Capt. Adam Heiskil and served six months under him guarding prisoners at Winchester. Capt. Heiskil had about 80 or 90 men under his command & I think there was no other company there but am not certain. I was discharged after having served my tour of six months. I was then about 13 or 14 years of age. some time within a year after I cant tell how long I volunteered again under Capt. Adam Heiskil and with 3 other companies went with a Major whose name I have forgotten to convey the prisoners at Winchester from that place to Lancaster Pennsylvania. Shortly after arriving at Lancaster I was discharged and returned home after having served at least one month.

In the fall of 1777 I volunteered for six months under Capt Charles M. Thousten at Battletown where we rendezvouzed and in a few days marched to Morristown in N. Jersey There we had an engagement in which Capt. Thousten was wounded [see note below]. Shortly after Capt. Thousten was appointed a Colonel. Our Lieutenant I have forgotten his name was commissioned as a Captain. We remained in the neighborhood of Morrisstown until our term of service (six months) expired. We were then discharged & returned home.

Some time about the year 1779 or '80 I volunteered in a troop of horse for six months under Capt. William Sniggers [also spelled S. William Snickers] (under the direction of Gen. Dan'l. Morgan.) We rendezvouzed at Battletown but were never called into actual service. We found our own horses & provisions. At the expiration of six months we were discharged. This last service was not mentioned in my declaration made to obtain a pension. It had at that time escaped my memory.

Some time in May 1781 I volunteered under Gen. Dan'l. Morgan in an expedition against the Tories on lost river. There were about seven hundred and fifty in Gen. Morgans Corpse all on Horseback principally from Frederick & the adjoining Counties. On a mountain in Hampshire County we had an engagement with the tories killed two or three wounded some and took about twenty prisoners The Tories dispersed in the Mountains. The Prisoners were taken to York and placed in the Army. After being in this expedition about one month we were discharged and returned home.

About two months after this last service I volunteered for six months under Capt Marquiss Calimes. We rendezvouzed a day or two at Berrys ferry on the Shenandoah. There were about 200 men in our company. We marched from Berrys ferry by way of Richmond to New Castle where we were reviewed by Gen. Lafayette. After remaining there a few days as aforesaid were by Gen. Lafayette assigned the duties of what was termed the flying light Infantry. We were stationed at a secret place in the woods about 15 miles from New Castle or Williamsburg. We marched to Williamsburg & returned every night (which was about 15 miles) until a few days before the siege at York. We then marched to York where we joined the American Army under the command of General Washington. We there had an engagement with the British which continued about six or seven weeks [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct]. The enemy was defeated and Cornwallis surrendered (some time in October) and we were discharged & returned home.

In all the above cases I was a volunteer and most of the time found my own provisions, but never rec'd. anything for any of my services.

I know of no person living by whom I can prove the above services.

Mr. Lowther ( a Lawyer of this County) [see endnote] drew my declaration to which I was sworn in our County Court. After Lowthers exertion proved unsuccessful, James Smith undertook to obtain my pension and procured my Certificate for which he charged me one hundred and twenty dollars and now holds my note therefor. I made the same statement in my declaration that I now make except the six months services forgotten as afore stated. In Witness

of all which I have here unto set my hand this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 1834

Witness J. M. Steed

[signed] Chas. Smith

Memo. when in Jackson county I was unable to see Charles Smith - the examination here taken was made by Mr. Steed who was with me through the counties of Wood & Jackson. the Pensioner Smith resided in Frederick County (the county of my residence) all his life until within seven year back - his character in Frederick Cty. is therefor well known and properly appreciated, and I regret to say that it is by no means good - Mr. Kircheval whose certificate accompanies this report has done Mr. Smith more that Justice - I learn from the oldest inhabitants that Mr. Smith was all his life almost entirely deficient in veracity - his character in that particular is of great notariety wherever known. in addition to which I think there was no such service as mentioned by Mr. Smith as haveing done at Winchester at the commencement of the war - what Prissoners could we there have had at that place?

Respectfully reported

W. G Singleton June 13, 1835

Virginia Jackson County to wit

Personally appeared before me, John Rarden, a justice of the peace for said County Charles Smith an applicant for a pension, who states that some explanations are required (to enable him to obtain a pension) and after being first sworn for explanation saith that the cause of his volunteering young as he was was by being urged by his friends after the death of his father to go into the service of his Country, that men were hard to raise and he having been taught to believe it was better to die than live under the government of Great Britton, he therefore volunteered his services and marched under the officers as named in a declaration of his and filed as he believes in the pension office at Washington. he says that after he had entered the service that he was solicited to continue his services six months which he done that he was young and does not recollect all the circumstances but believes it was owing to the condition of our country at that time and the great difficulty in raising men that the solicitation to continue their services was made Concerning his age he further saith that Captain Trustons company consisted of several young men of his own age, that he say, was another inducement for him to volunteer his services. He says that Capt Truston marced his company of volunteers to Morristown where he told General Washington that he had come to fight the British Army, and that Washington received them and they faught in that Battle in which Capt Truston received a wound which broke his arm.

[signed] Chas. Smith

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1836

John d Rardin J.P.

Meads[?] Bottom May 25<sup>th</sup> 1837

Sir/ I rec'd. yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> April informing me That the Bord of the War department Cant allow me more than \$40 per annum it is cutting me short of my expectations as the Cert[ificat] enclosed, cals for \$60 per annum. after Receiving the Certificate I was examined again by Mr Josias M. Steed and recolected of one Service more That I had forgot, which I understood by one of your Letter was placed on file which would allow me Full pay, at your Desire I send you down the Certificate which calls for \$60 per annum. what is to be allowed me, will you be so good as to enclose it to me by the next male, as I am in very bad health at present and am in very great want of the money. I am very sorry to put you to so much trouble, but I dont know of any other chance of geting it. in doing this will graity oblige — yr. mo. obt. & very Humble Servt.  
Mr. J. L. Edwards Comm'r. of Pensions Chas. Smith

NOTES:

In 1779 the only large body of prisoners in Virginia was the "Convention Army," mainly Hessians, captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and brought to Albemarle Barracks early in 1779. It was not until early in 1781, however, when they were marched to Winchester and then to Pennsylvania.

Smith evidently confused Capt. Charles Thruston with Col. Charles M. Thruston. Charles Mynn Thurston, the "fighting parson," was appointed Colonel on 15 Jan 1777, lost an arm at the Battle of Punk Hill, and then left the service.]

Robert H. Lowther was associated with several fraudulent pension applications. A letter

from Lowther dated 25 Sep 1836 states that he had tried to obtain an affidavit from "General Calumese" in Kentucky, but that he had died before the letter reached him. (Marquis Calmes died in Woodford County KY before 23 Feb 1835.)

The file contains a letter dated 4 Aug 1850 to a pension agent inquiring about the procedure for obtaining a pension for the widow of Charles Smith.