

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Smith S16530
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn44GA
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State of Georgia Meriwether County: On this 19th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before me, Walter S. Colquitt, Judge of the Superior Court of the County & State aforesaid, now sitting, Alexander Smith, a resident of Meriwether County & State of Georgia, aged seventy-three years & some months, his precise age not known, who first 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 passed June 7th, 1832. --

1st That he was born in York County Pennsylvania in the year 1759, is now 73 years & some months of age, has no record of his age, from thence removed to Georgia in the year 1775, -- entered & he then Revolutionary service in 1776, his entry of service about March & continued in service during one year constantly, discharged in March 1777 after building Kiokee Fort Columbia County -- was a volunteer private of Infantry under Captain Pratt, Chandler Colonel, stationed principally in guarding Childers Fort Warren County & building & guarding other forts occasionally & scouting & defending the frontier settlements of the State against the Cherokee Indians & Tories. --

2nd In March or thereabout of the year 1777 removed to Edgefield District South Carolina & in the latter part of the year 1778, he thinks, entered service as a volunteer private of Infantry under Hugh Middleton Captain, -- this was about the time the British Colonel Brown first took & occupied Augusta & during this service was engaged in a skirmish at Spirit Creek ten miles below Augusta harassing Brown's return in a sortie he made on Burke Jail, after this retreated, crossed the Savannah River into South Carolina & entered service in the same capacity under Captain Drury Pace, Leroy Hammond Colonel marched & was in & fought in the battle of Stono, South Carolina, where he acted as first Sergeant -- General Lincoln commanded the Americans at the battle of Stono, -- was discharged there by Captain Pace, that he thinks was in the year 1779, -- this service six months or more actual service. --

3rd Again returned & settled in Georgia Columbia County about the year 1780 he thinks -- entered service as a volunteer private of Infantry under Captain Elijah Clarke, John Dooly Colonel, this sometime in the year 1780, -- went on an excursion against the Cherokee Indians & scouting around the forts on the frontier settlements. -- After this time for a year or more Georgia was almost entirely over run & given up to the Tories & Indians & public Spirit & service kept down by the rule of the British at Augusta until the American successes in the South encouraged the patriots to embody & the siege of Augusta.

4th In 1781 he removed to Wilkes County, & more active service again commencing he joined Captain William Walker as a volunteer private of Infantry, George Dooly Major, Elijah Clarke Colonel, & marched with them to the Siege of Augusta in which he was & fought when

Brown & Grayson forts [sic, Grierson's Fort] were captured which he thinks took place sometime in the year 1782 & in which General Lee was the principal commander on the American side, the Main Siege continued about one month of close attacking. After the capture he was detailed as the head of a guard boating [?] Corn & supplies up the Savannah River to support the Army at Augusta. The whole of this service lasted about & fully four months.

5th After the capture of Augusta was in many short tours of duty in as a volunteer private of Infantry defending the frontiers of the State against the Tories & Indians in the year 1782 & 1783, two of which he recollects as of the greatest moment & will state. -- One was in a call for volunteers for three months in which he entered & served under Daniel Gunnels Captain, George Parker [could be Barker] Lieutenant & in which he served six weeks, this he thinks was in 1782; & after this in 1782 old beginning of 1783 was engaged one month in the defense & scout around Pullum's Fort, Broad River Elbert County, during which time he was in a considerable skirmish or battle with the Cherokee Indians at Wild Cat Creek, now Clark County Georgia. These various services rendered immediately & following the Siege of Augusta & continued on until the close of the War.

Summary service	1 st	12 months	
	2 nd	6	
	3 rd	1	
	4 th	4	
	5 th	2/2	25 ½ months in all.

Additionally. -- He herewith renders a Discharge for 30 days service date 13th December 1793 at Parks [?, Bashes, ?] Station in Franklin County, then being a frontier Fort. -- He also renders herewith a Commission as second Lieutenant in the Wilkes County Regiment date 6 April 1791. -- the first he actually [word obscured] as respects the commission he acted on it only as a grace [?] Officer, but both all rendered in showing corroboratingly [sic] his age, military estimation & respectability of character, &c at that day. --

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a Pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State. And that he knows of no person by whom to prove his services as here with set forth & that he has no original documentary evidence to present in proof or corroboration of the same only as here with rendered, all Revolutionary vouchers which he wants head being long since lost & destroyed.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ W. T. Colquitt, JSC

S/ Alex^r Smith

[John Keith, a clergyman, and Thomas Ware gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amendatory Declaration of Alexander Smith

Georgia Meriwether County: Personally appeared before me Willie B. Ector a Justice of the Inferior or County Court for said County, Alexander Smith who being duly sworn, deposes and saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades; for one year & ten months & fifteen days, I served as a private, & for three months I served as first Sergeant; & for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 30 April 1833

S/ W. B. Ector, JIC

S/ Alexander Smith

Amendatory Declaration of Alexander Smith of Meriwether County, Georgia
Georgia Marianna County: Personally appeared before me W B Ector a legal acting Justice of the Inferior or County Court and & for said County Alexander Smith a resident of said County & being the identical Alexander Smith, of my own personal knowledge, and made his original Declaration before the Superior Court of this County on 19 September 1832, & his amendatory Declaration on the 30th April 1833, to both which this is annexed, who being first duly sworn according to law doth depose & say as follows, furlough to amend his Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of 7th June 1832 as a Revolutionary soldier. --

Reference to 1st Serve as stated in original Declaration. -- When he entered the service he resided in Columbia County, Georgia. He swears that he entered service in this tour in March 1776, was a volunteer militia private of Infantry under the State authority. -- He states in the original that he continued in service one year constantly: he so considered it as he was almost continually engaged, but observing the exact explanation of the Department & that allowance is only to be made for actual service in the field he swears to detail the separate tours of duty during this period more specifically. On entering service he was engaged first three weeks as a volunteer Militia Infantry building Kiokee Fort Columbia County Georgia, whilst at that work volunteered in the Cavalry under State authority as a Militia private, found his own horse, & entered service under Lieutenant John Smith (my uncle) Pratt Captain, no Colonel along, Major's name Garner, marched from Kiokee Fort now Warren County now Hancock County then the Indian country of frontier settlements to Powell's Fort alias Childers Fort being called differently as respectively occupied by these persons, here he remained & defended it protecting the surrounding inhabitants three weeks. -- This Fort was on the head waters of Ogeechee River. -- He was discharged at this Fort by Captain Pratt without any written discharge in May 1776, though the most of the company marched back together & separated at the White Oak fork of Kiokee Creek in Columbia County. -- During those two tours of six weeks or 44 days besides finding his own horse, whilst in the Cavalry, he found also his own gun & ammunition. This under State authority.

Reference to the 2nd service in original Declaration. -- At the time he entered this service he resided in Edgefield district South Carolina, entered the time expressed, joined Middleton near Graybill's ferry on Savannah River 15 miles above Augusta marched thence to Augusta, then to near Burke Jail, within a few miles of it, where just before the advancing British Army under General or Colonel Campbell [Archibald Campbell] had driven back the American troops under Colonel John Dooly where and we retreated back to Augusta. -- on reaching Augusta Captain H. Middleton called for fifteen volunteers to repel & delay Campbell's advance on Augusta, I volunteered as one of that fifteen, & we met the British at Spirit Creek ten miles below Augusta where we harassed the outskirts of the British troops until the Main Army of the Americans at Augusta could have further time allowed them to cross the River into South Carolina, we had some distant firing & produced a temporary detention of the British & formation of new lines, &c -- A discrepancy you will observe here in saying it was Campbell instead of Brown of the British Army, the correction I believe true. -- I returned under Middleton to Augusta & crossed into South Carolina immediately following the principal American force, & was stationed at Liberty Hill, South Carolina, now called Campbellton, two miles above Augusta, under Captain H. Middleton succeeded by Drury Pace, Purvis Major, Leroy Hammond Colonel, & Williamson [Andrew Williamson] General, where I remained three months watching the British movements at Augusta, marched thence under the same officers last mentioned to the battle of Stono, South Carolina, going by Galphington, thence by Orangeburg, thence back to

Ashley River, near Bacon's bridge, thence to Charleston having in custody one British prisoner, some deserters & some captured straggling [sic]; remained there two days, marched thence back to Ashley River then American head Quarters, marched thence under General Lincoln who was principal commander & who had taken command at Liberty Hill to Stono ferry where the battle took place between the American & British Army & in which I fought, it was at this battle I acted as first Sergeant & had so acted previous to the battle of three months. -- he does not recollect who commanded the British troops in that battle, the British were apparently defeated but were reinforced from James Island when we retreated back to Ashley River, Head Quarters, where he was stationed one week or more, was discharged there by Captain Place without any written discharge in the month of June 1779 making not less in this whole service than six months as set forth in original Declaration. Whilst in this service & stationed at Liberty Hill he was detached & stationed at Beach Island twelve miles below Augusta with Captain Pace & a part of his company for two weeks as a corps of Guard & Reconnaissance; -- I think the number was some 10 or 15 men, & it was from there we went on the march to Stono joining the Main Army from Liberty Hill at Galphington; -- All his service as a volunteer Militia, private & Sergeant three months in each capacity. --

Reference to 3rd service as stated in original Declaration. -- He resided in Columbia County when he entered this service, entered as a volunteer private of Infantry militia under State authority, rendezvoused & joined Captain Clarke at Fishing Creek Wilkes County, marched thence to & across the Oconee River & to the Oakmulgee [Ocmulgee] River then in the Cherokee nation of Indians during which time for four days hardly ate anything, went to & occupied Stewart's Fort on Broad River now Elbert County for two weeks, went to Nails Fort whilst stationed at Stewart's Fort & scouring the adjacent settlements, Nails Fort was 2 miles from Stewart's Fort, this was in October 1780, in the march out to the Oakmulgee trailed the track of a body of Cherokee Indians who had captured some three or four children of a family of the name of Webb from Broad River settlement Wilkes County, never overtook the Indians to see them though came on their fresh camp where their fires were left burning & a wild Turkey which they probably hearing our advance, had not time to catch up. -- Was discharged at Stewart's Fort by a Sergeant whose name he has now forgotten without any written discharge, he being detailed by Colonel Dooly with four or five others after the Main body of the command reached Heard's mills Wilkes County returning, to go to the protection & reconnaissance of Stewart's Fort, at Heard's Mills camp one night with a company from South Carolina a scout in which company I recollect a Lieutenant by the name of Prince. -- This Corps under Colonel Dooly consisted of two hundred men. -- This service and stationed & scouring one month.

Entered service in Cavalry found his own horse, gun & ammunition, and was a volunteer private militia under State Authority, entered in March 1781 under Henry Ware Captain, Lieutenant's name forgotten, rendezvoused & joined at Beards spring Wilkes County, in which County he then resided, marched thence to Joshua Sanders on Little River -- Wilkes County where was stationed two days to concentrate the troops & prepare for the exhibition, at Sanders embodied & marched thence through Columbia County into Burke County, scouted on Brushy & Brier Creeks Burke County against the Tories destroyed & broke up a considerable settlement of them on those creeks where they were numerous & very barbarous burnt their houses on their taking refuge in the woods, & returned & was discharged without any written discharge by Captain Ware in Wilkes County in the month of April 1781. -- this service was twenty-two days; returned marched through Columbia County.

He volunteered & went to the first Siege of Augusta but before he reached there the

Americans had been driven back, on getting there met Colonel Elijah Clarke about to retreat, when he returned after giving a few fires, was absent only a few days. -- He does not mention this necessarily to claim it as service; actual service four days. --

Reference to the 4th Service as stated in original Declaration. -- In the month of May 1782 entered service, then residing in Wilkes County Georgia, was a volunteer private of Infantry militia under State Authority, he is officers as stated in original Declaration, rendezvoused & joined them at Augusta in the Siege of Augusta, in which he was, fought & continued until the place was captured, as stated in original Declaration, which Siege & military duty & time which follows in which he served was six weeks or fifty-five days. -- After Augusta was taken was discharged there, without any written discharge by Captain William Walker and June 1782 -- William Holiday was his Lieutenant there. -- He resided in one days travel of Augusta, & marched there & returned direct.

As respects his boating and as stated in his original Declaration, he may or may not be entitled to pay for it. -- It was public service rendered as follows, he was found, & given one bushel of corn a day besides this service continued two months & 15 days in the fall & winter of 1783, the next year after the Siege of Augusta. -- He submits it to the Department. -- He erroneously stated the boating was made to Augusta; it was from Beach Island twelve miles below Augusta & sometimes from Augusta to the mouth of Fishing Creek in Wilkes County, under the orders of General Elijah Clarke in time of great scarcity in the upper settlements & was called "public corn." --

~~Reference to fifth Service as stated in Original Declaration -- He entered service under the officers stated in original, he then resided in Wilkes County Georgia, entered the service as a volunteer private of Infantry under State Authority, Elijah Clarke was General, Cunningham was Colonel.~~

Reference to the 5th Service as stated in original Declaration. The times of service of these two tours are inversely stated, the last one stated should have been first stated. -- They are now so stated as follows. -- He entered service, then residing in Wilkes County, Georgia in the month of July 1782, as a volunteer private militia of infantry under State Authority, rendezvoused & joined Robert Ware Captain, William Holiday Lieutenant, joined at Beard's Springs now Lincoln County Georgia marched thence into now Elbert County to Pullams Fort on Broad River where we were stationed twenty-two days retaking the surrounding country against the Indians & Tories, returned the same route scouring the intermediate country going & returning -- was discharged without any written discharge by Captain Ware at Fort Pullam. --

Entered service at Gunnels Fort now Wilkes County Georgia he then residing in the same County, for three months as a volunteer in the militia Infantry under State authority, Daniel Gunnels Captain, George Barker [?, Barbee, Barton?] Lieutenant, at which Fort he continued & guarded it against the Indians & Tories for forty-five days within which time however his company made an excursion against an advancing party of Creek Indians & at or near the Oconee River now Clarke County we joined a large Detachment of troops under General Elijah Clarke, -- Cunningham Colonel, Major's name forgotten, General Clarke taking command of the whole body; at Wild Cat Creek we came on a body of Creek Indians (erroneously called Cherokees in my original) with whom we had a battle killing two Indians & one white man by the name of Gibbs, & took two white men prisoners whom we hung on our return march at the Big Shoals on Oconee River as Indian emissaries. -- This service was performed in June & July 1783. -- marched back through now Oglethorpe County, by & from the Big Shoals on the Oconee River, was discharged at the Big Shoals now Clarke County I General Clarke and held a

court martial there when the two captured white men were sentenced to be hung, was discharged in July 1783 without any written discharge. The white man home were by the names of Looney & Murphey. --

Summary service by this amended Declaration.

1 st Service	1e month	14 days	half Cavalry & half Infy.
2 nd "	6 "		half private -- half Sergeant
3 rd	1		Infantry
&		22 "	Cavalry
4 th	1	15	Infy—besides boating
5 th	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	"
	12 months 28 days		

Having in the foregoing detailed service been as exact as he is able to be, but yet by reason of the loss of memory as he cannot state precisely how long he served he amends his declaration by adding the following provision which he prays may be taken as fact of his affidavit "Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Inferior or County court of Meriwether County State of Georgia or Alexander Smith, who, being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: For nine months & 28 days I served as a Private. For three months I served as first Sergeant; & for such service I claim a pension --"

And the said Alexander Smith further deposes & swears that during the times of services set forth in the foregoing original & amendatory Declarations that he "served with an embodied corps called into service by public authority; that during said services he was always in the field or in garrison; & for the time during which the service was performed, he was not employed in any civil pursuit." --

And the said Alexander Smith further deposes & saith that when he removed from Pennsylvania to Georgia as stated in his original Declaration, he settled in Columbia County, & from thence as detailed in his said Declaration; he resided in Lincoln County State of Georgia (which during the Revolutionary War was a part of Wilkes County), for 40 years & upwards following the Revolutionary War; removed thence to Henry County State of Georgia in the year 1823; removed thence to Troup County State of Georgia in the year 1828; removed thence to his present residence in the year 1830. -- He is known in his present neighborhood to John Keith, clergyman, & Thomas Ware do have both testified in his original Declaration, "to his character for veracity & their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution;" besides these he is known by & is a neighbor to David Keith one of the Justices of the Inferior or County Court, & Levi M. Adams Clerk of the Superior or Circuit court for this County.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 19th day of September 1833.

S/ W. B. Ector, JIC

S/ Alex^r Smith