

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of George P Smith S18595

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS

County of Lewis }

On this 20th day of September AD 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace, in and for the County and State aforesaid George P. Smith a resident of Hacker's Creek in Lewis County State of Virginia aged 76 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated. On the 8th day of May 1777 in Augusta County State of Virginia, he volunteered as a private militia man under Capt. James Tate rendezvoused at Staunton in the said County of Augusta, and about the first of June 1777 commenced a march westwardly Vir. by the Warm & hot springs, now in Bath Co. crossing Jacksons river, crossed the Allegany [sic: Alleghany] Mountains at the head of Howard's [Howard] Creek, descended Howards Creek to its mouth, there crossed the Greenbrier river & continued the march to the forts where Lewisburg now is. there joined the Regiment under command of Col. [George] Skillern, rested here about three weeks, and was employed in herding cattle and laying in provision, then resumed the march through Walker's Meadows, crossing the Sewell Mountains [in present Fayette County WV], fell onto Gauley River near its mouth, crossed it and fell onto the Great Kanawha river about 2 or 3 miles below the falls at a place called the burning Springs, rested here two weeks, then resumed the march down the Kanawha River to the mouth of Pocatalico halted here 8 or 10 days, then resumed the march down said river to Point Pleasant, arrived here near the last of August, found the Fort Garrisoned by a few hundred regulars, under command of Capt. Mathew Arbuckle. Halted at Point Pleasant awaiting the arrival of Genl. [Edward] Hand who was expected to descend the Ohio from Fort Pitt with his Troops, and form a junction at Pt. Pleasant with Col. Skillern and march against the Indians on the Sciota and Miamies [sic: Scioto, Great Miami, and Little Miami rivers in Ohio], remained here awaiting Genl. Hands arrival untill some time in Oct. at which time witnessed the death of the Sachem Cornstalk and other Indian Chiefs, soon after which Genl. Hand arrived without an army, and after some time spent in consultation, the expedition was abandoned. And some time towards the last of November commenced a countermarch and arrived at the Fort on the Greenbrier River about the middle of December, halted there about a week, then resumed the march and arrived at Staunton in Augusta on the 10th day of Jany. 1778 and was discharged, having served as a private 8 months & 2 days.

In Augusta County in the State of Virginia on the 15th day of August 1778 was drafted and detailed into a company of Militia under command of Francis Long Capt. and marched to Rockfish Gap on the South Mountain, thence to Charlottesville, from thence to Louisa C. H. from thence to Richmond, and from thence to Jamestown, was stationed at Jamestown under command of Col. [John] Dickenson, untill near the end of Nov. was then discharged by Capt. Long and returned to Augusta, arrived there on the 3^d day of December having served as a private militiaman 3 months & 18 days.

In the said County of Augusta on the 11th day of April 1779 substituted for Alfred Neal and was placed under command of Capt John Dickey and was marched by Winchester Va to Fredericksburg, from thence to Alexandria, was here stationed under command of Col. Ramsey remained here until the the 27th day of July and was then discharged by Capt. Dickey and returned home, having served as a private militia man this time 3 months and 24 days.

In the said County of Augusta, on the 21st day of Sept 1779 was ordered out by Col. Samson Mathews [Sampson Mathews] to repel an invasion of the Indians, and marched to Warricks Fort [Fort Warwick in present Randolph County WV] on the Greenbrier river and from thence to the Droop Mountain, the Indians having disapeared was on the 26th day of October dismissed by Capt John Givens [sic: John Given] the man under whom he served this tour having served as a private 1 mo & 5 days.

In Augusta Co. Va. on the 17th day of May 1780 was drafted and placed under the command of Capt. Joseph Patterson, and was marched through Swift run gap, through Culpeper Co. from thence to New Kent C. H. and from thence to Jamestown, was stationed here about one month, then marched to Norfolk, was stationed here until 19th of Augt. was then march'd to Jamestown and on the 11th day of Sept. was discharged having served 4 months as a private militia man under Capt Patterson & Col. John McCleary [sic: John McCreery].

In Augusta County Va. on the 12th April 1781 substituted for James Harris and was placed under command of Capt. John Dickey in a Regt. of Militia command of Col. Geo. Moffett was marched to Charlottesville thence to Richmond, from thence to Petersburg from thence to Smithfield, thence to Richmond was stationed here about 1 month and was then discharged by his Capt. John Dickey, on the 18th July 1781 having served as a private militiaman 3 mo. & 6 days.

Then in Berkeley Co. Va. on the 28th day of July 1781 substituted for George Richardson as a private militiaman. was placed under command of Capt. John McCormick in a Regt. commanded by Col. [Zackquill] Morgan of Shepherdstown, was marched to Rich'd Va there joined Genl. Campbells [William Campbell's] Army, from Rich'd marched to Jamestown, from thence back to James River, from thence to New Kent C. H. from thence to Yorktown, and remained here until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct], was then on the 22^d Oct. 1781 discharged by Capt. McCormick, having served as a private 3 months.

Declarant was born in Berkeley County [formed from Frederick County in 1772] in the State of Virginia on the 4th day of July 1757. resided in that Part of said County of Berkeley which is now Jefferson until the year 1774 then moved to Augusta Co. Va. was living there when called into service. He was in no general Battle, was one of the Baggage Guard at the Battle of Yorktown - At Pt. Pleasant he was acquainted with Genl. Hand, Col. Skillern, and Capt. Arbuckle who commanded the fort. At Alexandria knew Col Ramsey at Richmond seen Genl Campbell, At Yorktown seen Genls Washington, [Anthony] Wayne, Weeden [sic: George Weedon] and many others. He has no documentary evidence his discharges being all lost, and knows of no person 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

George P hisXmark Smith

On the 7 several interogatories presented by the War Department being propounded by the said Justice of the peace, the said Declarant made the following answers Viz. to the

- 1st. I was born on the 4th day of July 1757 in that part of Berkeley County in the State of Virginia which is now Jefferson County.
2. My age is recorded in my Bible transcribed from my fathers family Register.
- 3^d. When called into service was living in Augusta County in the State of Virginia, and was on a visit to his friends in Berkeley when he substituted for George Richardson.
- 4th. In my first Tour to the West I volunteered. In my 2^d was drafted in the 3^d. substituted in the 4th. was ordered out by the commandant of the Augusta Militia, in the 5th. was drafted, in the 6th and 7th substituted.
- 5th. At Pt Pleasant, Capt. Mathew Arbuckle commanded the Fort, seen Genl. Hand there & Col. Skillern. At Alexandria seen Col. Ramsey. At Yorktown Genls. Washington, Wayne and Weeden. At Rich'd Va. Genl. Campbell.
- 6th. I receive discharges at the expiration of each tour of service except when after the Indians, signed by my several Captains which are all lost.
- 7th. I am known to Abram Whetsel and Jacob Wymer [Jacob Wimer] who reside in my neighborhood and can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from Lewis and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth and the endnote.]

George P. Smith - Pen.

the Pension for this man was procured in Lewis county by James H. Bennett & R. H. Lowther. - his name has not been furnished to me from the Pension office.

Smith stated to Nathan Goff [pension agent at Clarksburg] on the 12th Sept. 1834 that he was then in his 77th year age - and that he resided in the county of Jefferson Va. during the war of the Revolution - and that the only service he done was a three month tour at the surrender of Corn Wallis -

this is all the service he gave in to Bennett and Lowther. - he has only received \$2. in cash and a suit of clothes. Bennett and Lowther got the Balance.

he was sworn to his Declaration before Handman[?] of Lewis County. he [illegible word] then & still lives in Harrison County — W. G Singleton Nov. 21, 1834

NOTE: James H. Bennett (Delegate-Elect to the Virginia legislature) and Robert H. Lowther were part of what Singleton termed the "Lewis Speculating Conspiracy." The conspirators tricked many old, illiterate men into putting their marks on fraudulent pension claims, then collected most of the pension.