

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Daniel Smith S18596

PA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 Jan 2015.

Virginia State } SS.

Harrison County }

On this 20th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of Harrison County court now sitting Daniel Smith a resident of Harrison County in said state of Virginia aged 77 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 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in March 1777 he volunteered in a company of Pennsylvania Militia in Berks County to serve six months in what was called the flying Camp. his captains named Lazier. his Maj'r. Ross his col's. name he has forgotten and the regiment to which he belonged. He was marched to Staten Island and to other places not now recollected in Pennsylvania, N. York and New Jersey he served his six months and was discharged by Captn Lazier in Sepr 1777 He then removed to Frederick County in Virginia. Then in the spring of 1778 [sic] he volunteered as a virginia militia man in the month of March 1778 under captain Heiskell [Peter Hiskell] to go a tour under general Morgan with 500 other citizens of Frederick county to what is now Hardy and Pendleton counties to suppress and capture a band of Tories that were collected there and daily augmenting their forces. Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan, June 1780] had some regular soldiers but declarant belonged to the Militia 500 of whom had volunteered to join Genl. Morgan declarants captn name was Peter Heiskell. They marched up to what is now Hardy & Pendleton Counties killed a leading Tory named Mace captured several others General Morgan narrowly escaped from one of Mace's sons who lying in ambush aimed a shot at him and hit his horse. served six months was discharged and in Nov'r. 1778 returned to Winchester in Frederick County. Then in the spring of 1781 in March was drafted to go a tour of six months in the Virginia Militia under Captn Gilcheson [sic: Samuel Gilkeson or Samuel Gilkerson] Lieutenant Johnson marched towards Richmond was at Fredericksburg attached to Col. W. [William] Darke's regiment reviewed by General [George] Weedon. taken to Richmond driven from there by Cornwallis [27 May 1781] retreated up the country was joined by Gen'l. Wayne [Anthony Wayne, 10 June] returned to Richmond then on to Williamsburg thence to Yorktown there was Genls. Washington [Benjamin] Lincoln Lay Fayette [sic: Lafayette] – Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] – [Edward] Stevens, Weedon and others many troops were there concentrated there two in York river was the French fleet and there sometime in October [19th] 1781 Lord Cornwallis surrendered to Genl. Lincoln. He then volunteered to continue in the militia another 6 months was ordered to conduct British prisoners taken at York to Winchester neighborhood to the barracks. He arrived there safely and continued there a long time he cannot now said how long for he intended to continue during the war after having been there sometime some if not all of the prisoners were sent to Lancaster in Pennsylvania. from there he returned to Winchester in Virginia and was soon after discharged having been gone this campaign two years. He does not remember the name of his captain at Winchester his Col. W. Darke was there he thinks he then acted as a general he was discharged sometime in the spring of 1783. He began his service in 1777 and ended it in 1783 having at different times served in all nearly or quite three years. He has no documentary evidence. he knows of 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. Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

Daniel hisXmark Smith

The court propounded to the declarant the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the war department to which he gave the following answers – To the

1st. That he was born in the year 1755 at Reading in Berks county in Pennsylvania

2 That he has no record of his age.

3. That he was living in Birks county Pennsylvania. That he removed from there in the winter of 1777 and 1778 to Winchester in Virginia lived there till the close of the revolutionary war. then removed to Harrison county Va. 12 miles below Clarksburg where he now lives
- 4 That he volunteered first for six months in the flying camp (Pa. M[ilitia]) Then in Va. in 1778 he again volunteered in Va. Ma. then in spring of 1781 was drafted for 6 months served that time then volunteered to the end of the war in Va. Ma. and served under different Militia captains. He thinks two of them were named Parsons & Stinson or Stephenson.
- 5 That he saw Genl Washington in his first Tour in 1777 saw many other general whose names he has forgotten. In his second Tour saw genl. Morgan. in his last campaign saw Genls Washington, Lincoln, Lafayette, Weedon, Muhlenburg – Stevens Wayne &c he can not remember the names of regiments but knows he saw Va. and Pa. troops. Militia and regulars continental and state troops. at York he saw after the surrender he saw many English & French officers The general circumstances of his services is set forth above as nearly as a frail memory now enables him to do
- 6 That he rec'd. a discharge from his first service by Captn Lazier. from his second by P. Heiskell his Captn from first 6 months in his last campaign by Captn Gilcheson. The latter service he cannot now recollect the names of his captains but knows he served under more than one his discharges are all lost long since.
7. That he is known in his neighborhood to William Lucas a clergyman and Nathan Ogden both citizens of Harrison county Virginia They can testify as to his character for veracity and their and the neighborhood belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

Daniel hisXmark Smith

Virginia State } SS.
 Harrison county }

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in Harrison State of Virginia Daniel Smith who being duly sworn deposed and 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 six month which he served as a private soldier in the Pa. Ma. in the flying camp. For 6 months volunteer in Capt Heiskells company of Virginia Militia (as a private). For six months under a draft in Captn Gilchesons company of Virginia militia as a private. for 18 months under different officers in the Virginia militia from Oct. 1781 till May 1783 as a private and for such service he claims a pension
 [signed] Joseph Johnson
 Subscribed & sworn to before me this 20 day of May 1833

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

Daniel Smith. draws \$60—

on the 22nd of July 1834 Smith made the following statement of his age and Revolutionary services: to wit – is a native of Pennsylvania born in the year 1764 – left there when 20 yrs. old and settled in Winchester Virginia – when a boy and an apprentice (cant tell in what year) he served a tour of duty of three months at North Amboy & South Amboy. he was a substitute (dont recollect in whose place) Marched from Redding Pen [sic: Reading PA], (dont remember the names of any of the officers) to Amboy, there was fifteen hundred men at that station.

the next tour duty he performed was at the Seige of York – he went as a substitute – but dont know for whom, Col. Holmes of Winchester Hired substitutes for all the quakers hired him for a quaker, – he marched from Winchester under Capt. Samuel Gelkensen to York town. his tour of three months expired 4 days before Cornwallis surrendered on his way home heard of Cornwallis' capture, – afterwards he was drafted and guarded the Prissoners at Winchester 2 months. in this service Capt.

Reynolds was his captain

Jonathan Wamsley wrote his declaration – gave him \$60— [See endnote]

In Witness that this statement contains the truth – he hereto subscribes his name. July 22, 1834

Danl hisXmark Smith

Witness Danl Smith Nathan Goff [pension agent at Clarksburg]

Note — all false never served one hour

W. G Singleton Nov. 20, 1834

near Shinnston Va 21 March '35

Sir [probably Col. James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] Daniel Smith – a poor old Pensioner has asked me to inquire into his case. a Mr. Goff who had heretofore drawn for him, informs me that he believes Mr Singleton U.S. Attorney who had made some investigations had reported unfavorably in that case, on account of some discrepancy in his examination – I have known Mr Smith many years and consider him an honest man, and that he is entitled to a pension I have no doubt having entirely satisfied me, that he served six months in the Flying Camp in the early part of the war, afterwards three months with Morgan & others after the Tories on the S Branch of the Potomac & 6 months in the militia in Va. immediately preceding the capture of Lord Cornwallis. If any discrepancy should have lost his pension – I think I could readily account for it from the following circumstances. He is an old man upwards of eighty, has in a great degree lost his mind – is deaf and was embarrassed at the unexpected call of Mr Singleton and not improbably may have made some contradictions.

I must apologize, as a Stranger for thus Troubling you – by saying it is in the cause of Humanity for the Subject, in my estimation, is not only deserving but in great want, and I will take the liberty of reference to the Hon'ble Mr Anderson & Mr Maxely of the Treasury department, to whom I am somewhat known.

You will be pleased to enable me to give the poor old man some answer to his request

very respectfully yr obt svt B Reeder

[Reeder also refers to Smith's case in a letter dated 23 April 1835 in the file of James Fleming R3605.]

Near Shinnston Va 25 Jany '36

Sir: Commiserating the situation of my poor old neighbor Daniel Smith, and perfectly satisfied that he is entitled to a Pension, you will pardon me for troubling you again on this subject. That he served 6 months in the Flying camp of '76 afterwards 3 months on a tour against Tories on the upper potomac and 6 months in the Virginia militia while Cornwallis was at the South I am entirely satisfied

Believing that he had been stricken from the list of pensioners on account of his embarrassment occasioned by his weak and impaired mind and by the sudden call of the attorney Mr Singleton as well as by his inability, – scarcely to articulate. I recently wrote to Mr Singleton requesting he would make inquiry in about Winchester where the poor honest old man had resided nearly 50 years. Mr. Singletons reply states that he had made the inquiry requested, and from highly respectable authority is satisfied Daniel Smith is entitled to a pension, but had been imposed upon by that infamous man Wamsley [sic] who was his agent and has since absconded – that the only [page torn] in which he can be reinstated is by refunding the money that had been drawn on his account, and applying under a new declaration, neither of which is he now able to comply with, for he knows not how much has been drawn, has received only about 60 dollars, and from imbecility of mind, and want of articulation, now unable to make a new declaration, and not able to refund a dollar.

Permit me now my dear sir to ask whether it would not be just and equitable, that Mr Smith should be reinstated according to the time of his declaration, that any sum drawn above his just pension for 15 months service should be deducted from what is now due to him – and the balance, if any, be paid to him, and that he should be continued on the list for the remaining short period of his life, It really seems to me that such a course ought to be adopted towards a poor and miserable old man, than whom, I believe none more honest or deserving and who I trust you will agree with me ought not to

suffer from the infamy of others in whom he had placed confidence
with great respect yr mo. obt serv't B Reeder

Shinnston Va. 10 Feb '36

J L Edwards Esqr

Sir If I am importunate you will excuse me, I am impelled to it by the wishes of my poor old neighbor Daniel Smith, and those who live around him, as well as by my own solemn convictions.

Mr Smith has lived in our neighborhood upwards of twelve years, and before any law in relation to Pensions was passed that would embrace his case, has often stated to myself and others his services, as now claimed in the revolutionary war, and incidents attending them, and at a time when his mind was sound and he could have had no sinister motive, – besides his habitual probity would induce any person acquainted with him to believe what he said. For three or four years his mind has been occasionally very aberrant – which increases with his age. I wrote to the attorney Mr Singleton not long since, requesting he would make inquiry about winchester where Mr Smith formerly lived respecting his service, he informed me there were many respectable persons who were satisfied he had been in service, and that he himself was satisfied he was entitled to some pension but that he had been imposed upon by his agent Warmsley, and could not be again placed on the Roll until he refunded the money drawn on his account with interest, and made a new declaration. How much money was drawn he does not know. he has himself received only sixty dollars – to refund he is not able, and to make a new declaration his faculties does not admit. To prove positively his service, at the distance of sixty years, by any other means than his own oath would seem impracticable, and in his present situation, no prudent officer would believe it right be administer an oath to him — what is to be done in the poor old mans case, – I dare say there is scarcely a man that knows him, but would be willing to be qualified that they believe what he had stated when in his right mind was true, for one I should willingly do so – That he should suffer by the misconduct of an agent in whom he had placed confident seems to be a hard case – what would be more just and reasonable, considering all circumstances, than to calculate his Pension from the time it ought to have commenced (I believe in '30 or 31) – deduct the money that has been drawn on his account from the amounts, pay him any balance that may be due, and continue him on the Roll the short remainder of his life. It is earnestly hoped by the friends of this poor old man that the department will view this as an Isolated case and act upon it accordingly. To comply with the rules of the department is now impossible while no person acquainted with the man doubts the Justice of his claim.

Very respectfully yr ms. obt Svt B Reeder

I Daniel Smith of Harrison County Virginia aged upwards of eighty years, who served during the Revolutionary War six month in the Flying Camp in 1776. afterwards three months against the tories on the South Branch of potomac, and afterwards six months in the Virginia Militia against Cornwallis. do hereby Authorize and empower Benjamin Reeder to receive for me and to apply for my use any Pension that may be Justly due to me for my said services. Witness my hand and seal the 10th February 1836

The above was signed and acknowledged before	}	Daniel hisXmark Smith
me a Justice of the peace for Harrison County	}	Name written at the request of Virginia
Test Jesse Flowers	}	Danl Smith by
		Jesse Flowers J.P.

[On same sheet as above:]

We the Subscribers residing in the Neighborhood of the above named Daniel Smith do certify that he has always been considered an industrious Honest man. That he is now very infirm from age – with his mind evidently impaired from the same cause, and likewise his speech very much impaired, and that his circumstances are indigent and Poor. Given under our hands

[signed] Jesse Flowers	Nathan Ogden	A. J. Shinn	J G Bigler	B Jones[?]
Edward Shinn	A. P. Wamsley Esqr		J A Ogden	

NOTES: Jonathan Wamsley tricked several illiterate old men into putting their Xs on embellished pension applications, then collected most of the pension himself.