

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Smith S21489

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS

County of Jefferson }

On this 25th day of June 1834 personally appeared before me Charles Harrison a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Jefferson and State of Tennessee, James Smith, a resident Citizen of the County of Jefferson and State aforesaid, aged sixty eight years and ten months, 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 the Declarant James Smith was born on the 6th of August 1765 (of which he has no record) on the South fork of Potowmac [sic: Potomac] river, in what was then called Augusta County, afterwards Hardy County, in the State of Virginia. He lived in this County until the year 1782, when he moved to the County of Washington, then the State of North Carolina, now the State of Tennessee. Declarant has lived in different counties in the State of Tennessee, since he moved to the State. Many years ago he moved to Kentucky, where he lived five years. He then returned to Tennessee, where he has lived ever since, and where he now lives in Jefferson County, near French Broad River. Declarant does not recollect the precise period of his residence in the different counties in which he has lived in the State of Tennessee. In the month of October 1781 Declarant was drafted in Hardy County, State of Virginia, at his company muster ground, at John Spoor's house, by Capt James Stephenson. Our Rendezvous was at the town of Romney. At this place Declarant was placed under the command of Captain Joel Berry. John Hornback was the Lieutenant and \_\_\_ Wilson the Ensign of our Company. The non-commissioned officers are not recollected. There were two companies at Romney. From Romney we were marched to Winchester, Virginia, where we were placed under the Command of Colonel Joseph Peiswonger. At Winchester we were employed in guarding the prison[ers] taken at the Siege of York [19 Oct 1781]. There was a large body of prisoners, the number being unknown to Declarant. We were here kept to guard the prisoners, until orders were received to convey them out of the State of Virginia, when we marched with them to Shepherdstown, on the line between the States of Virginia and Maryland. At Shepherdstown we put them over the Potowmac river. We were then marched back [to] Winchester and there discharged in the month of January day not recollected in the year 1782 Declarant received a written discharge from Capt. Joel Berry for this tour of three months. Declarant left this discharge among his father's papers, when he emigrated to the Western Country, and he has since ascertained that it has been lost, when or where he does not know. In the Spring of the year 1782 Declarant emigrated to the County of Washington, then the State of North Carolina, now the State of Tennessee. In August day not recollected, 1782, orders were received from Colonel John Sevier for raising men to march against the Cherokee Indians. Declarant volunteered in this expedition in August 1782 day not recollected under Captain Beane, our Militia Captain. The names of the subaltern and non commissioned officers are not recollected. the appointed place of Rendezvous was Evan's ferry on French Broad river, at which place a large body of men, several hundred, convened under Colonel John Sevier. The rout of the Expedition was as follows, From Evan's ferry, by the Indian trace to the Chota ford on the Tennessee river. Thence to the Tellico Plains, were we attacked and burnt the Indian towns, and destroyed their corn and provisions. Here several Indians were killed. Thence, crossing the Tellico river, we marched to the Hiwassee river, and there burnt a town. Thence up the river, crossing the Hiwassee, on to the Coosa river, where we burnt several towns. From the Big Swamp Spring on the Coosa river we returned by a rout nearer the mountain, and after being lost in the Chil-Howee [sic: Chilhowie] mountains, were at length safely piloted to the old trace, and by it returned home. This Declarant received a verbal discharge from his captain for this tour of three months,

in the month of November 1782. Captain Beane promised the men written discharges for their tours, upon their application for them. Declarant never believing that it would be of any service to him to get one, never applied for a written discharge. Declarant shortly after his return moved to Greene County, N.C. and this was one reason why he never got a discharge in writing and he never received any thing for either of these tours – each of them being a tour of three months. Major Russell was a Major in this expedition. There were no regulars employed in either of the tour, in which Declarant served. Declarant has no documentary evidence in regard to his services, nor does he know of any person living by whom he could prove his services. He hereby relinquishes his 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. Declarant would refer to the Reverend Henry Randolph and Mr. Willis Taylor who can be examined touching his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed this 25th day of June 1834

[signed] James Smith