

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Austin Smith S21986

fn17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/19/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of South Carolina Abbeville district: SS

On this 24th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before Richard Gantt Judge of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting for the District of Abbeville Austin Smith, a resident of said District of Abbeville and State aforesaid, aged sixty-nine 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 & served as herein stated.

That he was drafted for a three month tour & joined his company at Guilford Courthouse, the company commanded by Captain William Bethel, Richard Vernon Lieutenant, Robert Nelson Ensign, that he entered the service about the first of March 1780 and left the same about the 15th of June 1780, that he resided in Guilford County North Carolina when he entered the service. That he was drafted into the service at this time. That they rendezvoused at Guilford Courthouse & set out for Charleston South Carolina. That they passed through Saulsberry [sic, Salisbury], and from thence to Camden in South Carolina when they crossed the Wateree River from there they went to McCord's ferry on the Congaree River, thence passed the Eutaw Springs to Moncks Corner where they joined Colonel Washington's horse command with a remnant of Count Pulaski's Troop, that the next morning after they had joined Colonel Washington they were surprised by Colonel Tarton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] with the British dragoons & completely routed, that they afterwards collected & marched to Nelsons ferry on the Santee where we lay until General Caswell's Brigade of North Carolina Militia, we were joined about that time by a Regiment of Virginia Continentals Commanded by a Colonel Bluford [sic, Abraham Buford] and a Colonel Hawes [Lt. Col. Samuel Hawes], that he was attached to General Caswell's command and marched down the River to Duprees ferry where we lay and Colonel Bluford at Lenoirs ferry [sic, Leneud's ferry] above acting as a guard on the ferry, where we staid until we heard that the British had taken Charleston, when we broke up our camp and marched to Camden when we parted with Colonel Bluford & his command they took the road for Charlotte in North Carolina & General Caswell took the road for Hailey's ferry [Haley's Ferry] on Peedee [Pedee River] where we crossed the River and went to Cross Creek in North Carolina where we remained until our time of service expired.

That he again entered the service as a substitute in the place of one James Brown about the 20th of August 1780 for a three months tour of Militia service, that they rendezvoused at Guilford Courthouse, under the command of Captain Arthur Forbus [Arthur Forbis], Robert Moore was the Lieutenant of the company, Colonel John Paseley [sic, John Paisley] command Regiment, that he set out & marched from Salisbury thence towards Charlotte near which place they learnt that the British were advancing in great force, that they then fell back & crossed the Yadkin River and there remained till General Smallwood and General Morgan with the Maryland light infantry under Colonels Williams & Howard & Colonel Washington with his troop of light dragoons & also a brigade of North Carolina Militia under General Jones came him & joined them when they recrossed the Yadkin & marched through Salisbury and to a place in Mecklenburg County called Providence [New Providence] where we built tents, cleared out a parade ground and continued to train the Militia until our term of service expired, which was about the first of December 1780.

That he again entered the service as a drafted Militia man about the last of August 1781. That he entered on this occasion under a Lieutenant Peoples under the command of Colonel James Martain [sic, James Martin?], they rendezvoused at Guilford Courthouse and marched into Randolph County to keep in check a David Fanning who commanded the Tories in that part, where they were joined by the Surry Militia under Captain Humphreys, that they went to Rockfish Bridge where they joined General Rutherford's brigade of North Carolina Militia and General Butler [John Butler] with his command, that they continued to range the Country taking the Tories and intercepting the British at & near Wilmington, while here we were joined by a few old North Carolina Regulars under a Major Hogg that he continued in the service until about the middle of November 1781, when he was discharged and marched home.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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 & year aforesaid

In open Court.

Test S/ Jas. Wardlaw, Clk

S/ Austin Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Austin Smith". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The first name "Austin" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Smith".

[James Moore, a clergyman, and John Osborne gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

South Carolina Abbeville district: SS

Be it known that on the 10th day of June 1833 before me James A Black a Justice of Quorum in and for the District aforesaid personally appeared Austin Smith who is an applicant for a pension under the act of the 7th of June 1832 and made the following answers to the seven interrogatories prescribed by the war Department

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Chatham County North Carolina on the 4th day of March 1763

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have no record of my age other than an entry I made in my own Bible which I copied from my father's family Bible.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Guilford County North Carolina near Haw River, from whence I removed in 1785 to Abbeville District South Carolina where I now live

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I served 2 tours as a drafted Militia man and one as a substitute in the place of James Brown

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I was acquainted with a Colonel Bluford and a Colonel Haws who were officers commanding a Virginia Regiment who were in service with the troops where I served & from whom we had been but one day separated when their command was destroyed at a place called the Hanging Rock above Camden. I also knew Colonel Washington & Colonel White who, I think, commanded the first & third Regiment of Continental Cavalry, I served in the 3rd Regiment of North Carolina Militia commanded by Colonel James Brannon, for the general circumstances of my service I would refer to my declaration.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I did receive a discharge from General Davidson signed by himself and Captain Arthur Forbus as senior Captain of the Regiment it is lost as I never expected it would be of any use I therefore suffered it to be misplaced and cannot now find it. I also got a discharge signed by General Rutherford, Colonel James Martin as Colonel of the Regiment and Abraham Phillips for the 3rd tour I only got a certificate of my service signed by William Bethel the Captain with whom I served.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. I am acquainted with the Reverend James Moore, John Osborne, Joseph Black Esquire, James A. Black Esquire, James Wardlaw Esquire, Colonel Patrick Nobles and many others who could and would cheerfully testify as to their belief as to my service and also as to my veracity he further saith on his oath that he knows of no person now living that could testify as to his service as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed this day & year within written before me

S/ James A. Black, JQ

S/ Austin Smith

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 and two thirds months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]