

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Smith S32525

f68NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/16/09: rev'd 4/24/16

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina Cabarrus County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Cabarrus County October Term 1833

On this 21st day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Cabarrus County -- State of North Carolina now sitting -- Henry Smith, a resident of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, aged ninety-one, 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 -- "to wit:" -- "That on the 1st of March 1776 I raised a company in the County of Stokes North Carolina, (then Surry County) and was appointed Captain of the same. I received my commission from the "Council of Safety" -- then in Hillsboro NC -- I marched my men from Surry County under Colonel Armstrong [Martin Armstrong] -- & Colonel Williams [Joseph Williams] & Major Winston [Joseph Winston] to "Cross Creek" near Fayetteville North Carolina -- I was directed by Colonel Armstrong & Colonel Williams to raise this company, with other captains, under the authority of the "Council of Safety" -- The Tories having been defeated by Colonel Caswell [Richard Caswell],<sup>1</sup> we were, at Cross Creek dismissed by our officers & returned home. About the first of April 1776 -- I served as a Captain in an expedition four weeks. --

On or about the first of August or last of July of the same year -- 1776 -- in the same County Surry (now Stokes), I received orders from Colonel Armstrong to gather my company again -- which I did immediately, and we marched under Colonel Armstrong to Cubs Creek in Surry -- where orders were received for 300 men to be marched against the Cherokee Indians,<sup>2</sup> -- where I was unanimously elected by the men, it having been left to them by the Colonels as one of the Captains in this expedition -- There were three captains, Mosby [Samuel Mosbey] & Dobson [William Dobson] & myself -- with 100 men each -- we were marched under Colonel Williams through the mountains to the Long Islands of Holston River -- where we were all placed under General Christie [sic, William Christian] -- then we went to the "Indian Town" -- then to the "Beloved Town" where the officers & the Indians concluded a treaty -- we were then dismissed -- & we were marched back home under Colonel Williams -- I served in this

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<sup>1</sup> Veteran is referring to the Battle at Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776

[http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_moores\\_creek.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776\\_TN.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776_TN.html)

expedition 104 days -- (3 months & 14 days) as a Captain under the same commission from the "Council of Safety" --

On or about the first of November 1776 -- I again entered the service under Colonel Armstrong's orders -- from whom I received a commission as Captain -- under which I drafted a full company -- in the County of Surry -- I was marched, at the head of my company, from Richmond Town, in Surry, to Charlotte North Carolina where we were joined by Colonel Brevard [Hugh Brevard, Lt. Col. of the Burke County North Carolina militia] at the head of the draft from Rowan & Mecklenburg [Counties]. Our officers having gone on -- & directed me to bring on the late drafts -- we marched on together to Purrysburg on the Savannah River -- Where I met with General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Brigade -- and I was there placed under my proper officers again -- viz. -- General Rutherford -- Colonel Francis Locke. At Purrysburg we were detailed then placed under the command of Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle] & Major Nelson [John Nelson] of the Continental Army under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. We were then called & acted as "light infantry" -- I was placed in this service, as a Captain, at the head of a company, under these officers -- I marched under them up the River opposite to Augusta -- crossed the River there & went down the Georgia side to Briar Creek where we had an engagement and were defeated in March 1777 [sic, Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]<sup>3</sup> -- marched from Briar Creek to the Black Swamp in South Carolina where we were discharged on the 10th of April 1777. I served in this expedition five months exactly -- all the time as a Captain -- In crossing the River, which we had to swim, after the Battle of Briar [Creek], I lost my commission & other papers relating to my service -- We were discharged by General Rutherford, Colonel Lytle having given up the "light Infantry" after crossing the River --

Again, on the 5th or 6th of January, 1781, I was placed at the head of a company of volunteers as Captain -- having received my commission from Governor Caswell we marched to meet Colonel Morgan [Daniel Morgan] -- whom we met at the Cowpens -- on the 16th of January 1781 -- on the next morning (17th) we were in the battle of the Cowpens<sup>4</sup> -- we returned with the prisoners there taken to Salisbury North Carolina -- where we were permitted to be discharged. I served in actual service this tour 10 days -- as Captain --

Two weeks after the battle of Cowpens, I received a commission as Major in Colonel Armstrong's Regiment in the North Carolina line -- from Governor Caswell -- and I acted in that capacity during the War.

While Major I was frequently ordered to march against the Tories -- which I did -- At the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River] we had an engagement in the month of October 1781 [October 14, 1780]<sup>5</sup> -- against the Tories, under Colonel Wright [Gideon Wright], who was there killed -- and six[part of word missing] men -- It is impossible for me at this day to remember all the incidents of my service while Major -- as I was continually on the march -- scouting the country against the Tories -- I was not out of actual service in five years three months in all -- I served during the whole time either as Captain or Major -- I was Captain in various services from March 1776 -- to January 1781 -- when I was appointed a Major and served in that capacity on January 1776 [sic] -- to the End of the War -- I cannot now, recollect, from advanced age, the exact term of my service -- but I served at least four years & 10 months as a Captain -- and nine months as a Major -- and for that time I claim a pension -- a portion of this time I was in what was called minute or scouting service -- I was always called out by regular authority -- first by

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_cowpens.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_shallow\\_ford.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_shallow_ford.html)

the Council of Safety -- then by Colonel Armstrong -- My commissions and papers orders & letters relating to my service have all been destroyed -- first in crossing the River after the battle of Briar Creek -- and afterwards by a party of British, when Cornwallis lay at "Houser Town" in Surry [County] on his way to Guilford -- who robbed my house of all his property & papers -- I have no other documentary proof of my service -- I refer for proof of the same to depositions of living witnesses hereunto appended. I was born in the County of Lancaster Pennsylvania, on the 25th of December 1741. I was about 30 years old when I moved to the County of Surry North Carolina -- I now live in the County of Cabarrus where I have lived upwards of 40 years -- I refer to General Paul Barringer & John Robinson DD for proof of my character & the reputation of my service in the Revolutionary War -- I do hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State --

S/ Henry Smith, M his mark

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Questions propounded by the court to Henry Smith

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

A -- in Lancaster County Pennsylvania -- 25th December 1741

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

A -- My family Bible containing the same was destroyed by the British during the Revolutionary War. The Record made sense is here produced in Court --

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

A. -- When called into service I lived in Surry County North Carolina -- I lived there after the war -- and for the last 40 years I have lived in Cabarrus County North Carolina where I now live.

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

A. I acted always in the service as a Captain or Major -- and was ordered by my superior officers.

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

A. Colonel Lytle -- Major Nelson -- General Lincoln. I was at Cross Creek -- at Briar Creek -- at Cowpens -- at Shallow Ford -- against the Cherokee Indians -- I remember Colonel Washington [William Washington] -- Colonel Morgan & Colonel Howard [John Eager Howard].

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a commission and if so -- by whom was it given -- & what has become of it?

A. I was always commissioned -- first by the Council of Safety in North Carolina -- then by Colonel Armstrong -- then by Governor Caswell -- my commissions from the Council & from Armstrong were lost in the battle of Briar Creek -- & my other commissions destroyed by the British --

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

A. I refer to General Paul Barringer & John Robinson DD

S/ Henry Smith, M his mark

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
[John Robinson, a clergyman, and General Paul Barringer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Stokes County

On this 9th Day of August 1833 at Samuel Stewart's in said County personally appeared before me the Subscribing Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Frederick Binkley<sup>6</sup> aged Seventy-Seven & eight years and he being first sworn according to law deposeth & saith that he was well acquainted with Captain Henry Smith formerly of Surry County North Carolina and that said Smith acted as Captain commanding a Company of Militia in which this deponent served under him three Tours of duty in behalf of the United States, first a three months expedition against the Scotch Tories Insurrection about Fayetteville North Carolina in the [year] 1776, and in the fall of the same year to the Cherokee Nation against the Indians the first was three months & the next about five months at least and third was for a five months Tour to the South & at the battle of his Briar Creek on Savannah River where the British defeated our Army and this said Captain Smith with this Deponent remained in service at least six months before the day & Company returned home to Surry County aforesaid.

Given & subscribed the date first above written.

S Charles Banner, JP

S Frederick Binkley, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Stokes County

Personally appeared in open Court before me James Martin one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law & Equity for the State aforesaid, Jacob Helsepeck<sup>7</sup> Senior and being sworn according to law, declares on his oath that a certain Henry Smith formerly of Surry County in the State aforesaid did serve in the Revolutionary War as a Captain under whom he served a Tour of duty in the service of the United States for a term of five months & upwards & marched from the County of Surry to Savannah River in South Carolina man & at the time of the Battle of Briar Creek took place & further this Deponent has just reason to believe that the said Henry Smith commanded a Company of Militia as Captain on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians in the year 1776 and that he believes that the Services set forth in the said Captain Henry Smith's declaration is true, & that he is a credible man.

Sworn & subscribed this his affidavit this 17th October 1832

S/ Jacob Helsepeck, Sr., X his mark

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State of North Carolina Stokes County

Be it known that on this 12th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me Charles Banner one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County, Casper Stultz<sup>8</sup> an aged blind man a respectable man of veracity & truth a resident of the County aforesaid & a Pensioner on the Pension Roll of the United States, and he being first sworn according to law to declare

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<sup>6</sup> Sic, [Fridrik Binkey \(Binkley\) W4898](#)

<sup>7</sup> Sic, [Jacob Hilsabeck S7013](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Casper Stultz W4819](#)

what he knew of the services rendered to the United States in time of the Revolutionary War by a certain Captain Henry Smith formerly of Surry County North Carolina & now residing in the County of Cabarrus as he is informed, this deponent deposeth & saith on his oath that he believes that the aforesaid Captain Henry Smith to be upwards of ninety years of age, that he served a Tour of duty as a private Militia soldier under said Captain Smith three months & upwards in and Expedition against the Scotch Tories & marched with a full Company under his command from Surry County aforesaid to Fayetteville North Carolina he thinks this service was in the Spring of the year 1776, and afterwards in the fall of the same year he served a Tour of duty to the Cherokee Nation of Indians and a Company of Militia commanded by said Captain Smith in that expedition he thinks they served five months, the first Tour was at least three months --

Sworn and subscribed the date first above mentioned before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Casper Stults, Senr., X his mark

[p 63]

And on this 15th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me the subscribing Justice of the peace Ephraim Banner<sup>9</sup> aged about eighty years a man of the first character for veracity & truth who deposeth & saith on oath that he was well acquainted with Captain Henry Smith who acted as a faithful friend & patriot for his Country as a Captain of a Militia Company in the County of Surry North Carolina during the Revolutionary War that this deponent served a Tour of duty in the same Regiment with the aforesaid Captain Smith when said Smith commanded a company to the long Islands of Holston [River] & to the Cherokee Nation of Indians in the expedition of 1776 against same and afterwards he has just reason to believe that said Captain Smith commanded Companies at divers times against the British & Tories to Fayetteville in North Carolina & to South Carolina. Sworn & subscribed before me the day above written.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/Ephraim Banner, X his mark

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North Carolina Stokes County

On this 15th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the Peace in & for said County, Captain John Ward<sup>10</sup> an aged old Respectable Citizen of the first veracity for character & truth & he being sworn according to law deposeth & saith that he served a Tour of service under Captain Henry Smith in the time of the Revolutionary War sometime he thinks in the year 1778 or 79 in the service of the United States in and Expedition from Surry County North Carolina & marched into South Carolina to or near Savannah River this Tour of service was set out for five months & this deponent has just reason to believe that his Captain aforesaid served honorably as Captain aforesaid the full Term of five months if not more -- Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first above written before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ John Ward



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<sup>9</sup> [Ephraim Banner W3923](#)

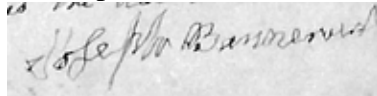
<sup>10</sup> [John Ward W9872](#)

[p 64]

And on 17 October 1833 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Stokes in North Carolina Joseph Banner Senior<sup>11</sup> aged about eighty-three years a man of Respectable Character & Entry Taker of Lands of said County he being sworn according to law deposeth & saith on his oath that he was well acquainted with Captain Henry Smith during the Revolutionary War, that they lived in about five miles of each other for a number of years in the then Surry County North Carolina that the said Captain Henry Smith acted & performed his duty on all occasions many expeditions whenever called on as a Militia Captain in the service of the United States that he is Deponent served in the same Regiment under the command of Colonel Jo Williams with said Henry Smith who commanded a full company of Militia Soldiers in the year 1776 from Surry County North Carolina to the long Islands of Holston River thence to the Cherokee Nation of Indians a distance of nearly three hundred and fifty miles mostly through a wilderness & previous to that expedition he served about four weeks in the same Regiment from Surry County aforesaid to Wilkes County North Carolina and then returned home & took a new start to the Indian Nation aforesaid. Sworn & subscribed the date above mentioned before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Joseph Banner, Senior



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State of North Carolina Stokes County

Be it remembered that on the 7th day of October 1833 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Benjamin Jones<sup>12</sup> an aged Respectable Citizen & Pensioner of the United States and made Oath in due form of law, that he was well acquainted with a certain Captain Henry Smith formerly a resident of Surry County North Carolina: that said Captain Smith commanded as such for and during the whole of the Revolutionary War, and that this deponent served a Tour of five months as a private Militia Soldier in the same Regiment with said Smith, from Surry County aforesaid to Savannah River and South Carolina & in the Battle with him against the British at Bryer Creek [sic, Briar Creek] near said River on the South side thereof, the date he cannot recollect = but afterwards Smith was Major.

Sworn and subscribed the day & year last above mentioned before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Benjamin Jones, X his mark

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Lewis Wolff<sup>13</sup> an aged Pensioner of Stokes County North Carolina being duly Sworn according to law deposeth and saith on his oath that he marched as a musician Fifer under the command of the above named Henry Smith in the spring of the year 1776 from Surry County North Carolina to Fayetteville North Carolina in pursuit of the Scotch Tories that in this

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<sup>11</sup> [Joseph Banner W9716](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Benjamin Jones S7076](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Lewis Wolf \(Wolff\)\[a/k/a Johann Ludwig Wolff\] W4403](#)

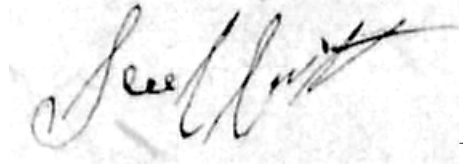
expedition said Captain commanded a full company & he believes served a three months Tour & returned home and the succeeding all from or fall of the year said Smith commanded a Company as Captain aforesaid against the Cherokee Indians when this deponent started with said company but hired a man as a substitute who served in his place, and afterwards said Smith returned home & served in the same capacity as Captain in a number of expeditions against the British & Tories.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 26th day of October 1833

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Lewis Wolff, X his mark

[p 13: On May 27 1850 in Gilmer County Georgia, Jacob Smith filed an application as the son of Captain Henry Smith for the amount due his father as a Captain in the revolution; he states that his father died the 28th day of August 1835 in Cabarrus County North Carolina.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jacob Smith", written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is somewhat stylized and occupies the left side of the block.

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[p 17: power of attorney given in Rowan County North Carolina and dated February 12, 1852, given by George Smith on behalf of the heirs of Henry Smith, to wit, George Smith, Jacob Smith & Phebe Barnhart.

852. A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Smith", written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is somewhat stylized and occupies the left side of the block.

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[p 34: certificate dated April 30, 1850 issued by the Comptroller's office in Raleigh North Carolina showing payments made to Captain Henry Smith during the revolution.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$525 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 and ending August 28, 1835 when he died. His pension was calculated on the basis of his service as a Captain for 15 months and as a major for 9 months in the Surry County North Carolina militia.]