

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

Pension Application of William Smothers S38375

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 Aug 2021.

Virginia

Cumberland County, towit:

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 1824 personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of record) for the County aforesaid, William Smothers, resident in said County, aged sixty five years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820, that he, the said William Smothers enlisted for the term of [illegible word] year, on the [blank] day of [blank] in the year 1781, in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Capt. Stephen Southall [BLWt2082-200] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Harrison [VAS1411], in the line of the state of Virginia in the Virginia Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in said Corps until the close of the war, when he was discharged from the service in Richmond in the State of Virginia, that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, except the present, that his name is not on the [pension] roll of any state except that of Virginia, and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension; towit that he was illiterate himself, and had no friend who would urge his claim and take the necessary steps towards obtaining it; that he twice engaged a lawyer to attend to it, each of whom after disappointing him for a long time finally did nothing. — And in pursuance of the act of May 1<sup>st</sup> 1820 I do solemnly swear, that I was a resident citizen of the United States, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled, “An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war,” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed so help me god. Schedule of property belonging to William Smothers, towit: one cow, three shoats, two sows, one pine chest, one pot, one Dutch oven, one loom, six chairs, one pine table, six plates, six knives and forks, one dish, one flax wheel, one cotton wheel, one hanking reel, two axes, two hilling hoes, two plough hoes, one pair wedges, and four acres of land: his occupation is that of a labourer, and his ability to pursue it depends principally on his health, which is as good as that of most persons of his age; and that the only person of his family is his wife, Nancy, who is about fifty years of age, and can only attend to the affairs of the house. That since the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 no changes have been made in his property, except of a very trivial nature.

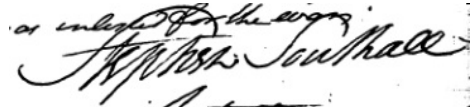
Wm hisXmark Smothers

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Richmond March 6<sup>th</sup> 1784

I do Certify that Wm Smothers was a Soldier in the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Reg't Arty [artillery] & Continued until the end of the War and was enlisted for the war.

Stephen Southall  
Artillery

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen Southall". Above the signature, there is a faint, partially legible phrase that appears to be "as witness of the war". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Albemarle Old Courthouse lists the following: William Smothers/ age 19/ height 5' 3½ "/ black hair/ yellow eyes/ black complexion/ planter/ born in Albemarle County/ residing in Powhatan County/ enlisted for 18 months. Sized on 8 Mar 1782.

The 1820 federal census lists William Smothers as head of a household of “Free Colored Persons.”