

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Smith S3930

fn15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/21/11

[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 Tennessee Davidson County: SS

On this first day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions for the State and County aforesaid now sitting, George Smith, a resident of said County, & State, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration.

That he was born on the eighth day of February 1761 in the County of Wake, State of North Carolina, his age as stated he is not confident is correct (though he believes it is) as he is guided altogether by recollection and what he has heard his mother say some ten or twelve years ago. At the age of sixteen, he entered into the service of his Country, as a drafted militia man of the County of Wake North Carolina under Captain Bryant who marched the militia of said County from the Courthouse to [indecipherable word] General Butler [John Butler], at Salisbury in the State of North Carolina. After we met him, part of the militia of our County, including applicant, was dispatched from Salisbury by General Butler, under the command of Colonel William Moore. After arriving at Charlotte the place of our destination, we during six weeks performed the duties of a scouting party, & at the end of which time returned back to Salisbury, & were there dismissed by Captain Bryant, that is, the militia man of the County of Wake. Applicant received a discharge from General Butler, which with the others (to be mentioned hereafter) was destroyed by fire in the house of his father in South Carolina. As he was a young man when he performed all of his service, he invariably handed over to his father the discharges which he received. He enlisted and served this his first tour three months. The second time he was served as a volunteer from Wake County in a company of light-horsemen whose object was to harass and watch the Tories of that and the neighboring Counties. This kind of service he underwent for three months, the time for which he enlisted, & was discharged, receiving from Captain Mayban, the Captain of the Company a discharge. The third term was served as a drafted militia man of Wake County under Colonel Wooten, of the same County who marched us from the Courthouse of said County to Salisbury first, where we met some other companies, of the adjoining Counties with whom we marched across to Camden, but did not arrive, as was our intention, until after the battle had taken place, – we lay at Camden something like a week, and from thence marched across to Pedee [River] in North Carolina, & after crossing Pedee River, we stopped on a little Creek called Drownden Creek [sic, probably a mistaken reference to

Drowning Creek], & from thence to Hillsboro, where after staying five or six days were dismissed: Applicant received also a third discharge from Captain Wooten. He enlisted for three months & served that time.

His fourth time was as a volunteer light-horsemen – Similar to his second tour, before related, only under different Officers; the fourth being under Captain Trent, Captain of the Company. After taking a few men called Tories & putting them in confinement, Applicant, with the rest of the Company was discharged, receiving from Captain Trent a discharge for three months service, the time of his enlistment & service.

The fifth tour was performed in the manner following. He enlisted on Pedee River, under a certain Captain Bugg, and at the time of enlistment received from Bugg a furlough, & upon this returned home, saw his father, mother &c &c returned back to Hillsboro, the place where he was to meet said Bugg – upon his arrival here, Captain Bugg did not make his appearance. He was advised that as he had been enlisted, he was compelled to serve under the Colonel of the Regiment, to which Bugg's Company was attached. He understood that that Regiment was stationed in Georgia under Colonel Jackson, & as some of his neighbors & friends were about moving to Georgia, he concluded to accompany them. When he came into Georgia, at the Fort situated at the mouth of Broad River, where it empties itself into the Savannah [River], he met with General Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] (the Governor of Georgia) & asked his advice, as to what course he ought to pursue in relation to his serving under Colonel Jackson, the commander of the Regiment to which said Bugg's Company was to serve under – General Clark told him, that he was going to Augusta, & if he would wait at the Fort he would see Colonel Jackson on the subject. He afterwards received from General Clark, a furlough or leave of absence, until his services should be called for. The furlough was signed by Colonel Jackson. He then returned back to Wade [sic, Wake] County, to his home, and was never afterwards called upon. In making this Attempt to get into Service, he spent about two months. He enlisted for twelve months under Captain Bugg.

It will appear that his (applicant's) actually served twelve months: and for the two months last spoken of he does not expect he is entitled to anything. However, he has stated it, under the impression that if nothing is allowed him for it, it can do no harm. He served often & on, during three years, from his first enlistment; and until peace was concluded between the Government and that of Great Britain. And peace was established, or at least all hostile operations were suspended when he left Hillsboro for Georgia, & the furlough he received of General Clark, was in consequence of the expected termination of the war: though applicant was ignorant of this at the time.

During the whole of his service, he never saw any of our distinguished Officers. He saw at Salisbury General Butler – and his Officers before enumerated – such as Captain Trent (Mabin, Bryant & Colonel Wooten – And there was but one remarkable circumstance which transpired, that has riveted his attention – whilst we were encamped on Drowden Creek [Drowning Creek], in applicant's third tour, his canteen was shot from his side, while he was out doing duty as a Sentinel. After the war was ended, Applicant moved to the State of Georgia, where he resided about twenty years, and from thence moved to East Tennessee where he lived three years & moved from thence to Robertson County, in this State of East Tennessee – From Robertson County (where he lived seven or eight years.) He moved to this County, where he has resided ever since, which has been for the last thirteen or fourteen years. He has no written evidence of his age: though as he has already stated, he believes he will be seventy-two years of age the 8 of this present month February.

He knows of no person by whom he can prove his service.

For his character, he refers to the Governor of the State, His Excellency William Carroll, William Lytle of our State legislature, to E. H. Foster, our Senator in Congress Felix Grundy Esquire.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court February first 1833

Test S/ Henry Ewing, Clerk

S/ Geo. Smith, X his mark

[Richard Pepper, a clergyman, and Daniel Buie gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

George Smith of Davidson County a soldier of the Revolution who made his declaration in the County court Davidson: on the first of February 1833 – under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, in order to obtain a pension, having received his declaration returned by the Commissioners of Pensions, for the informality of not having answered in writing the interrogatories required by the War Department – this day appeared in open court and answers said interrogatories as follows.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born & raised in Wake County North Carolina – and to the best of my information I was born on the 8th day of February 1761 – but I have no written evidence of the day.

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

Answer. I have no record of my age other than what my mother has told me.

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 lived in Wake County North Carolina when called into service, and remained there until the close of the war. I lived somewhere about twenty-five years in the State of Georgia, and the remainder in the State of Tennessee – and am now a resident of Davidson County Tennessee.

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

Answer. I was first drafted for three months – then volunteered in the light horse and served for three months more. I again volunteered for three months – drafted again and served for three months and then enlisted under Captain Bugg in Colonel Jackson's Regiment for twelve months – but am going to Hillsboro the place of rendezvous, said Bugg did not make his appearance. I then went into Georgia, as I was informed I would have to serve my time of enlistment under the Colonel of the Regiment to which Bugg's Company was attached – in Georgia I received a furlough from General Clark until my services should be called for.

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.

Answer. I knew Captain Hunt who was a Regular officer in the service of the US. I do not now recollect of any other Regular Officer that I could name. I recollect the militia Regiment of General Butler and Colonel Wooten, but do not recollect any other – was the general circumstances of my services I refer you to the 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?

Answer. I did receive a discharge from the service – one from General Butler – one from

Colonel Wooten – one from Captain John Trent and another from Captain Mebane – but they were all burnt when my father's house was destroyed by fire.

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.

For evidence of my character for veracity, and a belief that I served in the Revolutionary war – I refer you to His Excellency William Carroll Governor of the State. William Lytle of the Legislature – to E H Foster Esquire and to our Senator in Washington Felix Grundy Esquire and to the certificates of the Reverend Richard Pepper and Daniel Buie Esquire

Sworn to in open Court by George Smith May 27 1833

S/ Jacob W./ Govock [?], Clk

S/ George Smith, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the cavalry and 6 months service as a private in the infantry of the North Carolina militia.]