

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

Pension Application of Obadiah Smith S3938

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee

County of Jefferson

September 11th 1832

On this eleventh day of September personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting, Obadiah Smith a resident in the County of Jefferson and State of Tennessee, 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 eighteen hundred and thirty two.

That the Deponent, Obadiah Smith, was born the first day of March Seventeen hundred and sixty three in the County of Powhatan State of Virginia, whence he removed with his Grandfather at the age of fourteen years to the County of Buckingham in the Same State, where he lived twenty six years – and then removed to Hawkins County, State of Tennessee where he lived six months – then removed to Jefferson County, State of Tennessee, where he has lived ever since. In the year 1780 in the month of May, day not recollected, this deponent was drafted at Buckingham Court house, County of Buckingham, Virginia, under Captain John Chambers; He was marched three miles beyond William Basdill's tavern in company with three other companys, where they halted, and two of the companies marched on to the South, and the other two, of which Capt Chambers' was one, marched back to Buckingham Court House where the companies remained one week when this Deponent was marched under Captain Silas Watkins – Capt Chambers giving place to Watkins, who took the command of deponents company – Wm. Cannon [William Cannon] commanded the other company. The Deponent was marched under Capt. Watkins down the South side of James River through Cumberland County, crossed James River at the pointed fork [sic: Point of Fork at the confluence of James and Rivanna rivers] in said County, and down said river to New Kent Court House where the companies remained ten or twelve days. Thence was marched down the River to Newsom Spring, where they remained upward of two weeks, then marched to the Burnt church, where they remained a week – then turned back about fifteen miles and marched down the north side of the River to Bottom's Bridge on a creek emptying into the river, called Chickahomona Swamp [sic: Chickahominy Swamp], remained there eight or ten days – thence marched down the river to Mobbing Hills [sic: Malvern Hill, 15 mi SE of Richmond], where the Companies remained untill the expiration of their term of service of three months – when they returned home after getting discharges from the Captains. This Deponent returned back about 100 miles, when he took the place of John Simpson in the Company of Captain Daniel Mosely, who was marching on the Mobbing Hills, Deponent was marched pursuing the same rout as before. At Burnt Church Capt Mosely's Company joind General [Robert] Lawson's brigade who were there. The Deponent does not recollect the names of the Lieutenants or ensign under Capt Watkins. the orderly Sergeant was Richard Phelps. Nor does he recollect the names of the lieutenants and Ensign under Capt Mosely. This Deponent remained at Mobbing Hills under Captain Mosely untill the expiration of the term of service, and was discharged by his Captain in the month of October or November – after a service of two tours of three months each. This Deponent returned home and in the following Spring in April or May, day not recollected, was again drafted at Buckingham Court House under Captain Silas Watkins. Lieutenants and Ensign not recollected except lieutenant John Banks – Richard Phelps Orderly Sergeant – This was Captain Watkins' second tour. In April or May 1781 The Deponent was marched under Captain Watkins to Prince Edward Court House, where the Militia were under Command of General Lawson – Colonels [St. George] Tucker, and [John] Holcomb, Majors Duvall [probably Samuel Duval] and Holcomb and Parnell were some of the officers of the Militia. There were no

regulars. Thence was marched under Gen'l. Lawson to the pointed fork on James River, where we crossed the river – then down the river and crossed the river above Richmond and marched to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] leaving Richmond to the left – Crossed the Appomatoch [sic: Appomattox River] at Petersburg – thence on to Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County] thence to Jamestown crossing the river there; at Jamestown had a skirmish with the British, in which one of our men was wounded and we understood the Enemy lost several men. Thence on to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] where the Brigade stayed a few days and then joined the American Army under the command of General Washington at Little York, where Lord Cornwallis was besieged in 1781 [28 Sep - 19 Oct]. This deponent was at the Siege of York until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. Captain Watkins went home, and Captain William Giles was put in command of our Company – or rather some of Capt Watkins' men returning home on account of sickness – the remnant of our Company was joined to Capt. Giles' company – whose lieutenant was Alexander McClardy – and in Capt Giles' company the Deponent served throughout the Siege of York and after the Surrender was marched under Gen'l. Lawson with the prisoners four miles beyond Winchester where we remained until the Militia from the adjoining counties could be collected in sufficient force to guard the prisoners. In the month of November 1781 this deponent was discharged, after a service of six months, by Capt Wm. Giles. The deponent has no documentary evidence in regard to his service, nor does he know of any person living, from whom he could procure the testimony as to his service. This Deponent 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.

Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Powhatan, State of Virginia, on the first day of March seventeen hundred and sixty three.

Question 2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have a record of my age in a book at home.

Question 3. 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 Buckingham County when called into service – Since the war, I have lived in Buckingham County, Virginia, and Jefferson County, Tennessee, where I now live.

Question 4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, were you a substitute or did you volunteer, and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was drafted the first tour under Captain Watkins – the Second I was a substitute in Capt. Daniel Mosely's Company for John Simpson. My tour to the Siege of York I was drafted under Capt. Watkins.

Question 5. State the names of some of the regular officers, who were with the troops where you served.

Answer. There were no regular troops where I served except at little York where Gen. Washington commanded This deponent recollects him and Baron Steuben – and others whose names he cannot now call to mind.

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

Answer. I received two discharges one from Capt Watkins and the other from Capt. Giles – both of which I have lost, where I cannot tell.

Question. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Answer. The deponent would refer to Jacob Gear Esquire[?] and Captain Dan'l. Witt and Thomas R Steerman who may be examined touching his character for veracity and services in the War of

Independence

[signed] Obadiah Smith