

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Christopher Smith S39845

A1159/1176 RI

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

9/21/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[A image 1162]

On this twelfth day of June A.D. 1820 personally appeared Christopher Smith of Scituate in the County of Providence in said District, in said Court, being a Court of record, who being first duly sworn, doth, on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision of the Act of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 & May 1<sup>st</sup> 1820. That in the month of September 1779 he enlisted as a mariner on board the frigate *Providence*,<sup>1</sup> under the command of Commodore Abraham Whipple,<sup>2</sup> a vessel then lying in Boston & in the service of the United States for the Cruise – that said vessel in the month of November following sailed on a cruise in company with other vessels & arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, in December following – soon after our arrival in Charleston, that city was besieged by the enemy & on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1780 surrendered to the enemy,<sup>3</sup> when the squadron was taken and the crews made prisoners of war. And this Applicant further says that he was made a prisoner of war & so continued until he was exchanged which was not until August following – when he was released & returned home, having been gone about 11 months – And in pursuance of the Act of the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, , 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 provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land

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<sup>1</sup> Providence, 28 guns, 1777-1780. GWA: 701, ND3:90, 902, ND4:1194, ND5:367, 1172, ND6:1399, ND7:1304, ND8:28, ND9:922, ND10:823, Capt Samuel Tomkins, mid 1776. Connor: 167 fn (1878), Buel: 87, Smith:80, 170, 245, 249, ND11:723, DaviesXIII:71, Fowler:107-110, Continental Navy frigate, 28 guns, Capt Abraham Whipple in 1777, operated in English waters in 1778. FW3: 836, Smith: 247, SchV: 54, Blatchford: 101, this frigate was placed at the harbor entrance to protect Charleston in 1780, but was later captured there 12 May 1780. C333-334, it had been the flagship for Capt Abraham Whipple. Manley: 95, it was put in service in the British navy, then sold 14 Mar 1784. Ford 1778: 29, 1779:1342, Ford1780: 584. JA5: 126, 6: 358, 7: 150, 8:28, 9: 224, others. Davies XIII: 71ii. Volo: 90, 91, 132, Silverstone: 3. Paullin: 516, served 1775-1779. Chapelle: 73, 96. Coggins 203, <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20P.html>

See also: [https://threedecks.org/index.php?display\\_type=show\\_ship&id=2421](https://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_ship&id=2421)

<sup>2</sup> <http://gaspee.org/AbrahamWhipple.html> Whipple served as Commodore of a fleet consisting of the Frigates *Boston*, *Charleston* and *Providence* as well as the sloops of war, *Ranger* and *Queen of France*. See, [W23633 William Blunt](#); [W22231 George T. Sloan \(Sloane\)](#) and [S32836 William Hill](#)

<sup>3</sup> Battle of Charleston [city fell to the British May 12, 1780] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/> & <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>

and 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

Christopher Smith<sup>4</sup>

Schedule of the property of Christopher Smith Viz. – 16 acres of poor wood land, 1 3-year-old mare, 1 horse wagon, with a Bank process served on them for two hundred twenty dollars and interest and costs thereon accrued, 1 Cow, 1 2-year-old heifer, 1 calf, 1 old lame horse, 2 shoats, 1 old light wagon & old harness, 1 Gun, 6 old chairs, 1 old desk, 1 old clock, 1 old watch, 1 old Chest, 1 pair iron dogs, 1 hoe, 1 axe, 1 old sleigh, some few old barrels & hogsheads – other than the above I have no property whatever of any description. And the declarant further says that he is involved in debt for upwards of five hundred eighty dollars, that he has owing to him upwards of three hundred dollars, the greater part of which he never expects to receive – that he is unable by bodily infirmities to labor – that he has a wife aged 62, a very infirm woman dependent on him, and should he not receive a pension he would have to depend on the charity of others.

Christopher Smith

[the court valued the veteran’s property at \$87.50]

[image 1165]

The Deposition of Elijah Aldrich of Foster in the County of Providence & State of Rhode Island, who being engaged according to law testifies & says – that he was formally a Marine on board the Frigate *Providence* a Vessel of war in the United States service & commanded by Commodore Abraham Whipple & for his services while on board he has received a certificate for a pension –

And this Deponent further testifies that he will remembers Christopher Smith of Scituate in said County who was a Marine on board said Frigate also – during all the time this Deponent was -- when said vessel lay in Boston said Smith & this deponent in the month of September 1779, entered on board said vessel pretty nearly at the same time, said Smith had been on board but two or three weeks when this deponent entered – In November following we sailed on a cruise & arrived in Charleston in December following, where we lay until that city was taken by the enemy when this deponent and all the crew were made prisoners of war – In June 1780, we went on board a Cartel for Philadelphia where I arrived in July – but just before we arrived said Smith was taken sick & was taken on shore at the hospital at Chester just below Philadelphia, where I left him. I got home the latter part of July, but it must have been this latter part of August before the said Smith could have got home – both this deponent & the said Smith belonged to the Marines on board & this deponent knows that said Smith never failed to do his duty unless prevented sometimes by sickness

S/ Elijah Aldrich

Affirmed 210 November 1820

[image 1166]

The Deposition of Christopher Hill of Providence in the County of Providence who being engaged according to law, on oath testifies & says that he was a Gunner’s Yeoman on board the Frigate *Providence* under the command of Abraham Whipple Esquire in the Revolutionary War –

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<sup>4</sup> The signature of accompanying this document is not the signature of the veteran since the document is a certified copy of the records kept in the local clerk's office.

that he enlisted in September 1779, and continued on board until the Frigate was taken by the enemy at the surrender of Charleston in May following when all the crews were made prisoners of war & so continued until exchanged –

And this Deponent further testifies that when he entered on board said vessel, then lying in Boston, he well remembers that Christopher Smith now of Scituate in said County was on board also – said Smith was a Marine on board and so continued during the following cruise and until the Frigate was taken as aforesaid – After the Frigate was taken said Smith was made a prisoner of war & so continued until he was exchanged –

And this Deponent further testifies that sometime after the surrender of Charleston he & the said Christopher Smith were put on board the same Cartel & sent to Philadelphia, where they both arrived – After the arrival of the Cartel said Christopher & this Deponent were separated & he saw no more of him until after the war – this Deponent was on board said vessel & a prisoner of war between ten & eleven months & the said Christopher must have been on board and a prisoner about the same length of time

Christopher Hill

[attested December 16, 1820 in Providence]

[image 1173]

I John Eddy<sup>5</sup> of Foster in the County of Providence and State of Rhode Island Being of Lawful age and engaged according to Law do testify and Say that I entered as a Marine on board the Frigate *Providence* on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 1779 then Lying at Boston and Commanded by Commodore Abraham Whipple and Served on board Said Frigate until the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 1780 and Christopher Smith was on board Said Frigate at the time I entered and Served as a Marine on board Said Frigate as Long as I did and the Said Smith was on board when the said Frigate was taken at Charlestown in South Carolina and when I came home I Left Said Smith Sick at Philadelphia further the Deponent saith not.

S/ John Eddy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Eddy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Attested January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1821]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$8 per month commencing June 12, 1820, for service as a mariner on board the Frigate *Providence* for 10 months]

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<sup>5</sup> W14105