

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Smith S7534

fn16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/28/11

[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 North Carolina Bladen County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1833

On this the ___ day of ___ A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful William H Beatty, John Owen, & Robert Lyon, Justices of the Peace for the County of Bladen, holding the Court of Please & Quarter Sessions for said County, now sitting – William Smith, a resident of Bladen County, North Carolina, aged seventy-five 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 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

1. He entered the service as a volunteer in a company of Bladen Militia of which William Ellis was Captain, and James Johnston Lieutenant, the Ensign not recollected, in the month of February 1776. The Company rendezvoused at Turnbull Bridge – but he and several other man did not arrive there, until a large portion of the Company under Captain Ellis had proceeded on to join General Caswell's command – whereupon they followed on, and when they arrived at Colley Bridge they were informed that Captain Ellis had left directions for them to repair to Elizabethtown and report themselves to General Moore, who with a considerable force had just returned from Rockfish, and were proceeding towards Wilmington, for the relief of that place threatened with an attack by the Tories under McDonald & McLeod – they marched with General Moore's command to the North of the North West River, where information was received of the defeat of the Tories at Moore's Creek bridge, upon which they were marched back to Elizabeth town and discharged. He was in service a fortnight, or more, received no written discharge. There were several companies of Bladen Militia attached to General Moore's command, and he was said to be a Continental officer, and that he had some Continental troops under his command.
2. Shortly after (sometime in the spring) volunteered as a private in Captain Ellis Company, on an expedition against the Tories to the upper part of Cumberland & Bladen and the lower part of more under a man by the name of Legget – who was taken prisoner, and most of his men came in and reported themselves to Captain Samuel came of Bladen – after which the company marched to Fayetteville & were there discharged having served 5 weeks, he received no written discharge, there were other troops from Bladen & adjoining County, but they were with Captain Ellis

Company only a day or 2, and he has no recollection of the names of any of the officers.

2. [sic,3.] He entered the service short time after in his same company under the same Officers – he marched from Turnbull Bridge to Jumping Run below Wilmington, and joined the Bladen Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Robeson, & Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Brown. There were several other Regiments said to be from adjoining Counties – there were also a few Continental Troops but does not recollect the name of any Continental officer – the married men were divided into classes, and called out alternately for 8 months – but he was unmarried, and served at least 5 months, if not longer – The Troops were stationed sometimes at Jumping Run, and sometimes at Caswell's Camps. He does not recollect to have received any written discharge.

3. [sic, 4.] Near the close of the War (he thinks in the year 1782) he marched as a volunteer to the lower part of Bladen, on an expedition against the Tories – in Captain Allison's Company – they had several slight skirmishes with the Tories – took several prisoners – and at last succeeded in driving them off – Lewis Avery of Captain Ellis's Company was killed & Thomas Avery wounded. Having served a fortnight, they were verbally discharged – and immediately on their return home they went on another expedition against the Tories into New Hanover but did not meet with them – after being in service a fortnight they were verbally discharged – On those 2 expeditions no other Troops served with them.

After this he served, 3 weeks, with 2 or 3 others of Ellis's Company and men from some other Companies of Bladen militia in guarding the jail at Elizabethtown, where a number of Tories were confined – at the expiration of the time, was directed to return home.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no one whose testimony he can procure, except James Cain & Archibald McDaniel whose affidavits are hereunto annexed.

He hereby relinquishes 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Test: S/ P. Kelly

S/ Wm Smith, X his mark

Answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, as propounded to the applicant by the Court.

1. I was born on **and** in Bladen – January 25th 1758
2. That is a record of my age in my brother Thomas Smith's Bible.
3. I resided during the revolutionary War and have resided ever since Bladen County.
4. I was a volunteer.
5. For answer to this Question, I beg leave to refer to my declaration.
6. I do not recollect to have received any written discharges.
7. Robert Melvin, Musgrove Jones, Samuel Pharis, James Cain, Archibald McDaniel and Daniel Melvin Senior.

[Robert Melvin & Musgrove Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Court of Pleas & camcorder Sessions – May Term 1833

Personally appeared in open court before the worshipful William H Beatty, John Owen, and Robert Lyon Justices of the Peace for the County of Bladen, holding said Court Archibald McDaniel,¹ who after being duly sworn according to law – deposeth and saith, that he served during the revolutionary War, with the Declarant William Smith, on an expedition to Jumping Run below Wilmington – but does not know how long he served, as he left the said Smith in

¹ [Archibald McDaniel R6676](#)

service – and he did not return home, for four or five months after – He also served an expedition against the Tories, under Legget, into Cumberland and Moore Counties, and they were about five weeks – and he also served four weeks with said Smith on two expeditions against the Tories, down the Cape Fear River in Bladen, and into New Hanover.

S/ Arch'd McDaniel, X his mark

State of North Carolina Bladen County

On this the 28th day of August in the year 1833 James Cain Senior² after having been duly sworn according to law maketh oath before me Robert Melvin one of the justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, that he acted during the revolutionary war as first Sergeant in Captain William Ellis's Company of Bladen Militia, & that he applicant William Smith was a Private in said company, and that this affiant acted with him on several expeditions against the common enemy but owing to the decay of this affiant's memory, he cannot particularize any of those services except the following – to wit – an expedition to jumping Run below Wilmington & to the lower end of Bladen and the upper end of New Hanover counties, on which expedition a man by the name of Avery killed – for the cause above mentioned he does not recollect how long the said Smith served in either expedition.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Attest: S/ R. Melvin, JP

S/ James Cain, Senior, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.44 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 1/3 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

² [James Cain W5891](#)