

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Smith S7541¹

f50NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/20/11: rev'd 1/9/17

[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' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina County of Wayne: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

On this first day of October personally appeared before J. J. Daniel Judge of the Superior Court of Law for the County of Wayne, Benjamin Smith a resident of said County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-three 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 Army of the United States on September 17, 1777 as Substitute for his brother Josiah Smith who enlisted and afterwards being about to contract matrimony procured Declarant to go in his place. That he joined at Kinston North Carolina the 10th Regiment of North Carolina line – under command of Colonel Abram Sheppard² – Major ___ Sheppard – Captain A. Sheppard and Lieutenant William Sheppard. That at the time of entering the service he was a resident of Dobbs County now called Wayne. That under command of these officers he was conducted to George Town [Georgetown] in Maryland – thence to Valley Forge in Pennsylvania – and joined there the Army of General Washington which was in Winter Quarters. At Valley Forge the 10th Regiment of North Carolina line was reduced to the First & Second Regiment North Carolina line – and Declarant was placed in the Second Regiment North Carolina line under Captain John Ingalls [sic, John Ingles or Ingles] – Colonel John Patton, Lieutenant Colonel Harney [Selby Harney], Major Murphy [probably, Hardy Murfree] – Lieutenant Arthur Cotgraves. From Valley Forge Declarant was marched to Monmouth New Jersey – and was engaged in the battle of that place 28 June 1778. Thence marched after burying our dead to White Plains New York where he was quartered till September following was then marched to Tanbury [sic, Danbury] Connecticut near which place he remained encamped a few days and thence was marched back to New Jersey and passed the winter at Paramus a Dutch Settlement to guard the town [?]. Early the following spring declarant was ordered to Kings Firy [Kings Ferry?] on the Audson [Hudson River] and was employed in building a fortification at Stony Point on the West side of that River from which labor they were driven by the British Fleet back to West Point – at which place he remained till the next fall. He was thence ordered to South Carolina passing through George Town in Maryland – crossing the Potomac [River] on the ice– thence to Richmond Virginia thence across James River to Petersburg, thence to Halifax North Carolina crossing the Roanoke [River] – thence to Tarboro – thence to Wilmington North

¹ A note in a modern handwriting on the cover sheet reads: "res [resided] at ?[looks like, "lul"] Dobbs Co., NC, where he res [resided] in 1832 when it was called Wayne Co., then 70 year old d. [died] Feb. 23, 1840."

² This family's surname is spelled variously as "Shephard," "Shepperd," etc.

Carolina – thence along the seacoast to Charleston was there placed under General Lincoln – At Charleston besieged by General Clinton Declarant was made prisoner and retained prisoner almost fourteen months – when he was exchanged the 2nd day of July 1781 then sailed from Charleston to James Town [Jamestown] under flag of truce – thence marched to Williamsburg and stayed there two weeks – thence to New Castle on Pamunky River [Pamunkey River] in Virginia, thence to Richmond where he was discharged in writing by Colonel Harney which discharge has been lost or mislaid – Declarant does not remember to have seen it in twenty years but swears that he was regularly & honorably discharged.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court before me the first of October 1832

S/ N. Washington, SCLC

S/ Benjamin Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Benjamin Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Benjamin Smith".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]