

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Reuben Smith S7547

fn31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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, Orange County

On this 30th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions in & for the County aforesaid, the same being a Court of record, now sitting, Reuben Smith a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged about 83 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 turned out as a volunteer for a Tour of three months shortly before the defeat of General Gates, he thinks, in the year 1780. That he entered the service near Haw River in the aforesaid County of Orange in the company commanded by Captain Davis Grissom [sic, Grisham?], the Colonel's name not recollected, in the Brigade of General Butler – that he marched as orderly Sergeant under the command of the aforesaid officers, crossing the Yadkin River at the narrows, to Camden in the State of South Carolina, where he came under the command of General Gates, and was in the Battle, well known as Gates defeat – That our Troops being there routed & greatly dispersed, this declarant returned in company with a view fellow soldiers to the County of Orange, having been absent about one month – That soon thereafter the company of Captain Grissom was reorganized as a company of Light Horse at Hillsboro N. C. under the command of Colonel Thomas Taylor and this declarant was appointed Cornet in said company. This declarant was thence marched under the last named officers, across Haw & Deep & Pedee rivers to, near the border of South Carolina, thence to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) in pursuit of the Tories who at that time infested that section of the Country. Thence out to Drowning Creek in pursuit of the Tories – the Term of this declarant's service being now expired he received a discharge from Colonel Taylor and came home. This discharge was kept by this declarant until 1819 when it was consumed by the burning of his house.

This declarant further states that residing in the County of Orange where the Tories frequently became troublesome, he was afterwards frequently out in service with parties of his neighbors who assembled together whenever they heard the Tories were embodied in the part of the country where they resided, appointed their own officers, & marched against them. That this kind of service was frequently performed by this declarant, he does not now recollect exactly what length of time he was in this service, but believes it was fully three months. In this last service this deponent was generally a company by Captain George Hodge, Joseph Hodge, James Stewart & others, but they are all dead or have removed to the Western states. That this declarant knows of no one by whom he can prove his first term of service except Alexander Gattis¹ to whose declaration made this day he begs leave to refer.

1 [Alexander Gattis W688](#)

This declarant is well acquainted with James Morrow & William Strayhorn² of the County of Orange aforesaid. He has a record of his age in a family Bible by which it appears that he was born on the 26th of February 1749. That, he is a native of Pennsylvania, but came to this State & County aforesaid, at an early age, and has resided here ever since. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to, & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Reuben Smith, X his mark

S/ J. Taylor, Clk

[James Morrow & William Strayhorn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this 29th day of May A.D. 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid, now sitting, Reuben Smith, a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged 84 years, who first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, by way of amendment, addition & explanation to his declaration heretofore made viz: at August Term in this court A.D. 1832, to which this is hereunto appended, 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 Officers, named in the declaration to which this is an amendment and in this declaration; & served as therein & herein stated. -- By way of amendment & explanation, this declarant states that at the time he volunteered as set forth in the first part of his said former declaration, he resided in Orange County aforesaid & volunteered as a private for a three months tour, in the militia of North Carolina; that when his company rendezvoused near Haw River in Orange, as set forth in his said declaration, he was appointed by his Captain, Davis Grissom, orderly Sergeant of his Company; & that his said Captain did not issue to him any warrant or written document declaratory of said appointment – but that it was done by parole, as this declarant understood & supposed was the custom of doing business of that sort at that time: that the declarant was marched from Orange aforesaid under the command of Captain Davis Grissom, & he thinks Lieutenant John Taylor in the Brigade commanded by General Butler, who was the declarant's neighbor & well known to him – to South Carolina, by the route set forth in his said former declaration. The Colonel's name who commanded the Regiment to which this declarant belonged, he cannot remember – but he recollects that he was a large, corpulent man. From the time of declarant's joining his company in Orange to his arrival at home after the Battle of Camden (where General Gates was defeated), as set forth in his former declaration, one month of the three for which he volunteered, elapsed. In about three weeks after declarant's returned home from the defeat of General Gates, Captain Grissom's company was reorganized at Hillsborough for the purpose of serving out the balance of the term of three months for which they had originally been organized; & the Tories in the southern part of North Carolina having been emboldened by the defeat of the American forces under General Gates at Camden & their ravages being excessive, it became important to check them & foot soldiers not being considered competent for that service; -- it was determined on to raise a troop of light horse under the command of Colonel Thomas Taylor of Orange for that purpose, & Captain Grisham's Company, to which declarant belonged, were organized as a company of light Horse, in which declarant received the appointment of Cornet – as set forth in his said former declaration. The Commission of Cornet was conferred on him by Colonel Thomas Taylor & the declarant kept the commission by him until the year 1819 on the 3rd of October when his dwelling house was consumed by fire & the said Commission in it as was his discharge from this tour of service, as is stated in his former declaration. In the capacity of cornet in said Troop of Light horse under the command of Colonel Taylor in this service in pursuit of Tories, more particularly described in the former declaration, the declarant served two months & was

2 [William Strayhorn S7650](#)

discharged by Colonel Taylor. The declarant further states by way of amendment and explanation, that the balance of the military service rendered by him to the United States in the War of the Revolution, succinctly described in his former declaration, was rendered by him as a private in the militia of North Carolina, in the year 1781 after the Battle of Guilford was fought – the particular manner & times & terms of service, he will here set forth as well as he can remember. He declares, however, that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory, that he cannot swear positively as to the precise terms of service on every occasion, on which he was called upon to bear arms in defense of his Country, during the period aforesaid. He remembers distinctly that when the Town of Hillsborough was taken by the Tories, & Governor Burke was taken prisoner by them, which he thinks was in fodder gathering time in the Fall of 1781; that he was a private in the militia company of Captain Trousdale, stationed at Hillsboro to guard the Town & the prisoners then in the Jail of that Town – and on the morning when the town was attacked, he had been in that service one month – that he volunteered in the Company aforesaid in Orange aforesaid but for what length of time he does not know. But he remembers, that during that dark but brief period, he and almost every truth man of Orange County were under arms. On the occasion of the capture of Hillsborough which was effected by surprise, he and a great number of other were taken prisoners – and the captors were pressing a crowd of Whigs into the jail at Hillsboro when the declarant, unobserved by the enemy, leaped a fence near the jail & made his way some 200 yards distant & took refuge in a cellar until the enemy left the town, which was in a few hours. Declarant thinks that his Captain Trousdale was taken prisoner & was paroled by the Tories on their march to Wilmington from Hillsborough in a few days afterwards – and that Captain Trousdale shortly after getting home, called together his company, the declarant among the rest, in Orange; & marched through the southern parts of the County, to disperse Tories who were said to be embodying in that quarter. On this expedition, the declarant was under arms two weeks, & then was disbanded – subject to being called on when any supposed movement of the internal enemy might require it.

The declarant remembers that in the course of that fall viz. of the year 1781 – Captain Trousdale called together his company in Orange three other distinct times – for the purpose of dispersing the Tories: & that the declarant was under arms 16 days on those several tours. He remembers that he was a volunteer in a militia company commanded by Captain Edward Gwin, immediately after the Battle of Guilford & was marched to General Butler's brigade between Haw and Deep Rivers – after Cornwallis had marched or was in the act of marching from the south Eastern part of North Carolina to Halifax, North Carolina – and was under orders [?] in General Butler's brigade at that place a few days more than two weeks – which, for uncertainty, the declarant deems it proper to fix at least two weeks – when he was discharged, for the purpose of visiting his family who were sick at the time, at the instance of General Butler. In this tour he was under arms previously to his being discharged in the manner & for the purpose before said 20 days. The declarant remembers that in the same year & he supposes that it was in November or December, he volunteered as a private in Orange aforesaid in the militia but for what term, or whether only for the particular emergency then pressing, he cannot remember, and was attached to a company of militia commanded by Captain George Hodge; & was marched to the vicinity of the Shallow Ford on Haw River, where it believed a gang of Tories were embodied or in the act of embodying & infesting the Country. On the approach of the declarant's Company, the enemy squandered [?]; & his Company were engaged in this service 15 days – when, the enemy having to lead, he was disbanded. -- the declarant was in other service – but his memory is so very frail that he cannot pretend to particularize it. The following is a summary of his service, which he does recollect, viz.:

He served as orderly Sergeant in the militia company commanded by Captain Grissom	1 month
He served as Cornet in the Horse Company commanded by Colonel Taylor &c	2 months
He served as a private under Captain Trousdale	2 months

He served as a private, Colonel Gwin's Company
He served as a private in Captain Grissom's company

20 days
15 days
6" 5

making in the whole war, as here in enumerated six months and five days. --

The only evidence the declarant can furnish of his services, except that of his on oath & evidence of his good character & the reputation of the neighborhood in which he resides of his having been a soldier of the revolution – is the Affidavit of Alexander Gattis hereunto appended. .Declarant half ominously endeavored to procure the attendance of a clergyman to testify to his character, but has failed.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Reuben Smith, X his mark

S/ J. Taylor, Clk

[John Taylor and James L. Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

North Carolina, Orange County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term A.D1833

Alexander Gattis personally appeared in open Court, now sitting: and having first been duly sworn according to law, deposes and saith – that he knew Reuben Smith, of the County of Orange & State aforesaid who is an applicant for a pension from the Government of the United States – in the time of the revolutionary war; that he knew him to be an Orderly Sergeant in a militia company of North Carolina, commanded by Captain Davis Grissom & that this said Reuben Smith was in Gates defeat. This affiant saith that he was in the same company as a soldier -- & that he thinks said Smith served in the capacity of Orderly Sergeant at least one month: and that after the defeat aforesaid Captain Grissom's company was reorganized in the County of Orange, as a Troop of Light Horse – and he knows that said Smith officiated as Cornet in that troop for two months – and that he then understood & believed & now hath no doubt of the fact – that said Smith was duly commissioned as a Cornet in said Troop of Horse, by the Colonel Commandant, viz.: Colonel Thomas Taylor.

Sworn to & subscribed.

S/ Alexander Gattis

S/ J. Taylor

[Facts in file: veteran died March 6, 1835; on December 4, 1882, in Orange County North Carolina, A. A. Smith, filed a power of attorney authorizing his attorney to pursue whatever pension may be due the heirs of the veteran for the service and/or disability of the veteran in the revolution. The relationship, if any, of A A Smith to the veteran is not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$42.20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months and 5 days service as a private & Sergeant & Cornet in the North Carolina militia.]