

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Smith S7548

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 Aug 2021.

State of Virginia }

Culpeper County } SS

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832, personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Culpeper County now sitting William Smith a resident of the County of Culpeper and State of Virginia aged between seventy six and seventy seven years who being 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 with ensign John Graves and served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Line under the following named officers, Colonel Peter Muhlenberg [BLWt1495-850], Major Peter Helphenten [sic: Peter Helphinstine VAS1480], Captain George Slaughter [W8729], Lieutenat Colonel Reilley, and Ensign John Graves that he enlisted for the Term of two years, and fully served out the enlistment and was discharged at Valley Forge in Pensylvania in the year 1778, that he first marched to the neighbourhood of Norfolk in Virginia, from thence he marched to Charleston in South Carolina, where he was taken sick received a furlough and returned home, that as soon as he recovered from said sickness he went into the North and joined the Army a Philadelphia when he took the small pox, that after his recovery he joined the army, and was at the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], that he was prevented by sickness from being in the Battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777], that he marched with the Army to Valley Forge, where they took up Winter Quarters, and which place he received his discharge the ensuing spring, his term of service having expired, that he resided in the County of Culpeper State of Virginia, at the time he enlisted, that he has continued to reside in said County to the presen time, where he was raised from six years old. That he again enlisted in the year 1779 under Captain Benjamin Roberts [S31343] in the County of Culpeper and State of Virginia for two years and was marched to the falls of the Ohio [at present Louisville KY] and joined the State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Rogers Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269] and during the Term of his service was engaged in frequent skirmishes with the Indians, none of particular notoriety. That he was sent by Major George Slaughter as an express to the Iron Banks [on the Mississippi River 6 mi below the mouth of the Ohio River], which duty he performed with success. That he assisted in constructing the fort at the falls of the Ohio [Fort Jefferson, begun April 1780]. And after his term of service of two years had expired received his discharge at the falls of the Ohio.

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

Wm hisXmark Smith

And the said Court do hereby declare their Opinion, that the abovenamed applicant was a Revolutionary, and served as he states upon the testimony of John Creel [W534], a witness who came and testified to the enlistment of the applicant in the service as set forth, by him in the first service, who is a credible witness; and upon the testimony of Tomas Norman [W26580] a credible Witness who swore that the said applicant enlisted and served as set forth by him in the service in the State line Regiment commanded Major George Slaughter, at the falls of the Ohio, who was in the said service, to the end of their respective Enlistment with the said applicant.                      Thomas Norman                      John hisXmark Creel

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Virginia Culpeper County to wit

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 1833 before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared Thomas Norman of said County aged 73 years and creditable character who being duly sworn

deposeth and saith that he knew William Smith who now lives in the county of Rappahannock and then Culpeper at the time of the Revolutionary War and has known him ever since. That said Smith [illegible] the army of the Revolution in the year 1779 and joined Major George Slaughter [illegible] was in the service at and about the falls of the Ohio, at the time that s'd deponent was himself in that service, and that to his knowledge said Smith served out his term of enlistment which was two years being discharged in the year 1781 towards the close and that he has no doubt of the identity of said Smtih [several illegible words] since living until today in the same county.

Given under my hand this day and year first above written

Thomas H Porter J.P.

State of Virginia } SS

Culpeper County }

On this 20th day of May 1834 before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared Peter H. Triplett [W2706] of s'd county aged 80 years and upwards and of good character for veracity who being duly sworn deposeth and saith That he was in the Western service under Col George Rogers Clarke more particularly under Major George Slaughter that he enlisted in Culpeper under Capt Benjamin Roberts and joined the Army in 1779 or 80 and continued therein until the taking of the posts on the Ohio &c. That William Smith now living in Rappahannock county was with him the whole time having enlisted in the same company with him, and continued with it throughout he thinks. That he knows the Wm Smith now applying for Bounty Land under the act of Assembly of 1777 (in the county of Rappahannock) to be the identical man to whom he has referred.

Given under my hand this day and year firs above written.

R. G. Ward JP

State of Virginia } SS

Culpeper County }

On this 24th June 1835 before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Thomas Norman of said County aged 75 years and of good character who being duly sworn deposeth and saith That in the year 1779 towards the close of it He enlisted in the service [undeciphered] the West under Capt Benjamin Roberts as a part of Major George Slaughter's Battalion. That William Smith of Rappahannock (then Culpeper) enlisted at the same time in the same company. That they marched soon after to the West and were stationed at the falls of Ohio and continued marching about there in scouting parties and skirmishing with parties of the Indians. That about the close of 17[??] They were discharged. The said Smith returned to Culpeper where he has lived as affiant believes ever since and is now living, but cut off from Culpeper by a line forming a new County. That he is satisfied said Smith served out his full time which according to the law under which they were raised was two years.

Given under my hand this day and year first above written.

John F Latham J.P.

1835 July 20 again Rejected

To the General Assembly of Virginia,

The undersigned your petitioner respectfully makes known to your honorable body, that he is a citizen of the state of Virginia, born in the County of Stafford, and lived there untill he was six years of age (as he has been informed by his parents) about which time his father removed, and Settled in the County of Culpeper, near to where your petitioner now lives, that he was raised to manhood and has ever resided within the then limits of Culpeper County, and that he now is Eighty two years of age. Your petitioner at the commencement of the Revolutionary war entered the army by enlistments with ensign John Graves in Capt George Slaughter's Company in the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia regiment for two years, which enlistment he faithfully performed, receiving an honorable discharge at Valley Forge; barefooted and nearly naked he returned home, and in the winter 1778-9 again enlisted or volunteered, your petitioner does not at this remote period distinctly know which, in the expedition then raising in the county of

Culpeper under Maj George Slaughter, his old captain in his first enlistment; for the defence of the western frontiers of Virginia; that he enlisted or [undeciphered word]? under, or with Captain Benjamin Roberts, there being only two Companies Composing the Corps, Captain Mark Thomas [R18446] Commanding the one, & Capt Roberts the other, all under command of Maj Slaughter, the Corps marched in the early part of the spring of 1779 to the falls of the Ohio by the way of Redstone fort [at present Brownsville PA]. that there the corps built their boats, in which it descended the rivers Monongahela and Ohio to the falls of the last mentioned river, at which place it arrived on the 4th day of June 1779. that Col. Clarke was then absent, in the Illinois country, that the Corps of Major Slaughter was stationed at the falls and was engaged in active service thereabout, untill the return of Gen George Rogers Clark under whose immediate Command it remained untill discharged, to the best of the recollection of your petitioner in the winter of Eighty two. Your petitioner distinctly remembers that the news of the Capture of Lord Cornwallis at York-Town [19 Oct 1781] was received at the falls of the Ohio before he was discharged from the service, and he thinks it was in the month of February 1782 that he received his discharge. Your petitioner has given a brief account of his service in the Revolution; as to dates, relying exclusively upon his memory which from the lapse of time and the effects of age he is aware is much impaired, he may have erred, but if he has, he knows that it is an immaterial [undeciphered word] not at all affecting the truth of his general statement. Your petitioner was promised upon his entering the service in the Western [undeciphered word] under Capt Roberts in [undeciphered] a bounty of two hundred acres of land, which your petitioner has never received; he [undeciphered word] an applicant for his bounty when as he was informed the Congress of the United States has appropriated lands to discharge the bounties which the state of Virginia was due for Officers & Soldiers of the Revolution, which claim he preferred to the Executive of Virginia, [undeciphered word] that he should forthwith receive his warrant, (as he was informed that the Commissioner of Claims had reported him as entitled to bounty land for services rendered under his last engagement;) in which however he was mistaken. He has been informed, that the late executive rejected his claim on account of his identity and not being embraced within the provisions of the Law for bounty lands. In preferring his claim for bounty in lands to the Executive of Virginia, he humbly conceived that he had rendered such proof as to his identity that the most rigid could not doubt; he proved by a highly respectable living witness to wit Thomas Norman of Culpeper County that he served in the same Company in the service in the Corps commanded by Maj Slaughter. Your petitioner served with the said Thomas Norman, Peter Triplett and William Herring [sic William Herin S8704] who your petitioner believes is now living, the two first named in the County of Culpeper, and the last in either the counties of Shenandoah or Frederick. Your petitioner proved his service to the satisfaction of the Commiss'r of pension claims, by the said Thomas Norman as to his service in the Western country, and has been receiving a pension of Eighty dollars per annum since the 7th June 1832. As to the defect of your petitioners claim for want of legality he can only speak so far for himself as to say, that he was promised two hundred acres of land by his Captain when he entered the service, and he refers you to the very nature of the service as evidence sustaining his statement as regards bounty land. He has been informed that doubts are entertained as to what tour the corps of Maj George Slaughter was raised under, and whether it was entitled to bounty land or not. Your petitioner respectfully requests that he may be permitted to avail himself of the information to be devised from the evidence of Maj George Slaughter and Captain Benjamin Roberts in their several suits instituted by themselves or their heirs, against the state of Virginia, and finally as your petitioner is informed, adjudicated in the Court of Appeals in favour of the claimants for bounty lands. Your petitioner further respectfully sets forth that through a friend he recently applied to the present executive of Virginia to reconsider his claim, which was declined upon the ground, that it would be interfering with the decisions of his predecessor. Your petitioner therefore having a chance to obtain his rights, as he verily believes, is constrained to apply to your honorable body for relief. And therefore prays that you will pass a law requiring the Governor to issue a warrant for two hundred acres of land, if in the opinion of your honorable body, your petitioner now is entitled [undeciphered] and as in duty bound he will ever pray. &c.

William Smith Rappah'k. County Virginia

Rappahannock County. [undeciphered]

I William Walden do hereby certify that, I have been personally acquainted and the greater part of the time intimately, for the last twenty five years, with William Smith of Rappahannock County (late Culpeper) that I have often heard during the time [illegible] speak of his service under Capt Roberts during the war of the Revolution, in the now state of Kentucky. that I was personally acquainted with several other privates of the same Company, to wit, William Brown dec'd late of Culpeper County, Thomas Norman, and John Triplett who I have heard say that William Smith served with them, that all the Corps of [illegible] Slaughter was discharged, and further, that in the years 1822-24 & 35 I [illegible] and Command with Captain Benjamin Roberts of the State of Kentucky, who enquired after the said William Smith, William Brown dec'd & others, and stated that they the said Smith, Brown, Norman, Triplett and number of other persons with whom I was familiar, belonged to his Company [undeciphered] with and under him for the [undeciphered] of the western Country, in the county of Culpeper, and [undeciphered] to engagement. I state without hesitation that I would [undeciphered] believe any statement which William Smith would assert as [undeciphered]. Given under my hand this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 1837.

William Walden

Culpeper County (to wit)

This day personally appeared before me Thomas Humphreys a Justice of the peace in & for the county aforesaid, Peter Triplett a soldier of the Revolution aged 84 years, and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God That in the spring of 1780 William Smith marched from Culpeper County Virginia in the Company of Captain Benjamin Roberts belonging to the Corps commanded by Major George Slaughter and marched to Louisville in Kentucky and was there united to the Illinois troops under the Command of General Clarke and the said William Smith served as a private soldier until the month of December 1781 when he was discharged

Given under my hand and seal this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 1837.

Thos Humphreys

I John Creel of the County of Rappahannock (formerly Culpeper County) aged seventy six years old, being called on by William Smith of said County to state what I know [undeciphered] the military servces of said Smith in the War of the Revolution, say that I have a perfect and distinct recollection that said Smith shortly after the Commencement of the War of the Revolution in Company with my brother [undeciphered first name] inlisted in the Army, [undeciphered word] at the Creek Church in the then county of Culpeper together with several other persons of my acquaintance who had also inlisted in the Army, that they marched very shortly after to join the Army, if he believes said Smith together with the other persons reports enlisted under Ensign John Graves, That he most distinctly remembers that his brother returned after about a years absence, and spoke of William Smith and of other persons of the neighbourhood then in the army, of Smith particularly of his standing the service so well having fattened very much, and of his being a great wrestler, that his brother returned and served out the term of his enlistment, which I believe to have been two years, That he was well acquainted with William Smith before he went into service and he has been acquainted with him ever since, living in the same neighbourhood, and he believes that William Smith was at least two years in the army before he returned home under that enlistment and afterwards said Smith as I do remember having heard went again to the west against the Indians Given under my hand this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1838.

John hisXmark Creel

I Joseph Weakley of Rappahannock County (late Culpeper) aged seventy two years, being called upon by Mr. William Smith to state what I know respecting his military service in the War of the Revolution do declare that I well remember that Mr William Smith enlisted with Ensign John Graves in the early part of the war, that I frequently saw im in Company with other soldiers who had also enlisted in the same Company, to with with my two uncles Frank Weakly [Francis Weakley] and William Weakley & Wm Corbin [William Corbin VAS3146], Thomas Shelton [VAS4428] and John Jenkins. that they marched together and he believes that said Smith was in the army two years or more. that he well

remembers when he returned from the Army. And that after remaining at home some time, he remembers of his enlisting in the expedition for the defence of the Western Country and he feels sure that it was between two and three years before said Smith returned home, That he has been acquainted with said William Smith from his youth to the present time, having lived in the same neighbourhood during his life time.

Signed Joseph hisXmark Weakley

[2 June 1838]

I William Smith of the county of Rappahannock and state of Virginia, aged eighty four years do declare that the following statement of my military services in the war of the Revolution is true. That I enlisted on the 6th day of February 1776 in the then County of Culpeper under Ensign John Graves in Capt George Slauther's Company of Infantry in the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col. Mulenburgh, Maj Helvenston the Major of the regiment; marched from Culpeper Court House in the early part of the spring 1776 to the lower part of Virginia in the neighbourhood of Norfolk, remained there a short time, from there marched to Charleston in South Carolina, where we assisted in the defence of Sullivan's island. from thence we marched into the state of Georgia [illegible] which state, in the summer of 1777 the Regiment marched to the state of Pennsylvania and joined the Grand Army under Gen'l Washington a short time previous to the battles at Brandywine and Germantown. that at Valley Forge in the state of Pennsylvania in the latter part of the winter 1778 he received his discharge for the time of his enlistment of [illegible] years, which he faithfully performed and returned to Culpeper County. That he again entered the service in Maj George Slaughters Corps and enlisted under Capt Benjamin Roberts, for two years, in the said Corps which was raised for the defence of the western frontiers. in the Winter of 1779 - '80 that he marched in the early part of the spring of 1780 to the falls of the Ohio river by the way of Red Stone old fort where the Corps took water & [undeciphered] and descended the [river] to the falls. that to the best of his recollection (he after having served [undeciphered] the term of his enlistment) received his discharge in the month of February [illegible] and returned to Culpeper County within the bounds of said County he has [illegible] since resided, under the last service [undeciphered] that a bounty off two hundred acres of land was promised each private which he has never received. That he served upwards of four years under two enlistments. He has [illegible] an applicant for bounty land for several years past, and has been induced to make the foregoing statement of his services and present the accompanying affidavits which he has been fortunate in finding since making prior application, and knowing untill recently that he could prove his first service by living witnesses by the advice of Mr Jno L. Pendleton his representative in the house of delegates, who has been kind enough to undertake to aid him in his claim for bounty land. He avails himself of the present opportunity to correct a statement of his service heretofore made in a [illegible] which he committed an error as to date, and in which he thinks that upon reflection and reconsideration he is enabled to make, he states in the the memorial refered to that he enlisted under Capt. Roberts in the western service in the winter of 1778-'9 & marched in the spring of 1779 to the falls of Ohio. upon reflecting upon dates and occurrences he believes that he enlisted in the winter of 1779 '80 and marched in the spring of 1780 to the falls of Ohio, where he served out the term of his enlistment as set forth in his memorial

Signed Wm hisXmark Smith

[2 June 1838]

On additional evidence being produced proving four years service – towit, two in the State and two in Continental line the claim is allowed for four years service DC [Gov David Campbell]

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

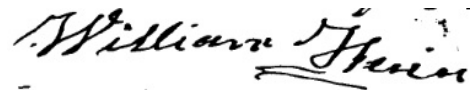
To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia and Council of State

your petitioner begs leave to state to your Honour that he enlisted as a private in the army in 1776 was engaged with the British and was at the battle of Brandywine under Captain George Slaughter & other officers whose names I cannot recollect and was discharged at valley forge. I reenlisted in the latter end of

1778 under Captain Benjamin Roberts & Major George Slaughter to reenforce Col Crocket [sic: Joseph Crockett S46377]. I have proof of my services as will be shown to your Honour I am now in my 88th year with a large family. I served out my time and was regularly discharged in the year 1781 under General George Rogers Clark at the falls of the Ohio I had been under General Clark but a short time he coming from Illinoise & taking the command but a short time before I was discharged By reference to Commissioner Smith's report your petitioner is informed it will be seen that one william Smith is reported as being entitled to land for the war See Document 32 page 21 Your petitioner prays you will duly consider his claim and if just has no doubt that your Excellency will allow the same & as in duty boutn will every pray &c  
William Smith

William Herin of the County of Hampshire and State of Virginia did Certify that William Smith of the County of Rappahannock and State aforesaid, served with me in the Revolutionary Army under General George Rogers Clarke in Col Crockets Regiment and in a company commanded by Capt Benjamin Roberts and that the Soldiers in said company received land warrants for two hundred acres of Land as a bounty

Given under my hand and seal this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 1843



I Peter H Triplett of the county of Culpeper and State of Virginia do hereby certify that William Smith of the county of Rappahannock and state aforesaid served with me as an enlisted soldier in the revolutionary army under Gen George Rogers Clarke in a company commanded by Capt Benjamin Roberts and that the enlisted soldiers in said company received each a land warrant as a bounty. Given under my hand and seal this 18<sup>th</sup> day of Nov 1843  
Peter hisXmark Triplett

Rejected. already allowed for 4 years service. Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 1847 R L Daniel L. Gov.

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document in the pension file states that the executors of William Smith's estate received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 20 Nov 1850.