

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Smith S7549

fn20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/25/11

[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 County of Caswell: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions July Term 1833

On this 9th Day of July in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, for the County of Caswell now sitting, Richard Smith, a resident of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, aged eighty-nine years on the 24th day of August last, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefits 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. To wit, I was drafted in the Militia Service sometime in the month of February 1780 in the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, and the Company in which I served was commanded by Captain Wilson. Having been ordered to the assistance of South Carolina we marched to Hillsboro in this State, and joined some other troops at that place, from that place we marched with several other Companies of militia through Salisbury and from there to Camden in South Carolina where we were stationed for three months or upwards, while there we were ordered to march to the relief of Charleston, South Carolina, at that time besieged by the enemy, but before we commenced our march the order was countermanded, information having been received that Charleston had been surrendered to the British forces. We remained in Camden until sometime in the early part of June, when I was discharged, after having served in this tour a period of four months and a few days. I cannot recollect whether I received a written discharge or not, but if I did it has been lost or destroyed. My memory having failed greatly from my very advanced age, I am unable to remember the names of the field officers, who were in command while I was out in this tour of service. Sometime in the month of December 1780, I was drafted in the Militia Company for a tour of 3 months in the County of Caswell State of North Carolina, the company in which I served being commanded by Captain Coleman, but he having been taken sick, Lieutenant Gatewood commanded the company during this tour of service. We marched from Caswell old Court House, to Hillsboro and there joined several other companies of Militia, commanded by Major Harrison, and we marched under his command to Salisbury, where we remained 3 or 4 weeks, and having been reinforced by a small body of Militia commanded by Colonel Farmer we marched under his command to a place called the Island Ford on the Catawba River, to oppose the progress of the British Army. A few days after

we reached there, the British Army in fact appeared on the opposite bank of the river and endeavored to cross, and the other part endeavored to cross at a place called Beatties Ford, three or four miles lower down the River. They were opposed at that place by some Militia under the command of General Davidson,¹ who fell while opposing their passage; The Troops at the Island Ford after a few discharges of cannon from the enemy, were ordered to retreat having reached a place called Torrance's Lane [Tarrant's Tavern], were overtaken by the British Dragoons under the command of Colonel Tarleton, our ammunition and firearms, having become wet from the heavy rain which fell about that time, were rendered of but little use; and not being in the condition to make much resistance, we were defeated with considerable loss, the enemy having given no quarter. Our troops retreated in much disorder to a place called the Island Ford of the Yadkin River near Salisbury, from which place, we marched under the command of Colonel Farmer in the direction of Guilford Court House, where we formed the Army under the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], and commenced retreating in the direction of Dan River, having been pursued by the British Army under the command of Lord Cornwallis to the [indecipherable word]. Our Army having been reinforced in Halifax County Virginia by a number of Militia, General Green marched back into North Carolina, and followed the British Army in the direction of Guilford Court House. The term of service for which I was called out, having expired, I was discharged at the High Rock on Haw River, Sometime in the month of March, and a few days before the Battle of Guilford after having served a tour of three months. I am unable to recollect whether I received a discharge or not, if I did it has been lost or destroyed.

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Interrogatories pounded by the Court.

Ques. 1. Where, and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in London in England on the 2nd day of August 1743.

Ques. 2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Ans. My age is recorded in my family Bible, which is now in my possession.

Ques. 3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living in the County of Caswell, North Carolina, when called into Service, where I have continued to live till this period.

Ques. 4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute? And if a Substitute for whom?

Ans. I was drafted in both tours in which I served.

Ques. 5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, Such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Ans. When and in the service in the Spring of 1781, I was a part of the time in the Army commanded by General Green, general Morgan was also with the Army of General Green a part of the same time for a short period. For a more detailed account of the special circumstances of my service, I well referred to said statement above written.

Ques. 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Ans. I do not recollect that I received any written discharge in either of the Tories in which I served, if I did they have been lost or destroyed —

Ques. 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the

revolution?

Ans. I well referred to the Reverend John H. Pickard and James Cobb – who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

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 in open Court the day & year above written.

Test: S/ Paul A. Harralson, Clk

S/ Richard Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

State of North Carolina County of Caswell: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions July Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court on this 9th Day of July A.D. 1833 Elisha Evans¹ a resident of the County and State aforesaid and being first duly sworn according to law, maketh oath: That he was drafted in a militia Company commanded by Captain Coleman, but he having been taken sick Lieutenant Gatewood commanded the Company during that tour of three months the period for which they were drafted, he was residing in the County of Caswell at that time and was called into service sometime in the month of December 1780. That he was acquainted with Richard Smith at that time who has signed the foregoing declaration. That the said Smith was drafted in the same company and they served together during the three months tour: that they marched together from Caswell Old Court House to Hillsboro and from thence to Salisbury and were both in the engagement at Torrance's Lane where our troops were defeated by the British dragoons and troops commanded by Colonel Tarleton. That they shortly after joined General Greens Army in the County of Guilford and after continuing with him for some time the said Richard Smith and himself were discharged at the same time after having served three months, at the High Rock on Haw River.

S/ Elisha Evans, X his mark

[John H. Pickard, a clergyman, and James, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

¹ General William Lee Davidson died at the battle of Cowan's Ford on February one, 1781. He was not at the Beatties Ford of the Catawba River as stated by the veteran.

¹ [Elisha Evans S6830](#)