

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Daniel Smith S7550

fn76NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/21/11

[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. In the following transcription, I have left some of the words as spelled by the very imaginative scribe with the correction in brackets in order to give the reader a little feel for how the original of this application reads.]

State of North Carolina Burke County: On this 28th day of December 1835 personally appeared Daniel Smith Senior before me Groves Bowman one of the justices of the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the said County of Burke – and he the said Smith being a resident of the said County and State aged Eighty-one or Eighty-two 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 the 7th of June 1832. States as follows = that he entered the Service of the United States = his first tour he volunteered under Captain Hardin for nine months = and as there was many recruits collecting men we was notified to meet our Captain at Matthew Wilson's on the Shirrils ford [Sherrill's Ford] Road and as well as recollection serves = the last of June or first of July 1779 he joined Captain Hardin at Wilson's and marched from there to Salis bury [Salisbury] and there we was attached to Colonel Davidson's Regiment and after some stayed there we marched to gilford Cort house [Guilford Court House] and there we waited for the collection of more troops and then we was marched to Dan River on the Virginia line and there we got orders to stop that we would not be wanted on that route = as the main body of the British Army had sailed round to Savannah to reduce the Southern States we then camped at moons Creek [Moon's Creek], until near crismas [Christmas] = and while we lay there our Captain Hardin was called for and had to go on some Express and his men was attached to Captain donoughers [sic ? possibly Thomas Donoho?] company = a while before Christmas we got orders to march to charlot town [Charlotte] in macklinburg [Mecklenburg] County there we stayed for some time = then word came that the British ravaging and plundering on the cupper & ashley rivers [Cooper and Ashley Rivers] we were then marched to the Santee and there we stayed until aprile [April] and then those of Captain donoughhars Company was sent to buffalow [Buffalo] and there he discharged us and we went home our nine months being fully out = this was April 1780 = In this same summer as well as he can recollect in September = he says he was getting father Colonel Charles McDowell a man of Burke County was called on to raise a number of twelve months men to protect the Eastern part of our State he attended our muster in person and told us he must have volunteers or draft he was well beliked [sic, liked] and we volunteered and I myself for one = he told us to meet him on Monday following at William

McMullin's on the road leading to Sherrill's Ford on the Catawba River and we met him there he had many officers out recruiting and many met him there = and the Colonel went with us to Salisbury the place of our rendezvous and there Captain Armstrong took the command of us and his brother Colonel Armstrong commanded the Regiment = and as Cornwallis was then lying in Chester and giving great invitation and promises to the loyalists we were stationed at the Waxhaw [Waxhaw] to prevent the correspondence between loyalist on black river and the British = but when General Green [Nathanael Greene] took the Southern command in place of General Gates he took his Stationed at Charlotte in Mecklenburg and sent General Morgan with part of his Army up broad river and wallis [Cornwallis] hearing that = he sent tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] after him with a Superior force to cut him off but General Morgan tore him all to peases [pieces] = that enraged wallis he then just received two thousand fresh recruits from Charleston pushed his hole forse [whole force] after Morgan and to prevent Morgan from a junction with Green = now Green being apprised of the design of wallis = pushed all his force to keep ahead of wallis till he could join Morgan he called for Armstrong to push and join General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] and prevent wallis from crossing the Catawba River at Gowens ford [Cowan's ford] which was attempted but to no purpose we gave them a firm Stand but they were so far superior in numbers that they forced their passage over and killed our General Davidson in the engagement = we were then sent on the big pedee River and stationed at gum swamp where the republicans was bore down by the Tories as we called them we stayed there some time and gave relief to the friends and then was called to deep and haw rivers as the loyalist was committing great outrage there killing burning & plundering General Pickens and Lee was also out in the same Section for the same purpose there was a colonel pill [John Pyle] of the Tory band had raised a band of men and made violent threats what he would do to the republics if they came in his way Colonel Armstrong set out in pursuit of pill but he hearing of us swayed his course for Tarleton as he was in that quarter but in making his Escape from us fell in to the hands of Lee's veterans who destroyed him and his men we were told that there was hardly enough left to tell the news = after times became better settled there we was marched to Smithfield in Johnson County [Johnston County] where we staid until may we then was called to Fayetteville = then called Cross Creek = as was reported to us that the British had left Wilmington and was on their way up the Cape Fear River to that place and there we had to encounter loyalist = as them parts was settled nearly all together with them they were at first very independent but on hearing our declaration they became more humble = if we would not kill them nor burn their houses nor plunder their property they would be peaceable Sitezenes [citizens] we stayed there until in September 1781 then our time of twelve months being fully out we was marched into Mecklenburg County and there discharged by our Captain Armstrong as we marched through Roan [Rowan] County we saw many soldiers on their way to Salisbury to rendezvous and march under General Rutherford to the same place where we left at Fayetteville = Some time the next Summer of 1782 there was an Express for men reporting that the Creek Indians was committing ravages on the frontiers of South Carolina & Georgia on the Tugaloe and Sincea rivers [Tugaloo and Seneca River's] there was a draft immediately ordered for three months and I was drafted and was immediately marched under Captain Blair we joined the South Carolina and Georgia troops at the junction of the Tugaloo and Seneca Rivers = where we were stationed and we kept spies and scouting parties out and scoured that range of cuntry [country] well = but the body of Indians soon left the parts after we made our appearance only a few spies which was very seldom seen = we served out our three months and got our discharge in December 1782 a while before Christmas = thus ended my labors in the old revolutionary war = and I have no living person to

prove my actual Services = as my old companions that served with me are all dead = I have only some corroborating evidence that I shall offer = question where were you born = my parrints [parents] told me that I was born in Virginia and was moved from there to South Carolina when I was an infant = have you any record of your age and if so where is it = I have no record and I believe my father kept none for he had no learning = but my parents told me that I was thirteen years old when they moved from South Carolina to North Carolina in the County of Burke = and from that time I count my age and believes it to be eighty-one or eighty-two = where were you living when called into Service = where have you lived ever since the revolutionary war and where do you now live = I was living in North Carolina Burke County and I have lived there ever since = how were you called into Service = were drafted or were you a volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a substitute for whom = my first two towers [tours] I volunteered and my third tour I was drafted = as I have before stated = 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 = I new [knew] at that time a great number of officers or at least all many General Green General Morgan General Pickens & Lee and General Davidson who was killed at gowens ford = Colonel Campbell, Colonel Sevier, Colonel Cleveland, Colonel Moore = and many others that I solve and do not recollect their names = and I cannot distinguish those of Continental from the militia it has been so long ago that I can't remember the different grades from the long lapse of time = old age and affliction which makes a great loss of memory that I cannot retain all the particulars as to grades and regiments = and as to general circumstances that occurred during my Service I don't know that I can offer any more interesting than those already noted in above in this declaration = did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and where is it = yes I received a discharge for every period as follows my first period for nine months I was discharged by Captain Donoughho and when I went home I was situated like other poor suffering soldiers I was raged [ragged] dirty and clad with vermin and I went and shifted my dirty apparel and left them out and the next day they were washed and my discharge was boiled in the pocket of my wetcoat [waistcoat]= and those of my twelve months and three months = the twelve months was given by Captain Armstrong and three months by Captain Blair and them I retained until the war was over and peace made and then I thought they would be of no more use and they were neglected and I don't know what became of them = did you ever receive a commission and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it = No I had no commission I done all my services a private Soldier = State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood = and who can testify as to your character for veracity = and belief of your Services as a Soldier of the revolution = I think that Alexander Abernathy will certify for me as a clergyman and Joshua Ballew.

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 but this present claim that he now makes in the State of North Carolina and in the County of Burke.

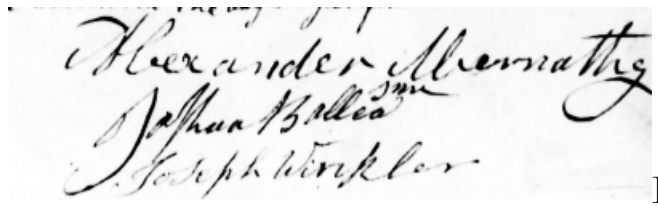
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written

Before me

S/ Grs. Bowman, JP

S/ Daniel Smith, D his mark

[Alexander Abernathy a clergyman, and Joshua Ballew and Joseph Winkler gave the standard supporting affidavit.



State of North Carolina Burke County: This day came Thomas Smith¹ and Sherrod Bowman² before me Groves Bowman one of the justices of the County Court of pleas and quarter sessions – and they being duly sworn as the law directs = States and Deposeth as follows Thomas Smith says that sometime in the summer of 1780 he was a volunteer soldier under Colonel Charles McDowell and they rendezvoused at Salisbury and in the meantime he got acquainted with Daniel Smith and they were under different captains Daniel Smith was under Captain Armstrong = he saith that they were both 12 months men and both volunteered and when they marched from there they were parted and he sold Daniel Smith no more during the term = Sherrod Bowman deposeth and saith that he mustered in the same company with Daniel Smith under Captain John Connelley and in the year 1779 Captain Hardin was sent to a muster and wanted volunteers or he must draft and some man turned out and Daniel Smith for one but for how long he has forgot Smith went away and he did then and do yet belief that he went in the Army as he did not return until the next spring or summer. Sworn to and subscribed this 28th day of December 1835

Before me

S/ Grs. Bowman, JP

S/ Thomas Smith, X his mark

S/ Sherrod Bowman



[fn p. 22]

Baird's Forge 1 November 1836

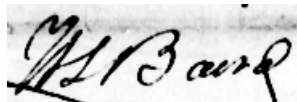
To the Secretary at War of the US

Dear Sir

Having been called on to get my opinion respecting the character of Clem Dorsel Isaac Martin and Joseph Hays I can fully say that having a long & personal acquaintance with them have no hesitation in saying that they are men of strict truth and integrity and that full faith and credit may be given to any assertions they will make. I do further certify that I have been personally acquainted with Daniel Smith who has lately applied for a pension and from common report have always understood that he was during the revolution and ever since strongly attached to the British government and opposed to that of the United States. From what I have frequently learned from my Father and other old man and fully of the opinion that he is not deserving of any pension from the United States.

Given under my hand at Beard's Forge 1 November 1836

S/ W. L. Baird



¹ This MIGHT be the same man as FPA W592.

² I believe this is the same man as [Shearwood Bowman S6678](#)

[fn p. 25]

Beard's forge Burke County October 25 1836

Benjamin Spencer³ a Revolutionary Soger [? soldier?] States that he has been acquainted with Daniel Smith fifty years & always since & lives within a few miles 3 or 4. If he ever served in the old war I have no knowledge of it of myself nor no other person I was intimately acquainted with him during the war was before the revolution & ever since I know that [several indecipherable words, appears to read "frequented a gratechel" frequented a great deal ?] about Captain Isaac Martin who was a Tory Captain in the old war. Given under my hand at the time & place aforesaid

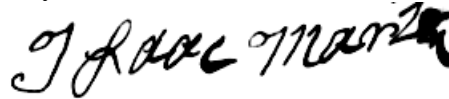
S/ Benjamin Spencer, X his mark

Do at the time & place aforesaid

Isaac Martin States that he himself is 53 years old that he has known Daniel Smith ever since he knew anybody. I have always lived within from 2 to 4 ½ miles of said Daniel Smith – The report was to meet generally that he Daniel Smith was 18 months man my father was a Tory & so was my Grandfather they always told me that Daniel Smith was a Tory & that belonged to a company that was under my grandfather who was a Captain. These declarations my father & grandfather have made to me frequently and never heard it contradicted by any person but always said by every person that said Smith was a Tory

Respectfully

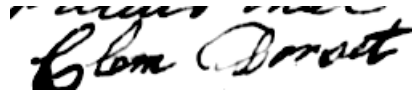
S/ Isaac Martin



Time & place aforesaid

Clem Dorset states that he has lived close to Daniel Smith since the year 1797, his General Character is that he was a Tory from every person in the year 1812 or 13 just at the beginning of the last war we [indecipherable word] in conversation about it Daniel Smith state if I was a young man that I would take my gun and go straight off to the British, I have talked about the revolution a great deal with said Smith. I never heard him pretend that he served in the revolution as a Whig

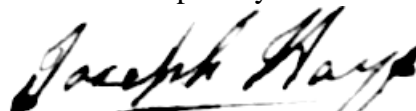
S/ Clem Dorset



Joseph Hayes states that he has been acquainted with Daniel Smith 21 years I never heard Smith pretend that he himself was a revolutionary soldier the General Report in the neighborhood is that he is a Tory & always was & I have heard it stated frequently that Groves Bowman the justice of the peace before whom the Declaration was filed went down a few days ago & gave said Daniel Smith a considerable lecturing for not keeping that thing more private what his intent was I am unable to state & I also have heard generally that the said Groves Bowman was to get past his pension down & half for life for his trouble. Yours Respectfully

NB I have heard it in the neighborhood that said Smith was about to draw a Pension & every person said it was wrong

S/ Joseph Hays



³ FPA W6158

2nd November 1836

My Dear Sir the War Department US

I lived within 7 miles of this man Daniel Smith who is an applicant for a Pension I know nothing of the circumstances only from the General report. The persons who recommend him does not live with in 10 miles of him Smith excepting Thomas Smith who is not a good character as I understand everyone of the persons is connected with this man Groves Bowman before whom he filed his declaration who the people say is & has been very officious for him to obtain expressly that he may get the money there is several old persons & Pensioners too that has known Smith before the revolution during the revolution & ever since yet he does not call on one of them to prove his servitude they all concur and say that he never served in the revolution only on the Tory side the Gentleman who I have examined are his neighbors & lived by him & no him well, he applied to Mr. Roane on the first outset he told him that he was not entitled to a pension either as a regular or a militia man as he was also applied to General David Newland told him the same that Mr. Roane did Ford General Newland knew from report that he was a Tory and an outlier strange to tell that he should have served 21 months in the Service & none of his old neighbors should have known it report says that this man Groves Bowman was very much distressed that he Daniel Smith should of told anything about the matter in order that these things should have been kept more private that he Bowman might have obtained the money – as I am told he was to have half down & half for life for his trouble I am able to give you any information you may wish for write to me at Morganton North Carolina to R. C. Pearson at the same place.

I am yours respectful

S/ F. P. Glass [?]



[fn p. 17]

State of North Carolina Burke County: This day John Gibbs Senior⁴ personally appeared before me William Murphy a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and after being duly sworn as the law directs he deposeth and saith that in the time of the revolutionary war the Colonel of our said County issued his order to his captains to class the men to be ten in each class and the Captain of his company this Captain John Connely proceeded and did class his men to be in readiness and sometime between the year 1780 & 1783 there was a call for men to serve twelve months and we were to furnish one man out of each class for each man we had to draw unless one would volunteer and Daniel Smith did volunteer for the time above stated and that he went at the appointed time and was gone from the Settlement a time sufficiently long to have served his tour and I did and the neighbors did generally believed that he was in the Army of the United States at that time.

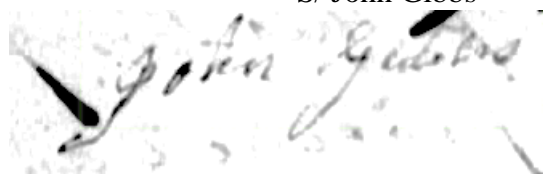
Interrogatory: did you ever hear of Daniel Smith being charged of being a Tory or friendly to the cause of the King in the time of the Revolution. Answer: I knew Daniel Smith through all the time of the Revolution and he lived part of the time with me I never knew him to be tainted with that principle.

Sworn to and subscribed this 28th day of June 1837 before me

⁴ [John Gibbs S8556](#)

S/ Wm Murphy, JP

S/ John Gibbs



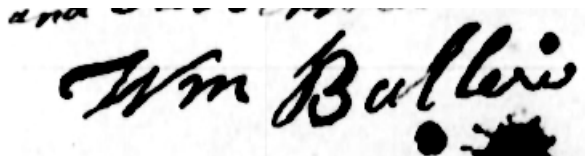
[fn p. 18]

State of North Carolina Burke County: This day William Ballew Senior⁵ being called and caused to come before me Groves Bowman one of the justices in and for said County = and after the cause of his being called being made known = that is to testify what he knows about the life and conduct of Daniel Smith in the time of the old revolutionary war = whether he believes him to be a true revolutionary or not = or if he believed him to be a Tory and friendly to the cause of the Enemy = and after his being duly sworn as the law directs = he deposed and saith = that he became acquainted with Daniel Smith in the year 1769 when they were both young and they were both put on the muster roll in Captain John Connelley's company we both mustered there during the war when we were at home = there were frequent calls for men and Smith when at home was a forward hand either to go or encourage men and in the extreme of the times = I company was classed ten men in a class = and there came a hurrying call for twelve months men and the orders was for one man out of every class and Daniel Smith volunteered his Service in his class = and Smith went away when the rest of the Soldiers went and I did think and yet thinks that he was in the United States Army = and as for him being a Tory or friendly to the cause of the Enemy I think he was not or I should have heard of it, but to the contrary whenever he was at home and we would have a muster he was our first Sergeant and drilled & disciplined the men this deponent further saith not. Sworn to and subscribed this 8th day of December 1837

Before me

S/ Grs. Bowman, JP

S/ Wm Ballew



[fn p. 36]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears by and abstract of the Settlement of Army accounts at Hillsboro in 1792, that Daniel Smith was allowed the sum of twenty-six pounds sixteen shillings and ten pence (£26.16.10). His name does not appear on the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war.

Given under my hand this 19th day of February 1836

S/ Wm Hill

[fn p. 31: Certificate dated March 17 1845 from the North Carolina Comptroller showing payments made to a Daniel Smith for military services during the revolution.]

⁵ I could not find that a man by this or any similar name made a claim for a federal pension based on service in the revolution rendered in North Carolina.

[fn p 8: On March 11, 1845, Mrs. Elizabeth Hilton⁶ and Mrs. Nancy Thomas gave testimony in Caldwell County North Carolina that they are the only two surviving children of Daniel Smith, a revolutionary war pensioner; that their father was a resident of Burke County, now Caldwell County,; that it their father died December 19, 1840, leaving no widow and only the two of them living as his heirs; they seek the arrearages due their father under his pension.]

[fn p. 11: a letter dated May 31, 1913, summarizing the contents of this file has the following paragraph:

"On an application dated December 9, 1835, while a resident of Burke County, North Carolina, he was allowed pension, but his name was dropped from the United States pension roll on September 6, 1836, and never restored, as charges were brought against him that he did not render the alleged service, and that he was a Tory. Neither he nor his heirs were able to refute said charges to the satisfaction of the Pension Bureau."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 21 months service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]

⁶ In a document appearing on page 66 of the Footnote.com version of this file, she is referred to as "Elizabeth Helton."