

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Smith S7561

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Morgan County }

On this 24th day of April 1843, Personally appeared before the justices of the County Court of Morgan, now sitting, William Smith a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged about eighty one 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 service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein after stated (viz) as a private soldier under Capt. Vanmeter of Berkely [sic: Berkeley] County Virginia, that he was drafted out of Capt. Henry Ambroses Company in said County as well as he recollects in December 1880 [sic], and served under Majr. Vanmeter and Col. Lewis, who commanded the Virginia troops to which he was attached – and that after Capt John Vanmeter had left the army he was transfered or attached to Capt Davis Company in which he served until he received his discharge and that after marching from Martinsburg by Fredericksburg to Richmond, Va. he was finally discharged at a place called Bottoms Bridge as well as he recollects about the 1st of July 1781, it being in the summer of the same year in which Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781]

Sworn to in Open Court April 24 1843

[signed] William Smith

Questions by the Court.

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. on the farm I now live, now Morgan County Va. on the 20th December either in 1762 or 1763 according to the earliest information I have had as to the time and place.

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

Answer. I have seen one many year ago among my fathers papers, I heard him say it was a record of my age.

3. Where were you living when called into service? where have you lived since the revolutionary war? and where do you now live?

Answer. when called into service I lived on the same farm I now live, and have lived on the same farm ever since, except at short periods.

4. State some of the general officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and militia regements as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I saw Genl. [Anthony] Wayne with his command join our troops near Richmond – at Richmond I saw the Marquis [Lafayette], and Genl. Mulenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] the forces under them were several thousand. Majr Vanmeter and Col. Lewis commanded the Virginia troops to which I was attached. I was drafted out of Capt. Ambroses company in Berkeley County Va. as well as I can recollect in December 1780 Capt John Vanmeter commanded the company to which I was attached I marched from Martinsburg to Fredericksburg to Richmond, we were closely pressed by the British but had no actual engagement or battle after Capt. John Vanmeter had left the service I was transfered or attached to Capt. Davises Company in which I served till I was discharged.

5. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service? If so, what has become of it?

Answer. I did at a place called Bottoms Bridge near Richmond I do not Remember by whom it was signed. I took no care of it not deeming it worth preserving.

State some of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify to your Character for Varacity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution.

Answer. John Smith George Gray Joseph Higgins John Fleur and George Froshaur.

State of Virginia Morgan County to Wit,

Personally appeared John Smith of Lawfull age before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath. That he is well acquainted with William Smith of Sleepy Creek, Morgan County formerly Berkeley County, Va. that he is now informed that he is an applicant for a pension, that he was born and raised within a mile of where the said William Smith lived at the time of the revolution. That he knew the said William Smith at the time he was drafted for a tour in the Virginia Militia in the revolutionary war. That he recollects of the said William Smith preparing to go to serve his tour in the revolutionary army after he was drafted, and he recollects of seeing him return home to Sleepy Creek after he had been a soldier in the army, and that he has often heard his Father who was also a soldier of the Revolution talk of the said William Smith having served as a soldier in the Revolution shortly after he the said William Smith returned from the Army and also many other neighbors Living in the same Neighborhood shortly after the revolution speak of the said William Smith as a Soldier of the Revolution, and he recollects of hearing the said William Smith, himself, shortly after the Revolution often talk about the Hardships he Endured as a soldier of the revolution. that he believes the said William Smith to be about Eighty one years of age and that he yet Lives on Sleepy Creek in Morgan County, formerly Berkeley county (Va) and he knows him to be the same that was drafted and served in the war of the Revolution as aforesaid

Given under my hand this 15th day of January 1844

[On 24 Apr 1843 John Smith's age was said to be about 66.]

NOTES: On 24 Jan 1844 Sarah Widmeyer, about 70, widow of Michael Widmeyer (pension application S11857) who had died five or six years before, deposed that she had heard her husband say that he and Smith had been drafted on the same day. Joseph Higgins stated that he was the son of Maj. Higgins – probably John Higgins. John Casler, about 76, deposed that he had been born and raised within a few miles of William Smith and had heard William Neely, a revolutionary soldier, say the Smith had also been a soldier of the Revolutionary War. Nicholas Law, about 57, deposed that he had heard his father, Peter Law, who was also a revolutionary soldier, state that William Smith had also been a soldier. George Shank deposed that he had heard Jacob Davis – possibly the one who filed pension application S17916 – state that William Smith had also been a soldier. Jacob Beckdol, about 63, deposed that he had heard Thomas Dawson, a revolutionary soldier and neighbor of William Smith, state that Smith had also been a soldier.