

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Smith (alias John Gates) Va25

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/8/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Taken from Law Order Book 6, Page 39, Russell County VA, court records]

May 7, 1818

John Smith, alias John Gates, who resides in the County of Russell in the State of Virginia, wishing to become a pensioner pursuant to the provisions of an Act of Congress of the United States, passed on the 18th day of March, 1818, entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," personally appeared in Court and declared on oath that he enlisted with Colo. William Preston at the Blue Spring in the state of Virginia, to serve in the Revolutionary War as a private soldier. That he was sent by Colo. Preston to Richmond in Capt. Alexander Howen's [?] Company, and was afterwards placed in Capt. William Overton's Company. He thinks it was in the year 1781. He was marched to Guilford and was at the battle [March 15, 1781] fought there, Colo. Campbell [William Campbell] commanded the Regiment. After the battle of Guilford he was one of the detachment who pursued Cornwallis to Little York and was present at his capture [October 17, 1781]. - It appeared to the Court from the testimony of another person that an understanding existed in the neighborhood of the said John Smith's residence previous to the passage of the said Act of Congress, that he had served in the Revolutionary War, and that he is in such reduced circumstances in life as to need assistance from his country for support. All which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War.