

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Smith W17138 Frances Mills<sup>1</sup> fn17NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves 2/20/11

[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 Franklin County: SS: On this 25th day of March 1842, Personally appeared before me Joseph J Williams, one of the acting Magistrates and a Member of the Court of Pleas and Order Sessions in & for said County (it being a Court of Record) Frances Mills a resident of said County aged eighty-three years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836; and the act Explanatory of said act, passed March 3rd 1837, and the act entitled "an act granting half pay and Pensions to certain widows" passed July 7th 1838 –

That she was married to Benjamin Smith who was a Private in the Army of the Revolution in the North Carolina line that enlisted under Captain Bailey [Benjamin Bailey] in the North Carolina service in the 10th Regiment on the 25th day of May 1781 for twelve months, who served out the same.

She further declares that she was married to the said Benjamin Smith on the 15th day of September 1777, that her husband the aforesaid Benjamin Smith died on the 15th day of March 1785.

That she was afterwards (to wit) on the 7th day of December 1788, married to John Mills who was a Private in the Army of the Revolution in the North Carolina line, that enlisted on the 12th day of May 1781 for twelve months in the 10th Regiment under Captain Carter [Benjamin Carter] & was a Sergeant a part of his service –

She further declares that her husband the said John Mills died on the first day of May 1815 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period of time as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

That she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 – viz. at the time above stated.

Sworn to, and subscribed the day & year above written before

S/ J J Williams, JP

S/ Frances Mills, X her mark

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<sup>1</sup> Former widow. A note on the cover sheet reads: "This woman's other husband, John Mills, NC, also served in the Revolutionary War."

I John King<sup>2</sup> of the County of Franklin, North Carolina do, hereby certify upon oath that I was well acquainted with Benjamin Smith, and that the said Smith enlisted as a Soldier of the Revolution in the North Carolina Continental Line, under Captain Bailey in the 10th Regiment – for twelve months and he faithfully served out the same. The above enlistment was in the Spring of 1781 – I, also, certify that the above named Benjamin Smith was married to Frances Coley, some 3 or 4 years previous to the time of his twelve months service in the revolution and that they lived together as husband & wife up to the period of said Benjamin Smith's death which occurred a few years after the War ended.

And in a few years after said Smith's death, his widow the said Frances, was again married to one John Mills who was also a Soldier of the Revolution, for twelve months, he belonged to Captain Carter's Company of the 10th North Carolina Regiment, & Enlisted the same spring that Benjamin Smith did; the said Mills was a Sergeant in the said Company & served out his 12 months service. The said John Mills and the said Frances always lived together as husband and wife up to the time of the said Mills's death, which occurred as much as thirty years ago. – The said Frances Mills is now a widow & has never married since her said husband John Mills died.

I further certify that I know of my own personal knowledge, that Frances Mills above named is the widow of the identical John Mills & was the [paper torn, text missing] of the identical Benjamin Smith that were soldiers of the revolution, that served as above. I also certify that I believe the said Frances Mills is upwards of 80 years of age.

Given under my hand this 13th day of December A.D. 1841.

Test: S/ J J Williams, JP

S/ John King, X his mark

I David King<sup>3</sup> of the County of Warren and State of North Carolina a Soldier of the Revolution aged 78 years, certify on oath, that I was acquainted with Benjamin Smith and John Mills & also am now acquainted with Frances Mills who was the wife of Smith & is now the widow of Mills. That the said Benjamin Smith enlisted in the Revolution for 12 months, in the month of May 1781; That the said John Mills, was also a Soldier of the Revolution & enlisted for 12 months in May 1781; – and that they did serve out the same faithfully with me, we were all soldiers together & enlisted about the same time and we all belonged & did serve in the 10th North Carolina Regiment.

I also Certify that the said Benjamin Smith was married to Frances Coley a few years before he enlisted as above, and that in some short time after the war ended the said Smith died – and in some few years his widow Frances, married John Mills, the soldier that is mentioned & served as above stated, and that the said John Mills, died upwards of 20 years past, and his widow the said Frances is now a widow, and has not married since her said husband John Mills died. That the said Benjamin Smith, and also the said John Mills, after their marriage to the said Frances always lived with her as husband & wife up to the time that they died, –

I do further certify that I know that the present applicant (Frances Mills) for a pension is the widow of the identical John Mills and was the wife of the identical Benjamin Smith that were soldiers of the Revolution, for 12 months as first above stated.

Sworn to & subscribed before us the 22nd day of April 1842

S/ David King, X his mark

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<sup>2</sup> [John King R5962](#)

<sup>3</sup> [David King S46055](#)    [David King W20347](#)

[fn p. 8: Copy of a Marriage Bond issued in Bute County North Carolina to Benjamin Smith and John Williams to secure the issuance of a license to marry to Benjamin Smith to marry Frances Coley, bond dated November 12th, 1777.]

[fn p. 10: copy of a document attesting the marriage of John Mills to Frances Smith issued in Bute County North Carolina and dated December 6, 1778 [sic, 1788].]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 12 months service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]