

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Henry Smith

W2183

Transcribed by R. Neil Vance [[Corrections and additions by Elizabeth Boody](#)]
[Original spelling and punctuation retained. Footnotes are provided to assist in the
identification of soldiers or battles.]

Declaration~~ECLARATION~~

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of Georgia
County of Franklin

On this twenty ~~eight~~ day of January in the year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty-three personally appeared in open ~~Ce~~ourt before the Inferior Court of said ~~Ce~~ounty now sitting Henry Smith a resident of Capt. Newells ~~De~~istrict in said County aged Seventy three 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 Ceongress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He was drafted in York District South Carolina for three months under Capt. Robt. Mc A'Fee [Robert McAfee] and was marched under him and Col. Thomas Neal¹ to Oconee river in Georgia thence to Ogeechee near Phillips' Fort² where they staid about a month thence was marched home and was discharged by Capt. Mc A'fee having served as a private horseman finding his own horse three months. This to the best of his knowledge-recollection was in the aAutumn of 1776.

In the Spring of 1779 he volunteered at York aforesaid under Capt. McCullough [most likely William McCullough or McCulloch] & was marched under him & Major Ross [Francis or Frank Ross] to Savannah river opposite to Augusta Georgia, and there joined General Williams [Andrew Williamson] ___ also a Regiment of Regulars but does not recollect the names of the officers except Thomas Prince a Lieutenant who was afterwards wounded at Stono & died, was marched from there to Briar Creek in Georgia where he joined Genl. Ash [John Ashe]. was at the Battle atof Briar Creek, but was out on a Scouting party as a Trooper during the fight and & the British having encamped on our Camp ground his detachment was near being taken on their

¹ Col. Thomas Neel 1730-1779, commanded the New Acquisition (York Co., S.C.) militia regiment. He was killed at the Battle of Stono June 20, 1779.

² "Phillips Fort" could either refer to Joel Phillips' or Zachariah Phillips' Fort, both frontier forts in Wilkes County (now Elbert County), Georgia, and built by former North Carolinians Joel and Zachariah Phillips, respectively, Colonel Samuel Elbert visited one or both of these forts in 1777. Joel Phillips' Fort probably stood near Kettle Creek on the north side of the Little River, while Zachariah Phillips' Fort probably stood at the mouth of Lick Creek on the south side of the Little River. Indians destroyed Zachariah's fort in 1780. For sources see Davidson, Wilkes County, I, II, 17. "Order Book of Samuel Elbert ..." Collections of the Georgia Historical Society (Savannah, 1902), V. pt. II, 55; Carolina C. Hunt, "Oconee: Temporary Boundary," University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology Series, No. 10, 18; Hays, "Georgia Military Affairs," I, 33.

return as they thought to their own camp but they escaped, all but one who was taken prisoner.³ He & the rest retreated & joined Genl. Williamson opposite Augusta, ~~F~~ from thence he was marched into Georgia under Maj. ~~of~~ Ross after some Indians, who had taken and burned a Fort. Had a skirmish with the Indians near Rocky Comfort Creek⁴ & Maj. Ross was wounded, and died after we returned to Headquarters under Genl. Williamson. He was then discharged having served two months in a Horse Company finding his own horse.

His ~~B~~ brother⁵ was first Lieutenant of a Company under a Captain Barnett⁶ from York aforesaid and had marched to Charleston about a week afterwards ~~deponent~~ started on horseback to join them as a volunteer and joined them about two days after the Battle at Stono, and was marched to Charleston and his ~~B~~ brother who was wounded at Stono was placed in the old Barracks Hospital and & ~~deponent~~ was appointed to serve-nurse him and did so from June until August when he died. Served on this ~~T~~our Two months as a private horseman finding his own horse and ~~the~~ time being out [?] on the death of his ~~B~~ brother he returned home. ~~D~~ does not recollect what year it was.⁷

Again volunteered at York aforesaid under Capt. Barnett & was under Col. Watson⁸ & Genl. Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] in the autumn of 1780 he thinks and was marched & and joined Col. Hampton & the ~~R~~egulars at Monk's Corner [Monck's Corner] near Charleston, from thence after the British & ~~T~~ories near Cooper river did not come up with them and returned to Camp, — thence to Granby [?] in South Carolina where the Tories were in a Fort, which surrendered, and from thence was marched to Tiger [Tyger] river where we were in a Battle with the Tories at Blackstocks,⁹ where Sumpter was wounded & and carried to Deponents Fathers where deponent was discharged by Genl. Sumpter, having served three months as a private horseman finding his own horse.

Again volunteered, at York aforesaid under Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] to pilot him through the Country, ~~took him~~ York then to Pacolet [river], and from thence Deponent was sent out as a Spy after Bill Cunningham & the Tories of Bush ~~r~~iver, took two prisoners, & and returned to Camp, when Col. Washington [William Washington] and & his Light Horse joined Morgan, and deponent was sent to pilot Col. Washingtons troops to Cunninghams Camp on Bush river, where they were defeated by Col. Washington who took a number of prisoners & and returned to Camp. Deponent was sent as a guard & pilot of the prisoners to Roan [~~H~~Rowan] C.H. North Carolina and & returned to Camp where he arrived the day after Tarleton's Defeat.¹⁰ When he was sent under Capt. Barnett to aid in picking up the British stragglers & was kept near Broad river scouting upon the watch for Cornwallis's² army, & followed his Trail into North Carolina, and then returned and was kept up under Capt. Barnett after the Tories till nearly the time ~~Peace~~ was made Cornwallis surrendered in October 1781. Served 9-nine months on the last recited duty

³ Briar Creek, or Ashe's Defeat, was March 3, 1779. See James McElwee W9553, for a similar account.

⁴ This engagement has various names, including Rocky Comfort Creek, and took place in late March or early April 1779.

⁵ This officer's first name is uncertain; Moss notes a James Smith who died of wounds received at Stono.

⁶ Probably Capt. Jacob Barnett

⁷ 1779

⁸ Samuel Watson 1731 -1810 was Lt. Col. or Col. of the New Acquisition regiment

⁹ Blackstock's Plantation Nov. 20, 1780

¹⁰ The Cowpens, January 17, 1781

as a private horseman finding his own horse. A part of the time under Col. John Moffett¹¹ after Cornwallis went to North Carolina.

Served altogether One year and Seven months as a private horseman finding his own horse.

1. Was born in Rockingham County Virginia in 1759 August 18th
2. Has record of his age in his father's Bible at declarants house.
3. Lived in York District South Carolina Since the Revolutionary war he removed to his present residence 37 years since [?] where he has resided ever since to wit in the County of Franklin and State of Georgia.
4. Was drafted the first three months and volunteered always afterwards.
5. Has stated in the body of Declaration
6. Never received a written discharge, nor any pay that he recollects.
7. Is known to Dozier Thornton _ a preacher of the gospel and to George Cockburn &and Elias Burges [Burgess] who reside in his present neighborhood and who can testify to his character for veracity & to their belief of his having been a Soldier of the Revolution. Is also known to James Riley¹² of this county, a preacher, who served a part of the time with the declarant &and to whom he sent to procure his Testimony but Riley was too unwell to attend Court. Declarant will yet try to procure his Testimony.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any Agency of any State, within his knowledge.

Sworn to and subscribed
the
day and & year first aforesaid
Thos. King C.I.C. [Clerk of the Inferior Court]
-Henry Smith

We Dozier Thornton a Clergyman and George Cockburn & Elias Burgess residing in the neighborhood of the aforementioned applicant Henry Smith hereby Certify that we are well acquainted with the said [?] who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration, that we know him to be Seventy three years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion. And said George Cockburn knew him in the time of the Revolution and he was said to be an active whig.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court
The day & year first above written
Thos. King
Dozier Thornton
Elias Burgess
George Cockburn

¹¹ c. 1742 – 1829. A Captain, and later a Colonel, in the New Acquisition militia.

¹² FPA S9061

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the Investigation of the matter, and after putting the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department. That the above named applicant was a revolutionary Soldier and served as he states. And the Court further Certifies that it appears to them that Dozier Thornton who has signed the preceeding [sic: preceding] certificate is a Clergyman resident in the County, and that Elias Burgess, and George Cockburn who has also signed the same are residents of the County and are creditable [?], and that their Statement is entitled to Credit.

Test. – Thos. King C.I.C.

Thomas Farmer J.I.C. [Justice of the Inferior Court]

Noah Looney J.I.C.

Alan Dean J.I.C.

I Thos. King Clerk of the Inferior Court of the County & State first aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of Henry Smith for a Pension. – In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said Court this 29th day of January 1833.

Thos. King C.I.C.