

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

Pension Application of Skelton Smith W2184

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } On this 15th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court,
Sumner County } before the Justices of the County Court of Sumner, being a Court of Record,
Skelton Smith being about 71 years of age, a resident of said County, who being first duly sworn
according to law, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress
passed June 7th 1832 "That in October 1777 [probably 1779: see endnote], applicant then quite a boy
residing in Hanover County, State of Virginia, in the family of his father, went up to Louisa County &
substituted in the place of Bath Warren under Capt. [Thomas] Porter for three weeks to guard the British
Prisoners at the Barracks near Charlottesville which service he performed & was regularly discharged or
disbanded; Applicant then went home and in three weeks returned to Louisa Court House and substituted
again in the place of Isaac Spencer for three weeks & was sent to the Barracks near Charlottesville to guard
the British Prisoners & was placed under the command of Capt. Porter he remained until his Term
expired & was again regularly discharged or disbanded, when he returned home to his father in Hanover
County Col. [Francis] Taylor commanded at the Barracks. Col. [Theodorick] Bland commanded a Troop
of Light Horse that was stationed at the Barracks at Charlotsville. On the 19th day of January following
the above service [probably 1780] Applicant was 16 years old, in five days after which he was enrolled on
the Muster List; the Company to which Applicant was attached was commanded by Capt. Ben. Brown &
was classed from Nos. 1 to No. 10; applicant drew in the 1st class & his father in class No. 10. Applicant
about the last of January 1778 was called upon to perform a Tour of forty days, which he performed under
Capt. John Thompson, & was engaged in scouring the County from old Williamsburg down to Hampton;
We were driven from Buwels ferry [probably Burwell's Ferry]. This expedition was commanded by Cols.
[Sampson] Mathews & [James] Ennis & Majr Pierce, (regular officers formaly) it was the 3rd Virginia
Regiment. Applicant was regularly discharge & disbanded at Williamsburg at the expiration of his Term.
Some time in April it came to applicant's father's Turn to serve a Tour of forty days, when Applicant
substituted in his place & was attached to Capt. John Nailor's Company of the 3rd Virginia Regiment,
commanded by the above named officers, during this Term went about the same rout as above, except
that did not get quite to Hampton; marched back to Williamsburg & was regularly disbanded. In a short
time the class to which applicant belonged was called upon to perform a Tour, when Applicant was called
out and was attached to Capt. William Thompson's Company of the 3rd. Virginia Regiment commanded
by the aforesaid Officers, during this time took pretty much the same route as before marching from Point
to Point as necessity required & at the end of the Term of forty days was disbanded at Williamsburg.
During the war applicant performed fifteen Tours of duty, either in his own place or as a substitute, five of
which have already been described; the balance were as follows, two Tours, one of forty days & the other
of two months, under the aforesaid John Nailor; one of forty days under the aforesaid John Thompson
and one of forty days under the aforesaid William Thompson; one Tour of forty days under Captain
Joseph Cross; two Tours one of two months & one of forty days under Capt Edward Bullock; one Tour of
two months under Capt Thomas Richardson; one Tour of two months under Capt John Wingfield & one
Tour of two months under Capt David Davenport; Appliant was always attached to the 3rd Virginia
Regiment commanded by Cols. Mathews & Ennis & Majr. Pierce. Applicant was in service with short
intermissions from Oct 1777 until August 1782 – Applicant was principally engaged in service on the
Appamatax [sic: Appomattox], James River and York River. Applicant was in the engagement of storming
the British Picket at Williamsburg, which was done by 300 americans commanded by Majr. Thomas
Armstead [or Thomas Armistead]. he was in an engagement at Osburn [sic: Osborne's] between
Petersburg & Richmond, where the Americans prevented the British from landing, Majr Armstead &

Ramsay, & Cols. Mathews & Ennis commanding; These were all the skirmishes in which applicant was engaged. Applicant was on his march under Capt. John Wingfield to Little York but was stopped by an express at New Kent Court House giving information that Corn Wallis had surrendered [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781]. The last service performed by Applicant was in 1782 in haling the British Cannon from the British Forts at Little York, which service ended in August 1782. Applicant performed 15 Tours as before stated & was always regularly discharged or disbanded, but he never received a written discharge making in all about twenty two months, all of which service applicant performed as a private. Applicant knew in the service Genls. Thomas Nelson, StuBen [sic: Baron von Steuben] Cols. Taylor, Bland, Ennis, Burnly, Majrs Pierce, Armstead & Ramsay; also Cols [Charles] Dabney & [William] Dandridge & Sim [probably Charles Simms]; knew Dabney at Little York; Dandridge at Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County], & Sim at West Ham [sic: Westham up James River from old Richmond]. The above is substantially as correct an account of Applicant's services in the Revolutionary War as he can give at this late day Applicant resided in Louisa & Hanover Counties, Virginia until about 22 years ago, when he moved to Sumner County, Tennessee, where he has resided ever since: Applicant has no Documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person living, whose testimony he can procure by whom he can prove his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension List of the agency of any State or Territory
Sworn to in open Court Feby 15th 1833. [signed] Skelton Smith

NOTES:

The prisoners at Albemarle Barracks near Charlottesville VA were surrendered by Gen. John Burgoyne at Saratoga NY on 17 Oct 1777, but they were not brought to Albemarle County until Jan 1779, while the barracks were still being constructed.

On 2 Nov 1848 Jane C. Smith, 70, applied for a pension stating that she was married to Skelton Smith by William Cook, a Baptist preacher, on 21 Nov 1799, and her husband died 9 July 1838. Her mother, Elizabeth Yancy, 95, and her sister, Mary Franklin, 63, deposed that they had witnessed the marriage. On 8 Jun 1855 Jane C. Smith, 76, applied for bounty land.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed in Louisa County on 11 Nov 1799 by Skelton Smith and W. Cooke for the marriage of Smith to Jane Cosby Yancey, as well as a copy of the marriage return reading, "Skelton Smith & Jane C. Yancey 21 Nov'r. 1799. Wm Cooke." Also in the file is a family record certified as being in the handwriting of Skelton Smith and transcribed as follows:

Skelton Smith & Jane C. Yancey was Married November the 21, 1799

Jane C. Smith wife of Skelton Smith was Born October 21st 1778

Bushrod Washington Smith was Born November 5th 1800

Elizabeth Skelton Smith was Born May 1802

Mary Wingfield Smith was Born March 1st 1804 and departed this life August 8th 1809 aged 5 years 6 months & 8 days [sic]

John Dandridge Smith was Born December the 26th 1805 Thursday mornin 10 OClock

John Dandridge Smith departed this life October the 4th 1829 aged 24 year 8 month [sic]

Jane Garland Smith was Born April [date illegible] 1808 and departed this life 8th day of September 1809 aged 1 year 4 months & 22 days [sic]

Perrin Spotswood Smith Was Born 25th of June 1810 Monday morning

Nathan Alexander Smith was Born August 17th 1812 on Monday morning

Robert Hugh Mercer Smith was Born March 9th 1814 on Wednesday night,

Lewis Sharp Smith was born August the 6th one thousand Eight hundred and Sixteen Tuesday morning 1816

Lewis Sharp Smith Departed this life October the 25th 1816 aged two months and 19 days old,

Wrote Nov'r. 5th 1816