

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

Pension Application of Joel Smith W2260

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } S.S.

White County }

On this 9th day of April 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for said County, Joel Smith, a resident Citizen of the State and County aforesaid, aged about 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 provision of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That he entered the service of the united States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He entered the service to the best of his recollection in the autumn of the year 1780, but he is not positively certain as to the date [probably later]. He went out and served three months as a substitute in the Company Commanded by Captain Richard Swepston [Richard Swepson], of Mecklenburg County Virginia –where this Declarant then lived. He cannot recollect the name of the individual for who he substituted. He states that he was a stranger to him, and the only fact he recollects distinctly about it is, that he got one hundred Dollars in Continental money for going the Campaign. Captain Swepston’s company constituted part of the Regiment Commanded by Col [William Green] Munford. From Mecklenburg, the Regiment to which he belonged marched to Portsmouth near Norfolk where the troops remained the whole three months for which he engaged. The object, he states, of the troops remaining at Portsmouth was this: there were, in sight of them, two British ships of War, lying in Hampton Roads, and it was deemed a matter of importance to keep them from landing. he received a written discharge at the end of the three months from his Captain Richard Swepston.

From Portsmouth, he returned home to Mecklenburg, where he only remained for five days, when he went to the residence of two of his brothers, who lived near each other in North Carolina though one lived in Granville County and the other in Warren. When he went there, there was a Company of drafted men in the County of Warren, Commanded by Captain Sterling Clarke; and the british and tories being then Very troublesome, the Declarant, and several others turned out as volunteers, and attached themselves to the Company Commanded by the said Captain Clarke This tour was for three months, and he served it out. From Warren County N.C. the troops marched to the Town of Charlotte, not in Virginia but in North Carolina – the officer highest in command was Major Dickson [possibly Joseph Dixon]. He [illegible word] the highest in command from Warren. The object of raising this Company was to protect the country as far as possible from the ravages of the tories, in the country round about and adjacent to the Town of Charlotte. At that place, [several illegible words], the company encountered about Eighty of the british Light horse and were compelled to retreat [26 Sep 1780] – we lost one man – by the name of [Lieutenant] George Locke – the son of Gen’l [Matthew] Locke. He was killed near to the place where this Declarant then was. Nothing further remarkable occurred during this tour of duty – he received a written discharge from his captain Sterling Clarke –

Very shortly after receiving this discharge from his second tour of duty – He went home with his uncle Robert Wood, who lived at “the Cherokee ford” on broad River, in the state of South Carolina, York District. His uncle was drafted for three months – and he thinks, but is not certain, that the Captain’s name was Lytle. This Declarant went out as a substitute for the said Robert Wood, and served out the three months. The object of this service was likewise to protect the Country from the tories: from York District, they marched to Orangeburg S.C. to a place then called “the orangeburg swamps” where the company remained during the three months – part of the three months, they were stationed in the Town

of Orangeburg. He remembers that just about the close of this Tour, Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Little York [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. He is therefore enabled to speak with certainty as to "the period of the war" when his services closed – being the close of the War. How great the intervals were between his different tours, he cannot precisely say. He can only speak in General terms, and says that were short. He is however, tolerably well satisfied that his first campaign was in the latter part of the 1780. He has no documentary evidence by which his services can be established, nor does he know of any living witness within his reach, by whom the same can be established. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension whatever, except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state.

Answers

To the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department and propounded by the Court.

- 1st He was born Sept 4 1760 in Mecklenburg Co. Virginia.
- 2 He has now no record of his age – the book which contained it is lost, or worn out.
- 3 When called into service first he lived in Mecklenburg County Virginia – he subsequently went into service from Warren N.C. and York District S.C. Since the Revolution, he has lived in York District S.C. about 17 years – from thence he removed to Rutherford County North Carolina – from thence he removed to white County where he now resides in the state of Tennessee and has resided ever since he first came to it.
- 4 He substituted, but does not recollect for whom the first tour. The second he volunteered and the third he substituted for Robert Wood
- 5 He cannot say that he ever had any acquaintance with any of the officers of the Regular army – as to "the General Circumstances of his service" he cannot state them more fully than he has already done – in fact nothing very important occurred in his service.
- 6 He received a regular discharge from his Captain each time he served as already stated. These discharges have all been lost by time or accident he cannot certainly say what has become of them.
- 7 He states the names of the following persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can Testify as to his Character for Veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution Viz. Rev'd Pleasant Early – Robert Anderson – John Fryar – Joseph Herd Esq'r – Warren[?] Leftwich Esq'r and Jesse Lincoln – John White he hereby [signed] Joel Smith

NOTE: On 24 Feb 1853 and again on 6 June 1853 Nancy Smith, aged 50, of Van Buren County TN, applied for a pension stating that she married Joel Smith on 23 Oct 1823 or on 21 Nov 1823 in White County, and he died on 4 Apr 1840 in Van Buren County. In an application for bounty land dated 10 Apr 1855 her age is given as 55, the date of marriage as 23 Oct 1823, and her maiden name as Nancy Moore. The file contains a copy of the marriage license dated 20 Nov 1823 and of the marriage return dated 21 Nov 1823, witnessed by Samuel Moore and signed by George D. Howard, Justice of the Peace.