

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Darby Smithhart [Darby Smith Hart?]W2635¹ Dorcas fn71SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 7/3/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[fn p. 18]

State of Kentucky Whitley County: Sct.

On this 16 day of June 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Joseph Eve, Judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit in Kentucky Darby Smithhart, a resident Citizen of said County, aged, being born the 22nd of October 1759, who being duly sworn upon his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That in the forepart of August before the defeat of General Nash [John Ashe] at Brier Creek [March 3, 1779] in Georgia, he enlisted in Craven (then called) County in South Carolina betwixt the Pedee Rivers in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Moultrie (brother to the General) for three years on Continental establishment in the 2nd Regiment in the South Carolina troops commanded by Colonel Francis Marion (General Marion afterwards) for the term of three years. After he enlisted he was marched to Sullivan's Island about 7 miles from Charleston South Carolina where he was stationed till in march, when Major Peter Orea [Peter Horry], or Olie, was detached with a force of about 150 men to go to reinforce our troops at Purrysburg on Savannah River, then any [sic?] before we reached there General Nash [Ashe] was defeated and he met some of the retreating troops. He was then marched back towards Charleston and was pursued by the British, many gave out, some were captured, but he escaped and returned home to where he was enlisted, and joined the [company of] Capt. Henry Council, whom he was under when he enlisted, and was then in service in the militia of the State of South Carolina. When he returned Captain Council was still in a like service appointed him a Sergeant of his Company in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Culp, then in the service of the State in Militia. Culp was afterwards killed by the Tories & his house burnt. He served under Council six months and upwards, when the Tories burned his house and he quit his command and moved to Virginia as was understood through fear. Daniel Sparks was Lieutenant and assumed the command of the Company and he served under him till near the close of the War in the Regiment commanded by Major Morris Murphy who rose to the Colonel when Culp was killed & Benton was Major, who had been Captain – under these engagements he served upwards of three years, when he was taken by surprise by the Tories as a prisoner, but owing to a truce concluded by General Marion he was released and after that he was in no more service until peace came. He was in no battles then or many scouts, besides marching to & fro from through the State, on the waters of Pedee, thence to Georgetown & towards Charlestown. The whole troop, or Regiment was always on the orders of General Marion, who frequently marched in body and in scouting detached parties. He got no written discharge. He hereby relinquishes

¹ BLWt26941-160-55

every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. At one time, the Regiment with him marched to fatevill [Fayetteville] in North Carolina for the assistance of the People. The reason why he joined Captain Council was that his (2) Regiment was broken & dispersed and was advised to join to serve out his term. He thought he was so bound to do. He said he served upwards of 2 years as a Sergeant. The Regiment under Colonel Culp and afterwards under Colonel Murphey were troops raised by the State called "Minute men" that they were almost constantly on duty by order of General Marion, either in a body for their own safety and to awe the Tories, or marching, sometimes in a body and different detachments through the Country by order of General Marion. He was born in North Carolina in Brunswick County. He has a record of his age in his Bible, the time is truly stated. He lived in the County where he enlisted in the Revolution commenced. Since he lived there till he moved to this County in Kentucky about 17 years past. He entered the service on his own Act, as a Continental regular. As to his officers he has stated except he saw General Lincoln on the Savannah River, he has forgotten the name of his Lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment in which he enlisted there were 10 captains viz. – Dunbar Captain of the Grenadiers, Captain Moot, Captain Lesayne of Infantry, Captain Musick [Mazyck], Captain Martin, Captain Hart, Captain Biboo [Bobo?] (A Frenchman), Captain Haleton, Capt. Charnick, Capt. Mootey or Multree [Moultrie].

S/Darby Smith Hart, X his mark [sic]

[William Hays, a preacher, and Andrew Craig, clerk of the Whitley Circuit Court, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 34]

State of Kentucky, Whitley County: Sct.

On the 25 of September 1835 before the Honorable Joseph Eve, Judge of the Whitley Circuit Court, Derby Smithhart appeared in open Court and filed as matter of record upon oath the following additional statement to his previously filed in said Court, at the June term last of this Court. He is surprised to know that the war Department supposes he deserted, the truth by way of a more particular declaration and explanation, he would say, that the Army had been defeated under General Nash [John Ashe] and he was under the command of Major Olea [Peter Horry] who was going to assist Nash but after the defeat of Nash his command they met retreating in a confused condition and his Olea's Corps likewise turned to flight, the British were in hot pursuit – indeed sometimes in sight, his brother had been badly burned by the bursting of his powder horn, when standing over the fire cooking his meal – he was so badly burned, that his life was fought to be in danger, and he by the advice of his ~~officers~~ friends in the Army, when the troops were retreating in disorder & no order preserved, that he should take his brother home to be cured. He did so – and immediately less than 3 weeks repaired to the Company he first enlisted under and served as time except the time spoken of being under the Tories, when during the truce between Marion & the Tories he moved to North Carolina – he was balloted for 18 months he again repeats his first statement to be true, but did not, not being called on, these being made serve, or called on.

Test: S/ E. Smith

S/ Darby Smithhart, X his mark

[fn p. 16: November 8, 1841, the veteran applied to have his pension payments transferred to the Tennessee agency stating that he has moved from Kentucky to McMinn County Tennessee stating as his reason for moving that he has relations living in McMinn County and he hopes to

receive the kindness and attention of them in his old age.]

[fn p. 6: On February 1, 1853 in Whitley County Kentucky, Dorcas Smithhart, 58, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that her husband was a pensioner for his service in the revolution at the rate of \$20 per annum; that she married him September 6, 1837; that her husband died July 7, 1846; and that she remains his widow.

Dorcas Smithhart

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[fn p. 8: Jesse Walker gave testimony in which the County Kentucky that he was present at the marriage of the veteran and to Dorcas in Campbell County, Tennessee, at the house of Michael Broils on or about September 6, 1837.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia. The widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum.]