

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joseph Smith W3725

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

Pittsylvania County, towit

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before Stephen Coleman, Thomas Shelton, John S. Adams and William M. Williams the Court of Pittsylvania County now sitting Joseph Smith a resident of the County of Pittsylvania and state aforesaid aged sixty one 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 Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 That he entered the service of the United States early in the month of January 1781 as a substitute for Harmon Miller and marched from the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia in a Company of drafted Militia which was commanded by Captain Charles Wall and Lieu. Bates & Ensign Daniel Wilson. Crossed Staunton River at Bibbs Ferry, went through the Counties of Charlotte, Lunenburg, Notoway [sic: Nottoway] and Dinwiddie by the Long Ordinary [3 mi. above Petersburg] and through the town of Petersburg to Cabin Point on James River [in Surry County], there joined the regiment under the Command of Major Pinnell [sic: Pannill] and Colo. [John] Holcombe, and was stationed at that place about six weeks, then marched down the Country and joined Gen'l. Mulenburgs [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's] Brigade near Portsmouth Va. and remained with him until his term of service being three months expired, he was discharged by ensign Wilson about the first of April 1781. That his discharge is lost and cannot be found, he has no documentary evidence and does not know a person living that served with him on that tour but has proved by Capt. John Walters who lived a close neighbour to him that he entered the service as the substitute of Harmon Miller — Soon after his return home from the above described tour he again entered the service of the United States as substitute for his Father James Smith and marched from the said County of Halifax some time in the month of April 1781 in a Company of drafted Militia which was commanded by Captain William Clark to Point of Fork on James River [at its junction with Rivanna River], at that place he joined the Regiment commanded by Colo. [St. George] Tucker in Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson's Brigade and continued under the said officers marching in various direction until he arrived at Morbin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill] below Richmond and remained at that place until his term of service expired being upwards of three months - he was discharged at that place by Colo. Preddy [sic: Richard Priddy] the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 1781, that identical discharge is now in his possession and herewith presented to the Court.

He was born in the State of Maryland he suppose in the year 1763 has no record of his age, but from the information received from his parents he is 69 years old. he lived in the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia when he entered the service of the United States - he lived in the County of Halifax five years after the war ended - then moved to the County of Pittsylvania Virginia and has lived in this County ever since.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State—

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid —            Joseph Smith

This May Sertify that Joseph Smith one of the Melitia from Hallfax County has served a faithfull and honourable Tower

Rd. Priddy Leut C

July 28 1781

NOTE: On 26 Aug 1847 Basha Smith, 77, applied for a pension stating that she married Joseph Smith on 5 June 1793, and he died 9 July 1842. With her application is a record of the names and dates of birth of their children, and also a copy of a bond signed by Joseph Smith and Ezra Walters on 19 May 1795 for the marriage of Smith to "Barsha Humphris," and the consent of her father, James Humphrey. On 26 Apr 1855 Basha Smith gave her age as 79 in an application for bounty land.