

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Michael Smithpeter W3730<sup>1</sup> Christina Smithpeter f72NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 2/28/11 & 6/9/15

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 18]

State of Tennessee, Washington County: September Term 1832

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Samuel Powel, Judge of the Court of Law & Equity for the county of Washington and State of Tennessee, ~~John~~ Michael Smithpeter, a citizen resident of (now Carter) then Washington County, Tennessee (then North Carolina) aged seventy nine, 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 the 7th June, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as here in stated, to wit: That at that time being a resident citizen of the county of Washington, then North Carolina and on the border of the Cherokee Nation of Indians (and that tribe in part) in league with the British he volunteered under Capt. James Robeson [sic, Robertson?] then of the same county, to defend the frontier and marched on the first of June 1776 to the Nolichucky [River] & there was engaged & persecuted [sic, prosecuted?] to some extent, the building of a fort on big Limestone, where the Indian Traders came in & informed them that the Indians had embodied & were marching on upon the settlements & the men under said Robeson retreated into the settlements on Watauga [River] and there fortified at or above the Sycamore Shoals (where the Indians came & made an attack upon the fort) and upon the reinforcement of men from Virginia marched on to the frontier under Shelby [Isaac Shelby] & Campbell [William Campbell] (if he is not mistaken in the lapse of time) when the Indians beat back to the heart of the Nation & the Army marched as declarant says and entered the Hiwassee [spelled Highwassee] country & drove the Indians & burned their towns. That he obtained his discharge at said Fort from Capt. Robeson, after serving seven months.

After which on the first of the ensuing January he again volunteered in the same country under Captain Joseph Martin, then of the Virginia Militia, to go on a tour of duty against the same Indians (the line of Virginia being at that time the Holston [spelled Holstin] River near where this declarant resided) & under said Captain Martin, he was marched to the Rie [sic, Rye] Cove on Clinch River & there employed the men in building a fort, to defend the frontier in that quarter and said Martin's Company guarded the frontier (now Scott County, Virginia) & built a Fort called Rie [sic, Rye] Cove Station, & remained there for the term of three months & was discharged by his Captain Martin & returned home.

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt26006-160-55

Again in the following April, 1777, he volunteered at big Creek (what is now Hawkins County) under Captain James Robeson (under whom he first served) to keep the fort on Big Creek, & scout the country & repress the Indian invasions, & there kept in service under Robeson (There being no other Company there) for the summer and until the month of September when he returned home, having been discharged by said Capt. Robeson.

That in 1778 he again, in the month of February or March, volunteered under Captain Charles Robeson to perform a tour of duty. At the time that the Indians were in detached parties coming thru the Greasy Cove & Gap Creek and was under said Robeson stationed in the Fort at the Gap Creek where he ranged & kept fort & scouted during the term of said service, and served three months & was verbally discharged by said Captain Robeson.

That he returned home & married & remained at home until the news of the approach of Ferguson & his army, when all the Militia was called upon & he was drafted to go on said expedition to intercept said Ferguson & was enrolled under Capt. Valentine Sevier, & was in the command of Col. Sevier [John Sevier] & joined the army under Cols. Campbell [William Campbell] from Virginia, Shelby [Isaac Shelby] from (what is now Sullivan) [County, Tennessee] & Sevier's men at Gap Creek, and marched across the Yellow Mountain & passed through Burke & Rutherford & fell in with Cleveland's [Benjamin Cleveland's] Militia & marched under Col. Campbell (who had the head command to Kings Mountain[]) & there engaged the Army under Col. Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] [Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780] drawn up on the top of the Mountain. ~~which~~ They surrounded the mountain and killed & captured the whole Army (Ferguson himself having fallen) after which he was marched home & discharged (verbally) by said Capt. Valentine Sevier, & was three months in said campaign.

That in the next year in March, he volunteered under Capt. Valentine Sevier to go on the expedition against the Overhill Indians in what is now Haywood County & marched, under Col. Sevier up Indian Creek through the Greasy Cove, across the bald mountain to the Overhill Towns & there took ~~fifty~~ [? looks like "seven"] prisoners & he with twenty four others were left to take charge of them until the Army marched on further in the Nation, & whilst the Army was absent the Indians attacked them but few were repulsed & on the return of the Army marched back to the settlement where he resided & was verbally discharged, being in service about one month—which several terms of service amounted to, in the whole, about twenty three months actual service, exclusive of the time he served in short & irregular services, and the terms of time during the War when he employed substitutes.

That he has lost his discharges, and has no documentary evidence & knows of no person by whom he can prove his said services except the evidence annexed; that the reason why he has applied to the Court of the County of Washington is that he resided in said county when he performed his services, & that part of the Territory thereof in which he now resides (& is Carter County) was partly a wilderness and the son of one of his Captains, to wit - Charles Robeson is residing in said County of Washington & has heard his father speak of the declarant serving under him & which certificate he wished to procure, as also the witness James Sevier; that there is no resident minister of the Gospel in his vicinity in Carter [County] or in this County to his knowledge by whom he can establish the facts required by the instructions of the War Department.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the Agency of the Pension List of any state.

S/ John Michael Smithpeter



Sworn in open court September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832

Test: S/ Joseph V. Anderson, Clerk

[Charles Robeson & James Sevier gave the standard supporting affidavit. "Charles Robeson also states that he is the son of Captain Charles Robeson of whom the declarant speaks & well recollects to have heard his father say that the said Smithpeter served under him & was a soldier of the Revolution, and this affiant Robeson also states that though a boy at the time he recollects to have seen said Smithpeter about his father's about the time his father was performing the services stated by said declarant."]

[p 23]

James Sevier<sup>2</sup> also a citizen of said County appeared before me Levi Bowers one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County and made oath that he was well acquainted with the before mentioned declarant Michael Smithpeter before the time of his service in the Kings Mountain expedition, believes him to have served in the Army as a soldier against the Cherokee Indians but has no personal knowledge of any service save that at Kings Mountain in which he knew said Smithpeter to have served as stated in his foregoing declaration.

S/ Jas. Sevier

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Sevier", written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 10: On March 28, 1851 in Johnson County Tennessee, Christiannah [sic] Smithpeter, 75, filed for her pension under the 1848 act as the widow of Michael Smithpeter; she states that she married him in the spring of the year 1798; that her oldest child is in his 53rd year; that her husband died April 5, 1836 at home in Johnson County Tennessee. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 14: In her bounty land application filed on March 26, 1855, in Johnson County Tennessee, she states her age as 89, and that she married her husband in the County of Washington in the territory South of the Ohio River sometime in the winter of 1791 – 92; that they were married by Johnson Hampton, a justice of the peace; that they were married in the same year that Captain Henry was defeated by the Indians; that her name prior to her marriage was Christina Miller.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$76.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 23 months service as a private in the North Carolina and Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

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<sup>2</sup> [James Sevier S45889](#)