

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Alexander Lawson Smith W4247 Martha Jay MD
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Maryland } On this nineteenth day of August 1842 personally appeared before me the
City of Baltimore } undersigned Mayor of said City of Baltimore Martha Jay a Resident of the
County of Harford in said state aged seventy one years of age who being first duly sworn according to
Law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made
by act of Congress passed July 7th 1842 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widdows
and for the provisions of any subsequent act of amendment there to or which may be passed in amendment
of said act of July 1842 She says that although she resides in the County of harford yet from the extreme
delicate state of her health her remote Distance from the Court House of her County and the extreme
difficuly of attending the same with the great facility of attending in Baltimore to make her declaration to
wit being on the rail Road is the cause of her thus making her application in another County She says that
she is the widdow of Lt Col Alexander L Smith by her first mariage. That she knows not the particular
[undeciphered] Corps or Rigiments her husband was in the Countries through which he marched or the
battles in which he fought believes he was at Battles of Trentown [Trenton 26 Dec 1776] Brandywine
[11 Sep 1777] and Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] all this having been before her intermarriage with him but
that he was of the Maryland line is evident as she is now and has been for several years in the receipt of a
Pension from Maryland in right of the services of the said Alixander L Smith. neither has she any record
or documintary evedince of his said service

She further Declears that her maiden name was Griffith that intermarried with the said Alexander L Smith
in the house of her father Samuel Griffith some time in the month of August 1792 the mariage Cerimony
being performed by the Rev'd Mr Ireland an episcopal Clirgiman. That her husband the aforesaid Col
Alexa L Smith departed this life in the fall part of the year 1803 and that she was not married to him prior
to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1796 at the time
before stated. She further says she intermarried with her second husband Samuel Jay about the year 1812
who departed this life 12th of Sept 1818 and that she has remained a widdow ever since.

[signed] Martha Fay

Land Office, Annapolis, 18th August, 1842

Dear Sir [Henry Northrup, agent for Martha Fay] Your letter of the 16th Inst. was received, In reply
I have to inform you, that the pay rolls of the Revolution are very imperfect, and do not show what
amount, or how long, Alexander Lawson Smith received the pay of a Captain in the Maryland line. He
appears [from] the Muster roll of his Company to have been commissioned a Captain, on the 13th of July,
1776, but I do not find upon any pay roll where he received his pay as Captain. In his accounts upon the
Army Ledgers, which stand stated as settled, he is charged with monies paid him on account of his
Company, but you cannot make out from the accounts upon the Legers, what amount he received as his
pay of Captain and the time to which he was paid. In a record containing "an account of monies paid by
the State of Maryland to Officers of the Extra Regiment in service of the United States," I find the name
of Col Alexander Lawson Smith, upon said record, to have received as a Colonel, on the 2nd day of April,
1781, £611.5.0. I can find no Commission issued to Alexander L. Smith, as Colonel, but presume his rank
took date from the passage of the act of Assembly of 1780, referred to in your letter. Enclosed, I send you
a certificate from a pay roll, of the amount received by Lieut. John Hartshorn.

Very respectfully/ Y'r Ob't S't/ G. G. Brewer

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). This file also includes a muster roll of Smith's company dated 22 May 1777, transcribed at <http://revwarapps.org/b407.pdf>.]

Treasury Department/ 3^d Auditors Office/ 12th May 1838

Sir [William H. Richardson Esq'r, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond]

I have received your letter of the 10th instant inquiring at the instance of the Governor to what state Captain Alexander Lawson Smith, was credited.

In reply I have to state that it appears from the account books of the Revolutionary Army on file in this Office that the sum of money say \$1116.67 mentioned in the resolve of Congress of the 7th of November 1776 (to which you refer in your letter) was charged to Captain Alex'r Lawson Smith of Colo Rawlings [Moses Rawlings VAS683] Regiment thereby showing that that Officer succeeded to the command of the Rifle Regiment that had been commanded by Colo Stevenson [sic: Hugh Stephenson VAS4479]. You will find by referring to the Journal of Congress, for the 6th of September 1780 "that the resignation of Captain Alexander Lawson Smith of the regiment formerly Rawlings" was accepted by that body – and it appears from the account books as well as the receipts of Captain Smith that he was settled with at Annapolis Maryland by John White Esq'r who settled the accounts of the Maryland line, after the War. From the foregoing facts, I should conclude that Capt Smith was considered an officer of the Maryland line.

It may be proper to mention that the Muster Rolls of the 11th Virginia Regiment, on file in this office, show that there was a Captain Alexander Lawson Smith in that Regiment from the 13th July 1776 to October 1777. I am very Respectfully/ Your most Ob S't/ Peter Hagner Aud

The following is a Copy of a Certificate given by Chief Justice Marshall [John Marshall S5731] to Philip Slaughter [W29886]

Captain Philip Slaughter was appointed a Lieutenant in Capt Long's [Gabriel Long S9166] Company in June or July 1776. The Regiment was to be Commanded by Colo Stevenson & to be raised partly in Maryland, and partly in Virginia – a part of the Regiment Commanded by Lieutenant Colo Rawlings was Captured in Fort Washington [16 Nov 1776] after which the Companies raised in Maryland were March'd to some Regiment of that State & the Virginia Companies were attach'd to the 12 [sic] Virginia Regiment, Commanded by Colo Dan'l Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. Capt Longs Company was in that Regiment. I serve'd in the same Regiment, & was long, & intimately, acquainted with Lieut – afterwards Captain Slaughter. He served through the Campaigns of 1777 - 1778 & 1779. I always thought him a good officer who perform'd his duty faithfully & believe that the officers generally, entertain'd the same opinion of him – in the years 1778 & 1779 he acted as Captain & pay Master, & I think, in 1778 he perform'd the additional duty, of Regimental Clothier – he perform'd every duty that devolved on him to the entire satisfaction of the Regiment & was generally esteem'd J. Marshall

I Philip Slaughter of the County of Culpeper & State of Virginia in the eighty first year of my age do hereby Certify that the within is a true copy of a certificate given me by Chief Justice John Marshall the original is now in my possession given under my hand this 6 of July 1839



The Memorial of Sam'l G Smith for himself & the other heirs of Capt Alexander Lawson Smith respectfully states.

That his father was a Capt. in Col Hugh Stephenson Regt of the Va Continental line and was in service more than three years. See Journals of Congress 7 Nov 1776 – also of the 6th Sept 1780 when he resigned having served nearly four years. of the officers of that Regt the following situated precisely as A. Lawson Smith was have recd the Va Land Bounty. Viz: Col Hugh Stephenson, Col Moses Rawlins, Capt Phileman

Griffith [Philemon Griffith S2817], Capt Ricd Dorsey [Richard Dorsey BLWt584-300] Capt Thos H Lucket [Thomas H. Lucket VAS996], Lt Josiah Tanehill [Josiah Tannehill W8777] and several others – indeed every officer of the Regiment who served 3 years has been allowed the [undeciphered] bounty land, except A. L. Smith and two others

Your memorialist prays the same allowance may be extended to him which has been made to others, all of which is respectfully submitted by/ Thos. Green/ Atto. for the Claimants

Journal of Congress 7 Nov. 1776.

Resolved – That 1116.67 dollars be advanced to Captain Alexander Lawson Smith of the late Colonel Stevensons rifle regiment to pay the subsistence money of and to enable him to advance a months pay to the said Company

Journal of Congress 6 Sept 1780.

Resolved That the resignation of Capt Alexander Lawson Smith of the regiment formerly Rawlings be accepted

NOTES:

A typed summary in the federal pension file states that Alexander Lawson Smith “was commissioned captain July 13, 1776, and served as such in Stephenson’s and Rawlings’ Rifle Regiments; he subsequently served as major and lieutenant colonel and left the service in September, 1780.”

On 5 September 1842 Martha Jay made an amended application in which she stated that Alexander Lawson Smith died in January 1802, and that she married Samuel Jay in February 1812.

The federal pension file includes a certificate stating that in Harford County on 28 August 1792 Alexander Lawson Smith and Martha Griffith obtained a marriage license. A letter in the file gives the address of Martha Jay in 1843 as Hall’s Cross Roads in Harford County.

The file also includes a copy of the last will and testament of Samuel Griffith dated 12 January 1794 and proved on 4 June 1794, which names the following devisees: wife Martha Griffith; brother Luke Griffith; sons Samuel Gouldsmith Griffith, John Hall Griffith, Edward Griffith, Luke Griffith, and Alexander Griffith, all minors; daughters Martha Smith, Frances Griffith, and Sarah Griffith; and sister-in-law Frances Garrettson. He devised to the eldest son, Samuel Gouldsmith Griffith, “the negroes hereafter named, one negro man named Tanaway, one negroe man called little bill, one negro woman named Mariah and her increase likewise one negroe boy nam’d Jack, the son of Abigale.”