

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Louis Smith W4805

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } Court of pleas and quarter sessions Decr term 1832
Haywood County }

On this the 3 day of January AD 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices their of Louis Smith a resident of the County of Haywood and State aforesaid age 71 years [several illegible interlined words] as does appear from the record keep by my father in his famly bibel and it was also recorded in the Church Book in Lancaster County Pensylvania who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7 June 1832 at the age of 16 years I entered into the servicies of the United States in the month of Febuary and Coln Louis[?] and first Capt. Bell [possibly James Bell] and afterwards Capt Smith [probably Thomas Smith or John Smith] and marched directly to guilford Courthous and there joined Generels Greens Army [sic: Southern Department under Gen. Nathanael Greene] I was not in the battel [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] but was with the wagon guard about 1 mile from the battelground and then marched back home making a three month touer I was discharged by Capt Smith that discharge was left at my fathers house whare I lived when entering into the servicies that was in Augusta County Virginia left their by me when I moved to this County that is to Rutherford County N Carolina I entered agane July after the battel of guelford Court hous in N Carolina and went out agane under Coln Luis [probably Samuel Lewis] Capt Thomas Smith and marched to Richmon [sic: Richmond] Virginia thense to permunca river [sic: Pamunkey River] and then turned back and crossed James River after the british army we crossed James River agane supposed about 8 miles from Little Yourk [sic: Little York = Yorktown] and ther joidn the main army under melinburg [sic: Gen. Peter Muhlenberg] and then lay their about 3 weeks then marched down and surrounded Little york and was put under the command of General Washington I was in a grate deal of the firing peteculary firing across a Branch or pool of watter between the flank of the two armies I was not ingured in the taking of Lord Corn Wollice [sic: Cornwallis; 19 Oct 1781] after the Capture of Corn Wallace we lay then round Little York and when he surrendered we [illegible word] two line paralel with the place where his army marched out of the town to ground their armes & then I was discharged by Capt Smith after leaving Littel yorn [Little York?] about 4 miles as I supposed I got home in November I was a riffleman is the reason that I was kept firing upon the Brittish army across the pool of wattor for the never don any harm to us only wounded one man in the rist or first Joint of his arme and we could see them fall very often at our fier as we ware all [illegible word] led to the best advantage my first [illegible word] it was a Volunteer at near 16 years of age my second I was drafted just as I had commensed my Fathers oats harvest and [illegible word] a six monst touer I now of no body in this County that I can prove my servicies by nor have I any documenary evedance

I do hereby relinquish every clame whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declair that my name is not upon the pension roll of the agency of any state Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Sworn to Jan'y 3rd 1833

Luis hisXmark Smith
[signed illegibly]

R Love Clk.

By Jno. B Love DC Signed in Dutch [i.e. Deutsch = German]

Question first

1/ whare and in what year were you born

A. I was born in 1763 in the month of March the 4 day, State of Pensylvania - Lancaster County and Hampfield Township

Q2/ Have you any record for your age and if so whair is it

A I have it recorded at home in my family bible and it was also recorded in my father's family bible and in Lancaster Lutheran Church book

Q3/ Where were you living when called into the service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

A I was living in Augusta County State of Virginia when called into the service and remained living there until 2 or 3 years after the close of the war and then I moved into North Carolina Rutherford County and then to Haywood where I have lived ever since

Q4/ How were you called into the service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

A The first time I was a volunteer the second time I was drafted

Q5/ State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such as Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

A The first time there was Lieutenant Craze [probably George Craig] William Christian live near Stanton [sic: Staunton] Alexander Luis [sic: Alexander Lewis] a wagon master the second time the Colonel's Command by the day as we marched Colonel Luis I recollect particularly for Captain Smith and him had a difference about getting a ration of spirits in the morning for his men on another day I recollect as we were in the rifle company we marched in single files by the side of the army and a Colonel from old Virginia ordered us to march through a creek but that Captain Smith refused and took a log and ordered his men to follow him the Colonel rode up to the end of the log and ordered him to go back with a drawn sword the Captain presented his rifle and drove the Colonel from his position and that a court martial was held over Captain Smith and was sentenced to march next day without his sword. when we arrived at the main army at General Meolingsburg headquarters near Little York at or near a mill there we lay about 3 weeks or better and I recollect while there we were called out one day towards Little York and spread out 3 men deep and sent [two illegible words] 1 horse[?] a head to bring on the British army – the front men was ordered to rest upon their knees so the rest of the American army could fire over them on the approach of the British army and on another day we march nearer to the British fort past a mill and where our Light horse retreated and informed us that the British was just behind them the rifle company in which I was was ordered to get into a ditch to save ourselves from the charge of the horse but they did not come up and shortly after that we marched close to the British where there was a march [sic: marsh] the riflemen before being 200 men on the next side of said march and the British army was lying on the other side formed into a line with the horse in front and regulars formed on the [illegible word] side of the marsh in an old field & then our men took [illegible word] to the march five or six cannon and fired at them and then they retreated and then our men moved across way over the swamp or march rather below the British fort & after crossing the march the British and our riflemen kept firing across a small pit or pool of water that came from the sea near to the fort and shortly after that General Washington's arrived and then we crossed the water that came near to the fort on a bridge below York town to the river and the British kept firing at us with the cannon and in several days the British surrendered

Q6/ Did you ever receive a discharge from service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

A I received two discharges and two Certificates but they were all left in Virginia with my father when I moved from there and I have not seen them in 40 years

7. I am acquainted with William Greer & John [illegible] who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolutionary war

State of N Carolina } Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace
Haywood County } four said County Luis Smith who being duly sworn deposed and saith
that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period

mentioned below and in the following grades to wit I entered in to the serves of the United States as a private in the month of February 1781 for three months and served it out Living in the State of Virginia Augusta County and was at the Battel at Guilford Court house in the but was not in the engagement being on guard that day I Entered into the services of the United States in the month of July 1781 as a private Living in Augusta county Virginia for three months and served three months and fifteen days and the reason that I served more than the time that I was drafted for was that I was at the capture of Cornwallis at Little York & my time expired during Washington's pursuit of him in his retreat and we served on until the capture a few days then I was discharged by Capt Smith. I had discharges for both tours but the same were left with my father in the State of Virginia when I left that country and now nothing about them and my first tour I volunteered to serve with a drafted company I not being quite sixteen was not subject to be drafted that tour but as my neighbours were joining I concluded that I would rather serve with them as the next tour when in all probability so many might not be in the army in which I might be placed his two tours makes six months and fifteen days that I swear there is no person by whom that I can prove that he saw me in the army but some that were in the army at the same time but have no recollection of my [illegible word] but believe just from circumstances related by me to them that I was there at the two times mentioned I served all my time as a private and for which services I claim a pension Sworn to before me this 4 day of October 1833 [appears to be signed Luis Ausersmit]

NOTE: On 30 Mar 1844 Mary Smith, 71, applied for a pension stating that she married Louis Smith in Rutherford County NC in Oct 1790 or 1791, and he died 4 Jan 1842. As proof of the marriage she submitted a family record written in German by her husband, and a translation of which is transcribed below. Also in the file is a copy of a bond signed on 25 Oct 1791 by Lewis Smith and George Painter for the marriage of Smith to Mary Wycle.

Mary Wycle was born on the 30th day of October 1772

Louis Smith and Mary Wycle was married on the 27th day of October in the year – 1790

Henry Smith was born March 17th 1792

Peter Smith was born July 27th 1794

Mary Smith was born December 10th 1798