

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Carraway Smith W4890

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia }

Chatham County }

On this first day of October 1842 personally appeared before me Richard D Arnold Mayor of the city of Savannah, Mrs Ann Belcher a resident of said City, aged seventy eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the acts of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> July 1838 and 23<sup>d</sup> of August 1842 granting pensions to Widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of John Carraway Smith who was a Captain in the Second South Carolina Regiment of the army of the Revolution. She knows not the period at which he entered the service, or the rank in which he entered the Regiment to which he belonged, the countries through which he marched, or the battles in which he fought, or the time of his leaving the service, but firmly believes he remained in service until the close of the War; and that he was a Captain at the time of leaving the service. She has no record or documentary evidence of his services neither does she at this day know of any person living by whom his services could be proven. His commission as Captain in the Second South Carolina Regiment is dated at Philadelphia the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1782, stating his rank as Captain, aforesaid, from the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 1776 The original commission is herewith annexed.

It appears by a paper in the handwriting of the late General Lachlan McIntosh that "Capt John C. Smith - date of Commission 16 Sept '76 - taken prisoner 12<sup>th</sup> May '80 [at the surrender of Charleston SC] - Exchanged"

She further declares that she, living at that time a Widow by the name of Ann Brown, was married to the said Captain John Carraway Smith on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 1791 at Savannah by the Rev'd Mr Lindsay, and that her husband the aforesaid Capt John Carraway Smith departed this life on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 1800, in the city of Savannah aforesaid. That she was not married to him prior to this leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, to wit at the time above stated. His death is thus noticed in the Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser published on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1800 in the City of Savannah.

"Died on Saturday last after a short, but severe illness, John Carraway Smith Esquire, a gentleman who held a Captains Commission in the Southern Army during our Revolutionary War, and particularly distinguished himself as a soldier and a patriot, being ever foremost in posts of danger, consequently enjoying the soldiers darling wish - honor and the thanks of his fellow soldiers & countrymen. His remains were attended to the grave by the Cincinnati Society and others of his compatriots."

She further declares that after the death of her husband aforesaid, she again intermarried with James Belcher on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 1801, and that her husband, the said James Belcher departed this life about the year 1808 and that she has remained a widow from that day to the present time.

[signed] Ann Belcher

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

To John Carraway Smith Esquire — Greeting.

We Reposing especial trust and confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity DO by these presents constitute and appoint you, to be a Captain in the Second South Carolina Regiment in the army of the United States, to take rank as such from the sixteenth day of September 1776 You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a Captain by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And we do Strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers, under your command, to be obedient to your orders, as Captain. And you are to observe and follow such orders and direction, from time to time, as you shall receive from this, or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress for that purpose appointed, a Committee of the States, or Commander in chief for the time being of

the Army of the United States, or any other your Superior Officer, according to the rules and discipline of War, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in force until revoked by this, or a future Congress, the Committee of Congress before mentioned, or a Committee of the States.

Witness His Excellency John Hanson Esquire President of the Congress of the United States of America at Philadelphia the twelfth day of April A.D. 1782 and in the Sixth Year of our Independence.

John Hanson Presid't

By Order of Congress

B. Lincoln Secretary at War.

State of Georgia, Chatham County SS

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of Chatham Mrs. Ann Belcher an aged and creditable witness, who being duly sworn according to Law, deposeth and saith, That her late second husband John Caraway Smith who died in Savannah about the year 1800, was a Captain of the South Carolina line of the army of the Revolution. And that his Brother Aaron Smith [BLWt2264-200] was a Lieutenant of the same South Carolina Line of the Army of the Revolution and has also been dead many years, leaving three children, to wit, Eliza Ann wife of Samuel Lillison, William H, and Aaron C. Smith, as his only heirs, and further she the deponent saith not.

[signed] Ann Belcher

NOTE: The file contains a copy of the will of John Carraway Smith dated 26 Oct 1799 naming his wife and brother, Aaron, as executors and devising "All those negroes left jointly by Deed by their Grand Father John Barnwell Esqr, dec'd to her & Sister Martha Descauxville also all the property devolving to her by the death of her Mother and her choice of Fifteen negroes more out of all my other negroes & should she think proper to let the negroes all remain together untill all my lawful debts is extinguisht then she is to take five more," as well as "The proceeds, rents and profits from my Mount Hope Plantation in S. Carolina," and after her death the plantation to go to brother Aaron, and "one negro girl or Wench" to go to niece Eliza Ann Smith, daughter of Aaron.