

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Smith W6085

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } Sct

Adair County }

On this 3rd day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before Benjamin Morris Judge of the Circuit Court of Adair County now setting John Smith a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 77 years who being 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 the 7th 1832 —

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated

That as well as he can now recollect in the year 1776 that he volunteered in Granville County North Carolina under the command of Captain John Farrow and Lieutenant Henderson (he thinks) and ensign Francis Stanback and Col [James] Moore was to have had the command but from some cause the command was taken by Col Archibald Litle [sic: Archibald Lytle] who was then a Col in the regular service of the United States the Maj'r was by the name of Donohoo [sic: Thomas Donoho] this tower was nine months and called the new levy men during which full period he served. he states that they ware marched from Granville County North Carolina over Dan River in the State of Virginia to Peytonsburg [in Pittsylvania County] where they remained for some time from there they ware marched back to North Carolina on Moores Creek where they remained some time at which place furloughs was offered and accepted by all the Company except himself on condition that they should return in the spring and serve out the remainder of there time. this applicant refused to accept a furlough and was then placed in the regular army to serve out the remainder of his time and acted as Ensign without a Commission and from thence was marched to Halifax [sic: Halifax] town in North Carolina where he was taken sick a few weeks before the nine months expired and the remainder of his time was served out by his Brother William Smith he was in no engagement and no battle was fought during that time.

This applicant removed about this time from North Carolina to Henry County in Virginia. He states that he again entered the service in Henry County Virginia under the command of Lieutenant Daniel Reamey for Three months. he marched from Henry County Virginia to Hillsborough North Carolina a short time before Gates's defeat [Gen. Horatio Gates at Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] and was there rendezvoused untill joined Gen'l. Greens Army a short time after Gates's defeat [sic: Southern Department under Nathanael Greene, who replaced Gates as commander on 3 Dec 1780], his time of service being about to expire he then joined as a substitute for the term of three more in the place of Orwell Searsey and then obtained a furlough from Gen'l Green in order to take home some property he had got for substituting for said Searsey and joined the army again between Hillsborough and the trading ford on the Yadkin River [near Salisbury NC] and from thence was marched up to the Shallow ford on said Yadkin, where there was a small engagement with Captain Lewis's Company and the Tory's, in which the Torys were defeated. they gained the place of battle just at the close of the engagement from thence ware marched to Hooser[?] Town where they ware discharged having served out the tower of three months and returned home —

He states a short time after his return home he again entered the service in Henry County Virginia under the Command of Captain Thomas Bush as a volunteer in a horse company for three months from Henry County Va. — marched into North Carolina and joined Col Washingtons mounted infantry [Lt. Col. William Washington's 3rd Continental Light Dragoons] on Haw River NC. — ware reconnetering through that country for some time during which time they had a small engagement with a small part of Col Tarltons infantry at the Alamance [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, Battle of Clapp's Mill near

Alamance Creek, 2 Mar 1781] we reconnoitered through that part of the country several days from thence were marched to Whetsells Mill on the Reedy fork where Washingtons and Lees infantry [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion] met where they had a battle with Col. Tarlton and Wallis [sic: Gen. Cornwallis; Battle of Wetzel's Mill on Reedy Fork of Haw River, 6 Mar 1781] in which after a considerable fire on both sides they were compelled to retreat having to contend with the whole British Army in which several lives were lost and a number of prisoners taken by the British. At which time and place they were discharged by Col. Washington and sent home — nothing more of importance having transpired during that tower.

He states that after being at home a short time he substituted for three months in the place of Thomas Dula at the request of Captain George Hairsten [sic: George Hairston] under whom he substituted he promising this applicant that he should have the Orderly Sergeants place. Joshua Rentfro [Joshua Renfro] being Lieutenant and Jesse Corn Ensign from Henry County Va. they marched to Guilford County North Carolina on a forced march where he fell in with Gen'l. Green Army just at the commencement of the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and was in that engagement until the retreat of Gen'l. Green. After the battle was over leave was given on both sides to bury their Dead. and from thence the British took up the line of march toward Ramseys Mill on Deep River. Our Army in pursuit of them and was several times in sight of them before they reached a Mill and after they had passed over the Bridge across Deep River at said Mill the British cut down the bridge and prevented any further pursuit and after remaining there several days were then marched and joined to Lee's infantry on Cape fear River where they were discharged by Col. Lee and permitted to go home — He states that he remained at home until the British came in Virginia on James River [May 1781]. that he then entered the service for three months in Henry County Va. under the command of Captain Haman Critz and Lieutenant Thomas Mann and from thence was marched to the lower part of Virginia crossing James River at Cobham [probably Cobham Wharf in Suttly County] in a French Vessel and joined the army at that place under the command of Col Holt Richardson [Holt Richeson] from thence he was marched crossing Pamunkey River at Ruffins ferry to Johnsons Old field he thinks Henrico County Va. And from thence was marched and recrossed the Pamunkey River and marched to near Williamsburg at which time he was engaged as a Regimental quarter Master and remained there in that Capacity until his three months tower expired and was still continued in that Capacity by General [Robert] Lawson until the surrender of Cornwallis at the siege of York [19 Oct 1781] being something like three months or near it. he further states that he was out several short towers in the hollows of Dan River [The Hollow along Ararat River in present Patrick County VA and Surry County NC] against the Torys which is not [illegible word] in the foregoing Declaration. And states that the full period of service'es in which he was engaged was largely upwards of two years.

Where and in what year were you born. Ans'r. I was born in the year 1754 the 5th day of January in Cumberland County and State of Virginia

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it. Answer. I have none except a copy taken from the Register of my Grandfather

Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live. Ans'r. I lived in Granville County North Carolina when I was call'd into service first & then removed into Henry County Va. and remained there until many years after the close of the war and from thence removed into Adair County Kentucky at which place I am now living.

How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom. ans'r. as before stated in the Declaration.

State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the Troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans'r I cannot state more in detail than is heretofore stated in this Declaration

Did you ever receive a Discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it. Ans'r I received a discharge from Captain Farrow. I receiv'd. a Discharge from Lieutenant Daniel

Reamey. I receiv'd a Discharge from Colo. [John] Paisley. I rece'd. a Discharge from Captain Bush. I rece'd. a Discharge from Capt. George Hairston. I receiv'd. a Discharge from Gen'l. Lawson at the siege of York. all of which was burned by having my dwelling house burnt in Virginia before I removed to the state of Kentucky —

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. answer John Crearey, John McAlexander, Moses Smith Joseph Alexander & Clergyman Lewis Ellison or any other person in the neighbourhood.

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 [signed] John Smith

NOTES:

On 9 Apr 1833 John Smith stated that "he resides in the extreme end of Adair County adjoining Cumberland about 25 miles from Columbia the Seat of Justice of Adair County and that no justice of the peace of said County lives near him, and that in consequence of extreme old age and infirmity he is unable to go to Columbia or to any Justice of the Peace in Adair where his original declaration was made."

On 16 Mar 1853 Frances Smith applied for a pension stating that as Frances Smith she married John Smith in Green County KY on 22 July 1817, that they lived in Taylor County after it was formed from Green County, and that John Smith died in Taylor County on 3 Nov 1848. Her application was supported by a deposition by Stokely Smith and Margaret B. Smith. In an application for bounty land dated 17 Mar 1855 her age is given as 60, and her residence as Taylor County near the line with Green County. The file includes a copy of a bond signed in Green County on 22 July 1817 by John Smith and David Bailey for the marriage of John Smith to Frances Smith.