

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Aquilla Smith W8740

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Commonwealth of Kentucky

First Judicial District Sct.

Aquilla Smith, a resident citizen of Lewis county, in the District and Commonwealth aforesaid, aged fifty eight years, this day made the following declaration before the undersigned, Circuit Judge of the Judicial District and Commonwealth aforesaid, to wit, that he the said Aquilla Smith enlisted as a soldier, in the service of the United States, for the term of three years, at Frederick Town, in the State of Maryland on the second day of June 1778, in a company then commanded by Mounjoy Bayly, of the seventh Maryland Regiment, commanded by Colonel John Gunby, that he was marched from thence first to the Northern and then to the Southern Army, the command of the company soon after devolved on Capt. William Beatty, upon the resignation of the former captain, in whose company he fought at the battles of Camden [SC, 16 Aug 1780] and Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], where he was badly wounded in the right thigh by which wound he was so much disabled as to be incapable of performing service, and was sent to the hospital. That on the expiration of his time of service he received a regular discharge; and also the accompanying certificate, dated "Camp before 96 June 1 1781 [Ninety-Six SC, during the American siege of that place], from Gasaway Watkins, Lieutenant, and then commanding the company, Captain Beatty having been killed, at the second Battle of Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781]. He farther declares that the service as aforesaid was in the continental line. That he gave up his discharge at the time he received pay for his clothing as specified in the receipt on the paper above referred to. He farther declares that by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, he needs the assistance of his country for support.

The undersigned farther certifies that the said Aquilla Smith did before me, on the date of these presents in due and legal form, make oath to the truth of the facts stated in the foregoing declaration. Given under my hand and seal this 24<sup>th</sup> April 1818

[signed] Adam Beatty Esqr

Camp before 96 June 1, 1781

I do hereby Certify that Aquilla Smith has not received any pay from the public since the month of March 80 to this day & I do further certify that the public is indebted to him one full Suit of Cloaths for serving in the Continental army a Soldier three years.

Nov'r 6<sup>th</sup> 1782 Rec'd payment of the State of Maryland for the aforesaid Cloathing

given under my hand.

Gassaway Watkins Lieut

Aquila hisXmark Smith

I further certify that it was this day proved before me, by the oath of Jessee Hamrick, That the said Aquilla Smith, with whom he has been acquainted about 8 years, is in but moderate circumstances. That he owns about 100 acres of land, which he has offered for, and been unable to sell at \$7 per acre including the improvements thereon. That he owns no slaves, and his personal property is inconsiderable. It consists of a few cattle and hogs, three middling indifferent horses, and his household furniture is about such as is usual with persons in his circumstances That the said Smith is in a very bad state of health, and has been so for more than a twelve month. That he has been very industrious, but is now incapable of doing any labor, without suffering great pain. He has living with him four daughters and a small son and one other son about 19 or 20 years of age, but who talks of leaving him soon. That he knows he has supported himself with great difficulty for some years past. And the said proof being satisfactory as to the facts the same is certified to the Secretary of War, to show the question is answered whether the circumstances of Smith are such as to bring him within the act of Congress &c.

Given under my hand as circuit Judge of the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District this 1<sup>st</sup> June 1818 A Beatty

Auditor's Office, Annapolis, June 16<sup>th</sup> 1819

I hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls remaining in the Auditor's Office, that Aquilla Smith enlisted as a Private in the Seventh Maryland Regiment, on the Second day of June 1778 and was discharged on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1781 Thos. Karney Aud. S. M.

DISTRICT OF Kentucky, SS.

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 1820 before me, the subscriber, Sole Judge of the Mason and Lewis circuit courts, in and for the said district, personally appeared Aquilla Smith aged 60 years, resident in Lewis county in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war:" That he, the said Aquilla Smith enlisted for the term of three years on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of June in the year 1778. in Frederick Town in the state of Maryland in the company commanded by Captain Montjoy Bayly of the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Gunby in the line of the State of Maryland, on the Continental Establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States, until the 2<sup>d</sup> day of June 1781, when he was discharged from service at 96' in the state of South Carolina, that he was in the battles of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], Campden Guilford Courthouse, and some skirmishes. That on the resignation of Monjoy, Capt. William Beatty commanded the company to which he was attached, who was killed at Hobkirks hill, at which time he was lying in the Hospital in consequence of a wound received at Guilford and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

I Aquilla Smith of the County of Lewis, in the State of Kentucky; do state on oath, That on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1778. I enlisted as a private soldier in the Arme[y] of the United States in the revolutionary War at Frederick Town in the State of Maryland, under Major Adams. For the term of Three years; And then by permission made choice of Mountjoy Bailey as my Captain, who soon after marched his company to the "Valley forge" where they joined the American Arme[y], — Bailey then resigned and I was placed under the command of Capt. William Beatty under whom I served until nearly the end of the Three years for which I enlisted. And all the time in the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland Reg't. on continental establishment under the command of Col. John Gunby.

That on the 15 March 1781. while engaged as a soldier, in the battle of Gilford Courthouse in the State of North Carolina, And while in the service of the United States and in the line of my duty as such, against the common enemy, I Received a Wound, in my right thigh by a musket ball passing through it, about the middle which cut the muscles in a manner so as to disable me very much.

Smith further states on Oath, that he will be 64 years of age on the 30 March next. and that he is very much disabled in consequence of the Wound aforesaid. — And that he is always pained, and very frequently severely so. That ever since he received the wound, there has been a numbness or deadness in that leg and foot, and cant use them well in walking.

That after exposure or fatigue that leg always swell very much, so as to prevent his walking and at those times give him great pain.

That he is very much emaciated or reduced in flesh, and as he gets older feels the effects of the wound more sensibly and is more disabled.

That to the best of his recollection, he was discharged from the service of the United States on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1781. at Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina at which time and place he received an Honorable discharge from Col. Gunby, which was taken from him at Anapolis [sic: Annapolis MD], when he applied there to get the am't of depreciation of money or his monthly pay as a soldier. — That on the same day (June 2. 1781) he received from Lieut. Watkins a Certificate, stating that he had served the three years for which he enlisted, and there was a suit of clothes due to him or in substance to that effect, Which Certificate is filed in the War office with papers sent on there by Judge Beatty to obtain a pension for him as a revolutionary soldier under the Act of Congress of the 18 March 1818. And on which papers I did receive a pension

Certificate but since the law of the 1 May 1820. have not rendered any Schedule being told by Judge Beatty that as I had a piece of land 115 acres tho poor & of but little value could not be continued on the pension Roll.

Smith states as the reasons why he did not make application for a pension before, that not having made application for a pension when wounded or on leaving the service, did not know that he could afterwards get one until told so by Judge Beatty and Geo. W. Botts, since hearing of the Act of the first May 1820. both of whom promised to aid him in obtaining it. — he states that he is not on the pension list of any State. — That he fought in the battle of Monmouth and in the Battle in which Gates was defeated [Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden] and in the battle of Gilford Courthouse besides many skirmishes. — He states that Capt. Beatty was kild while he Smith lay in the Hospital a little before he obtained his discharge [signed 25 Jan 1823] Aquilla Smith

Charles Ormes, of Lewis County Ky. States on Oath that he was a soldier in Col. Gunby Reg't. in the revolutionary war: That he knew Aquilla Smith who was a Soldier at the same time in said Regiment that he has known him ever since, That while in the Armeey they were as intimate as brothers. That he knew Smith to be wounded in the battle of Gilford Courthouse as he has stated that Smith is here now present and he knows him to be the same man; And verily believes him to be injoured by said wound and in the manner which Smith has stated in his deposition before written. That he (Ormes) was in said battle with Smith, that he well recollects he was shot through the thigh that day and was taken to the hospital, where he remained some time, that he knows he afterwards returned and joined the Army but was not recovered so as to do much duty and verily believes that Smith served out the 3 years for which he enlisted. He knows from his own knowledge or observation of Smith that he is much injoured from the wound. Ormes states that he joined the armeey the day after the battle of Monmouth, and joined Smith then there a soldier, and fought with said Smith in the battle of Gates's defeat and in the battle of Gilford Courthouse where Smith was wounded by a musket ball passing through his thigh near the middle thereof as aforesaid. [27 Jan 1823] Charles hisXmark Ormes

I Henry Smith of Lewis County Kentucky: Do state on Oath; that I am a brother to Aquilla Smith who is now here present and who is the one trying to get a pension for a wound he received, in the Revolutionary War. And I do further state on oath that I know the said Aquilla Smith enlisted as a private soldier in the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland Reg't. under Col. Gunby in the summer of 1778. I was not at that time a soldier myself, and my brother being younger than me, and as I thought too young for the service exerted myself with the officers to get him off but failed. I know well that he had not then the wound through the thigh that he now carries. I saw him again about eighteen months afterwards when he was still in the service, and marched with him a while and he wasnt then wounded. And I saw him again, after he had been discharged from the service of the U. States on his return home in the summer of 1781. When I know he was wounded through the right thigh about the middle thereof and from the appearance of the wound it was by a musket ball I have lived near my brother ever since and for the last 26 years within a few hundred yards and can safely say that he is very much injoured by the wound, and in the manner he has stated: — I have always heard my brother say he received said wound, while fighting as a soldier under Col. Gunby at the Battle of Gilford Court-house in North Carolina in 1781. And do believe that to be a fact as much so as if I had been by his side and seed him receive the wound; because I know he had not said wound when he entered the service in 1778 and I know that he had it when he left the service in 1781. — I further state that within the last 20 years my brother has been very much injoured from said wound, the limb frequently swelling and he losing measurably the use of it, the last 12 or 15 years he has not been able to walk so as to attend to his ordinary business; he is poor the land he lives on being the principal part of his property, and that is poor and indifferent. I know he served out the 3 years for which he enlisted and got a discharge. [signed, 27 Jan 1823] Henry Smith

We James E. McDowell and Anthony G. Houston practising physicians and Surgeons in the Town of Flemingsburg County of Fleming and State of Kentucky: Do hereby certify on Oath; That the

foregoing named Aquilla Smith, a private in Capt. William Beatty's Company Seventh Maryland Regiment on Continental establishment during the revolutionary War. Is rendered incapable of performing the duty of a soldier by reason of a wound inflicted, while he was actually engaged in the service of the United States as a soldier in the line of his duty, Viz:

By satisfactory evidence and accurate examination it appears that on the 15 March 1781. being engaged in the line of his duty as a Soldier at a place called Guilford Courthouse in the State of North Carolina, he received a wound in his right thigh by a musket ball passing through the same, that some what shattered the bone, and so destroyed & injured the Muscles and Tendons that their regular functions have been principally destroyed for many years: And he is thereby not only incapacitated from military duty but in the opinion of the undersigned Three fourths disabled from obtaining his subsistence by manual labour.

[signed 27 Jan 1823] J. E. McDowell A G Houston

Benjamin Fitzgerald of the County of Mason in the state of Kentucky; States on Oath, that he was a Soldier, in the Seventh Maryland Regiment during the Revolutionary War, which regiment was commanded by Colonel John Gunby, that he was in Capt. John Coats Jones's [John Courts Jones's] Company, That while in the service of the United States as aforesaid he was personally well acquainted with Aquilla Smith, who was also at that time a Soldier in the same Regiment, but in another Company, That the said Aquilla Smith is now here personally present. And he states on Oath that he knows him to be the same Aquilla Smith that he served with in the revolutionary War, And the same man that was wounded through the right thigh while fighting as a soldier in the Battle of Gilford Courthouse, which battle from the recollection he has, he thinks was in March 1781. He states further on oath that he has seen the said A. Smith for several times during the few last years, during which he has examined the wound, and from the appearance he thinks he is much injured from it. He knows well that the said Smith was a perfectly sober and he believes a very brave soldier, and can say on oath he thinks him to be amongst the best soldiers of the Regiment and from his knowledge of the man can say he believes he was perfectly in the line of his duty as a soldier at the time he received the wound altho this deponent belonging to another company could not have been eye witness of the said Smith at the very instant he received the Ball. The depo. further states on oath that he fought as a soldier in several battles with the said Aquilla Smith, and from the intimacy which existed between them while together in the service which was more than Two years they became much attached, and that he always found him to be as before stated a Sober, brave & worthy man. That after the revolutionary war ended their acquaintance ceased, this depo. moving to Virginia. That within the last five or six years we have again become acquainted and together : And from my latter acquaintance I am able to state on Oath, that he is a perfectly sober upright and worthy man, living in Lewis County in the State of Kentucky on a small farm on Cabbin Creek, of reather indifferent and poor land, moderately improved, and which he believes is worked and carried on principally by the labour of his children

[signed, 4 Jun 1823] Benjamin Fitzgerald

I Henry Smith of Lewis County Kentucky: Do state on Oath, That I am the brother of Aquilla Smith, of said County, who is making application for a pension in consequence of a wound he received through the right thigh while a Soldier in the Revolutionary War. That the said Aquilla Smith is now here present. That he returned from the army of the revolution in 1781. to Baltimore County Maryland, to his mothers, who lived near what was called the Burnt house Woods, And to my house, a short distance from Mothers, in the same County. His wound being not well and he labouring under the fevour and ague, remained unemployed amongst his friends in that County until the following spring, when he set in to work with Philip Beam, a Carpenter or Ship joiner, who lived near me, and a bout Twelve miles from Baltimore Town, and two miles from Hooks Town, where he worked about two years. In 1784 he rented a place of William Goodin just over the line, and in the edge of Frederick County, where he raised a summer Crop, and that fall he married, and the following year (1785) set in as an over seer for said Goodin, at a plantation in Baltimore County about four miles from the place he lived in 1784. And at that place, and in that employ the said Aquilla Smith lived for about four years, after which he moved

to within a mile of Frederick Town to be overseer for one John Graham, where he lived, and in said Graham's employ for between 4 and 5 years. Then he went again to Baltimore County and in the employ of the same Will Goodin, near Cap't. Charles Ridgeley's iron works, on the Gun powder falls, where he the said Aquilla Smith lived one year. and at which time I & my brother Aquilla agreed to move to Kentucky, which we did in the Spring of the year 1796. and landed in Ky. on the 2 May, and in that summer I and my brother each purchased a small tract of land on Cabbin Creek in the then County of Mason, but now County of Lewis laying adjoining; I had 60 acres and Aquilla 115 acres for which we gave each the same price pr. acre, which I believe was one dollar and three quarters per acre on which we built cabbins, and moved to it in the spring of 1797. and on which the said Aquilla Smith has ever since lived, he and his children farming in the small way. The mode of life of the said Aquilla Smith, since he left the Arme[y] in 1781. has been, such as stated, with that of a sober industrious man, very weakly, and of late years very much afflicted from the wound in his thigh as before stated, up until the present day. For many years past I have considered the said Aquilla Smith unable to labour for a maintainance from the wound through his thigh when ever much exercised, it swells to an enormous size, with apparent pain as I before stated.

I know the said Aquilla Smith returned home in 1781. about three years, and nearly a half from the time he enlisted. I believe I have seen his discharge signed by Col. Gunby, and have not any dout of his having served the full time for which he enlisted, but was not with him but a short time as I stated in my former deposition. [signed 6 Aug 1823] Henry Smith

State of Kentucky } SS  
Lewis County }

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 1835 personally appeared before the Circuit Court of Lewis County, in open Court, Aquilla Smith a resident in said County, and state aforesaid, aged Seventy five years, who being duly sworn, according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of June 1778 and served first under Capt. Moutjoy Baily and subsequently under Capt. Wm Beatty & Lieut. Gazway Watkins (the name of the Ensign not now recollected) and in the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Maryland line, commanded by Colo. John Gunby. that he lived at the time of his enlistment in the County of Baltimore and State of Maryland, and was engaged in the Battles at Monmouth, Guilford Court House, and in Gen'l. Gates's defeat in So. Carolina, and was discharged on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of June 1781 at "Ninety Six" in So. Carolina (having served three years). his discharge he cannot now produce, having disposed of the pay due him and surrendered his discharge to the purchaser, shortly after he obtained it. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State, except at the Agency at Lexington Kentucky, as an Invalid Pensioner.

[signed] Aquilla Smith

NOTE: On 22 Nov 1839 Catharine Smith, 73, applied for a pension stating that she married Aquilla Smith on 6 Sep 1785, and he died 28 Apr 1839. Attached to her application is a copy of the record of the marriage of Aquilla Smith and Catharine Connaway by John Smith, Register of St. Paul's Parish, Baltimore.