

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Smith W9300

Elizabeth Smith

f76SC [sic GA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 4/29/21

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Kentucky Harlan County: SS

On this \_\_ day of August 1834 personally appeared before John W Jenkins a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Henry Smith (whom I certify to be too infirm to attend Court) a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged as he believes seventy four or five years who being first 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, 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year (now forgotten) in Brunswick County in the State of Virginia for three years and before the State oath was administered and his term of service would have expired on the 13th of September after the taking of Savannah by the British in the State of Georgia.<sup>1</sup> He enlisted under Captain Andrew Geter [Andrew Jeter] who lived in Brunswick County Virginia, but he understood his commission was to enlist soldiers for the state of Georgia on Continental establishment. He enlisted as stated for three years in the line of the State of Georgia the time and place he has referred to as near as his memory will permit. He understood that his enlistment was in the 3rd Georgia Regiment in the Georgia line on Continental establishment. His Colonel was a Georgian and he does not remember his name as he did not appear on parade more than 2 or 3 times before he was removed or resigned Geter marched to head quarters at Savannah in Georgia from Brunswick County Virginia and continued to command the company for about one year when he was cashiered and then Captain Gideon Booker took the command shortly after Booker came in, he turned out in a light infantry Company under Captain Clem Nash which belonged to the 3rd Regiment aforesaid. After the removal or resignation of the first Colonel whose name he does not now remember Colonel McIntosh took the command under whom he served until he was taken Prisoner by the British at Sunbury [Sunbury] in Georgia nine days after Savannah in Georgia was first taken by the British.

The manner in which he was taken he will explain. He was detached from the Regiment under Captain Clem Nash whose company was accompanied by Captain Isaac Hix belonging to the same Regiment. These two Companies were discharged by order of General Robert Howe of the State of Georgia to protect the frontiers from the Indians and Florida Scouts. The two captains aforesaid marched their companies called the Indian old towns on the River Ogeechee in Georgia when they had not been there but a few days (this deponent being along) when an express ordered them back to Savannah and on the return they were met by an express from

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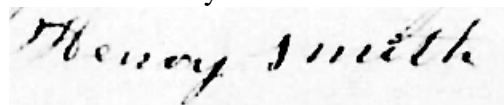
<sup>1</sup> December 29, 1778: <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/british-capture-savannah-georgia>

General Howe aforesaid to detach a part of each company (one of which he was) to go to Sunbury to Major Layne [Joseph Lane] stationed there and who was Major of the Regiment aforesaid. A company was formed out of the two aforesaid (the Commander forgotten but believed to be a Lieutenant) and marched to Sunbury. Shortly after they arrived there (about five days) the British took possession of the Town but they kept possession of the Fort<sup>2</sup> three days and nights when Major Layne surrendered them prisoners of War on the 9th of January as he now believes before the expiration of his term of enlistment for three years which would have been on the 13th day of September following. He with the other Prisoners were taken forthwith to the mouth of Savannah River and confined on board a British Prison Ship where he remained six months and nine days estimating it from the day he was taken prisoner when he enlisted in the British service and during the War against his own Country, he got no bounty, but he took the oath of allegiance to King George the third nothing but a hope to save his life, exposed by a crowded prison and bad health induced him to do so. Though he took the oath and at the same time intended to violate it, it was to escape from a prison of death. He then entered the ranks of the British Army and remained with them performing duty until the 2nd or 3rd of September (the 13th of the month being the end of his enlistment in the U.S. Army) when he deserted and went to Charleston South Carolina and reported himself to General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] who gave him a discharge signed by one of his aides (name now forgotten) which discharge he has long since lost. After being discharged by General Lincoln as aforesaid he went upon Pedee River in South Carolina and remained there about four or five months when he entered the service for three months in South Carolina about fifteen miles from Cheraw Hills as a substitute for a man (whose name he does not recollect) in a company commanded by Captain Rush in the Battalion commanded by Major John Jackson he does not remember that they had a Colonel. He was marched from Pedee directly to Charleston in South Carolina. After remaining there until the close of his tour (three months) he was honorably discharged by General Lincoln about three days after the British had commenced the siege which led to the surrender which was about two weeks after his term of service had expired. The discharge he has long since lost. He then forthwith returned to Pedee River near to Cheraw Hills. His Lieutenant was named William Wall on his Enlistment for three years but he resigned before his term expired. When he enlisted he had two brothers by the name of George and John Smith that enlisted in the same Company. 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].

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Johnson Jenkins, JIC

S/ Henry Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Smith". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

He was born in Brunswick County State of Virginia and as to the year he cannot tell more than he has stated by his age. He has no record of his age. He lived in Brunswick County Virginia when he enlisted. Since the revolutionary war in South Carolina then in North Carolina then he moved to Kentucky where he now lives in Harlan County. He served under General Howe of the State of Georgia. He remembers Colonel Elbert who was Colonel of the 2nd Regiment also Colonel White Colonel of the 4th Georgia Regiment. His discharge he has explained. He never received any commission. As to his character he refers to his neighbors the Reverend John

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<sup>2</sup> Fort Morris Jan. 6-10, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortmorris.htm>

Dixon, Adrain Howard and Abner Lewis.

S/ Henry Smith

[John Dixon, a clergyman, Abner Lewis and Adrain Howard gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Kentucky Harlan County: SS

On this 21st day of May 1836 personally appeared before me John W Jenkins a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Henry Smith a resident of the County and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States as a private on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year he has forgotten (but believes it was in the year 1776 or 7) in Brunswick County State of Virginia for three years under Captain Andrew Geter, who lived in Brunswick County and as he was informed was enlisting troops for the State of Georgia on Continental establishment in the 3rd Georgia Regiment the name of the Colonel of the Regiment he does not recollect as it was very seldom he saw him; at the time he enlisted his Lieutenant was by the name of William Wall. He marched under Captain Geter from Brunswick Virginia to Savannah in Georgia and joined the Army commanded by General Robert Howe of the State of Georgia. Captain Geter continued to command the company for something like a year when he was cashiered or broke and then Captain Gideon Booker took the command in Geter's place. Shortly after, Captain Booker turned out and joined a light infantry Company commanded by Captain Clem Nash belonging to the 3rd Georgia Regiment which Regiment he believes was under the command of Colonel McIntosh who continued at the head of the Regiment until the British took Sunbury 9 days after the fall of Savannah. He states that previous to the taking of Savannah by the British he was detached from the Regiment under Captain Nash and Nash's Company together with a company commanded by Captain Isaac Hix of the same Regiment were ordered by General Robert Howe to protect the frontiers of Georgia from the Indians and a party of British who were coming on from Florida called the Florida Scouts. The two Companies thus formed marched from Savannah to a place called the Indian Old Town on the Ogeechee River at which place they continued about five days when they received orders to return to Savannah. While on their return they were met by an express to send part of the Companies to Sunbury to join Major Layne of the 3rd Regiment. A company was formed out of the part of the Companies of Captains Nash and Hix and placed under an officer (he thinks) a Lieutenant and marched to Sunbury. Shortly after they arrived at Sunbury the Town was taken by the British and three days after Major Layne surrendered the Fort, which was on the 9th day of January (the year he has forgotten) but believes it was the year 1779 from Sunbury he together with the rest of the prisoners taken there were marched to the mouth of the Savannah River and placed on board a British Prison Ship where he continued six months and nine days counting from the day he was taken prisoner, when from severe treatment and the fear of death he was induced to enlist in the British Army for and during the War against the United States – he states that he received no bounty from the British but that he took the oath of Allegiance to the King of Great Britain. He states that he did not consider the oath of Allegiance binding on him as nothing but the fear of death induced him to take it and at the time he intended to leave the British service the first favorable opportunity and the 2nd or 3rd of September (the first opportunity) he deserted and went to Charleston South Carolina and reported himself to General Lincoln who gave him a

discharge by one of his aids which discharge he has long since lost. He states that at the time he enlisted in the Army of the United States he had to Brothers (George & John Smith) who Enlisted in the same Company. After being discharged as aforesaid he went on Pedee River near the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina where he remained some months, and then entered the American Army as a Substitute for 3 months for a man (whose name he has forgotten) and a Company commanded by Captain Rush belonging to a Battalion commanded by Major John Jackson he does not think there was a Colonel belonging to the Battalion. He was marched from Pedee to Charleston where he continued until the expiration of his term of service & was discharged by General Lincoln about the commencement of the Siege of Charleston by the British. Charleston surrendered in about 2 weeks after he was discharged which discharge he has long since lost.

He states as a reason of his long delay in applying for a pension that on the passage of the act of Congress of March 18th 1818 this County was then a part of Knox County that he then resided where he does now which is 55 or 60 miles from Barbourville the seat of Justice of Knox County – that in the years 1819 an act was passed by the Legislature of Kentucky forming this County out of a part of Knox that from some cause the officers appointed to organize the County of Harlan refused to accept any appointment and for one-year after Harlan County was taken off of Knox there was not a Justice of the peace or civil officer of any kind in the limits of the County. Afterwards the County was organized but owing to his age and other bodily infirmities he went but little from home that he knew nothing of the act of Congress referred to until about the year 1828 and in May 1829 he employed Colonel Elisha Smith Attorney at law to draw his declaration for a pension under the act the reason it was not filed in the pension office is unknown to him he afterwards had several amended declarations made out by Colonel E. Smith but what has been done with them he is unable to say as he has not received any account of them from Colonel Smith or anyone else. He states that in the year 1834 he made a declaration for a pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832 and sent to James Love a member of Congress from Kentucky from which he heard nothing until a few weeks ago (in March last) a letter was put into his hand from James Love enclosing a letter from the War Department dated 9th of March 1835 one year from the time it was written, giving an account of his papers were received and filed with suspended cases &c.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Jenkins, JP

S/ Henry Smith, X his mark

[p 13: On June 8, 1843 in Harlan County Kentucky, Elizabeth Smith, 67, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Henry Smith, a pensioner for his service in the revolution; that she married him August 18, 1792; that her husband died August 15, 1836; and that she has remained his widow.]

[p 18: On June 11, 1850 in Yancey County North Carolina, William Ledford, 78, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Henry Smith and his wife Elizabeth whose maiden name was Elizabeth Ledford who lived in Burke County North Carolina and moved to Harlan County Kentucky; that Henry and Elizabeth lived together as husband and wife; that they moved from Burke County North Carolina about 46 years ago at which time they had 4 or 5 children; that Henry and Elizabeth were married in South Carolina and moved to Burke County North Carolina in the year 1792; that Henry Smith was reputed and regarded in his neighborhood in Burke

County as a revolutionary war soldier. (Relationship, if any, of the affiant to the widow is not stated).]

[p 21: On May 23rd, 1850 in Harlan County Kentucky, Elizabeth Smith filed another application for a pension as the widow of Henry Smith; that she married him when she was 16 years old as her parents told her; that she is now 75 years this spring; that she married him 2 years before she had her first child; that she has been married the rise of 58 years; that her husband has been dead 14 years as of the 15th day of August next; that they raised a large family and that she has 8 children now living namely Sally the oldest who is about 56 according to her account; that she does not know that births dates of her children but that they were born about 2 years apart and are named Omey, Robert, Stacey, Mary, William, John and Henry.]

[p 23: On May 23rd, 1850 in Martin County Kentucky, Mrs. Stacey Turner, 46, gave testimony that she is the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Smith; that her father died August 15 13 years ago; that she has always heard that her parents were legally married; that her oldest sister Sally is 56 years old and that her parents always said they had been married about 2 years before Sally was born.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the Georgia Continental line. Veteran's widow was pensioned for an identical amount commencing March 4th, 1848.]