

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Smith W9302

Priscilla Smith

f38MD

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/22/15

[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' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 13]

State of Maryland Baltimore County

On the 13th day of April in the year of our Lord 1818 before the Subscriber Chief Judge of Baltimore County Court personally appears Elijah Smith who makes Oath on the Holy Evangelists, that, about the month of April in the year 1778 [sic, probably 1777 if he indeed did participate in the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777 as he states later in this application], he entered the Service of the United States by enlisting in the Company Commanded by Capt. Oldham of the 4th Regiment Maryland Line thereof Josias Hall was Col. and Samuel Smith Lt. Col., that he enlisted as before said at Baltimore and was marched immediately to the Jerseys fought the Enemy at the Battle of the Brandywine, was at the capturing of Cornwallis at York Town [October 19, 1781], after which he was marched to Charlestown [Charleston] South Carolina where he served until the end of the War, when he was in course discharged. Mordecai Guess [Mordecai Gist] being Col. of said Regiment when he was discharged – and the said Elijah Smith, on Oath as aforesaid, declares that from his reduced circumstances, he needs the assistance of his Country for support.

Sworn in open Court before

S/ Walter Dorsey

[p 23]

I certify that it appears by the Muster [Rolls] of Maryland Troops that Elijah Smith a private in the 4th Regiment enlisted 22nd April 1778 and was discharged on 8 April 1780.

S/ R. Loocherman, Auditor Gen.

Auditor's Office Annapolis 6th May 18__ [last 2 digits illegible]

[p 17]

Schedule

United States of America Maryland District SS

On this 5th day of September 1820, personally appeared in open court in the District Court in and for the district of Maryland Elijah Smith aged fifty-eight years, resident in the City of Baltimore in said District who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows:

That he was enlisted at Baltimore in the year __ # (# Discharge forwarded with original

declaration will show the time of Enlistment)¹ by Col. Samuel Smith for Capt. Goodman's company which Capt. resigned before the Company was organized and Capt. Edward Oldham took the Command, joined the Maryland Regiment at Brunswick and was engaged in the battle at that place [possibly the skirmish before Somerset on June 22, 1777] also at Staten Island [August 22, 1777], Monmouth [June 28, 1778] &c, also at the Siege of York after which ordered to Charleston South Carolina and at the close of the war returned to Annapolis and there discharged to the best of his recollection by General Smallwood [William Smallwood]* (*Declarant is not altogether certain but believes he was discharged from Capt. Wilmont's Company.) That he made his original declaration on or about 13 April 1818 before the Hon. ___ at Baltimore and was placed on the pension list Roll of the Maryland Agency from that date at the rate of \$8 per month agreeable to his pension Certificate bearing date 11 November 1818 and numbered 4329.

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an 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" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.


I have no property of any description whatever.

I have a Wife named Priscilla aged 55 years in very delicate health who together with myself live with my son, not having the means or being able to keep house ourselves – I am by trade a Ship Carpenter but owing to advanced age and infirmities have not been able to pursue my profession for several years past. Therefore stand in need of the assistance of my Country for support not being able or capable of supping myself without the aid of the Government except by private or public Charity.

S/ Elijah Smith, X his mark

[p 5: On October 6, 1838 in Baltimore City Maryland, Priscilla Smith, 68, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Elijah Smith, a revolutionary war pensioner who served in the 4th Regiment of the Maryland line; that she married him in 1785; that her husband died March 10, 1825. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 10: On January 31, 1839, Elijah Smith, aged about 44, gave testimony in Baltimore County Maryland that to his certain knowledge there was a family record kept in the Bible of Elijah Smith formerly of Dorchester County Maryland and late of the City of Baltimore, deceased; that said record contained in the dates of the birth of his children; that said record was taken from the family Bible and cannot now be found; that to the best of his recollection that records showed that Mehala Smith, the daughter of Elijah and Priscilla Smith was born in January 1791; that live in Smith, their son, was born in March 1793; that affiant, their son, was born February 14, 1795; that affiant was his parents "last born son"; that the affiant does not know in whose handwriting the record was kept.

]

¹ I did not see said discharge among the documents in this file

[p 35: Affidavit attested 24th day of September 1838 given by Martin Killman, 80, in Westmoreland County Virginia in which he states that he formerly lived in Dorchester County Maryland and was acquainted with Elijah Smith and Priscilla Abbot and was present at their marriage in 1785. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 13, 1818, for service as a private in the Maryland Continental line. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]