

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Smith W9657 Margaret Smith MD
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Declaration of James Smith

State of Kentucky Adair County towit

On this 9th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of Adair now sitting James Smith a resident of Adair County aged seventy seven 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein states.

He entered the service of the State of Maryland under Capn Craiger [possibly Valentine Creger] in the year 1774, 5, or 6 the time not exactly recollected Philip Smith was first Lieutenant of the Company, was in a skirmish about 7 miles from Brunswick in the State of new Jersey. He resided at the time he entered the service in the state of Maryland Frederick County. his first tour was 3 months as a regular [sic]. He then served 2 mon ths under Capt Carmock, & marched over parts of the State of Jersey into the state of New York. He then served 2 months under Capt Humphrey in the State of Virginia and marched down about Williamsburg & Jamestown Va. He then served a 2 months tour under Captain Morfet and was at the taking of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] & assisted in guarding prisoners to Patawmac river [sic: Potomac River], there the militia took them and guarded them up to Frederick town. He states that he has no documentary evidence to prove his services and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his Service. He states that he was in all in service about nine months, that he was at taking of Cornwallis an Orderly Seargent & previous to that time as Seargent of lower grade – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 & year aforesaid James hisXmark Smith

[1 April 1833] By way of Amendment to his original Declaration the Subscriber States that Maj. Cox was with the troops where this Applicant was at the time he marched upon a two months tour down about Williamsburg & Jamestown Va. He states that he was under Col. Campbell at the Taking of Cornwallis. He states that if he ever received a written discharge he does not recollect it if however he did he has lost it. He states that he was born in the year 1755 in the month of September the day not recollected. He has no record of his age. He states that he is known in the neighbourhood where he resides by Samuel Wilson & Joseph G. Walker who have certified their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution and is known to a great many others who would testify that he is a man of veracity & that he is and has been reputed a soldier of the Revolution if it were necessary but he conceives that the Certificate of the forgoing named gentlemen is sufficient to fulfil the requisitions of the Department.

James hisXmark Smith

State of Kentucky } SS.
Adair County }

Be it Remembered that on this 12 day of Sept 1833 before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the County of James Smith a resident of the County of Adair State of Kentucky and made oath in due form of law that on the 9th day of August 1832 he made his declaration in the worshipful County Court of Adair for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832 and on the 1st of April 1833 he in the same Court made an amendment thereto to which Declaration he offers this as an amendment, he here begs leave to correct a mistake in his original declaration as to his first tour he now sees it is stated to have been a tour of three months as a regular this was clearly a mistake he served as a volenteer malitiaman

instead of regular as there stated afterward the company was Classed and he served as he as heretofore stated in his former Declaration and since making said declaration he recollects that some short time after he served the first tour under Capt Cormack of two months he was according to his class called out a second time for two months under the said Capt Cormack and joined Colo. Woods regiment in this tour he was marched to Jersey and had a skirmish in that State near quibble town [Quibbletown, now in present New Market, 22 Jun 1777] he faithfully served out his tour of two months and was Honorably Discharged tho rec'd no written discharge

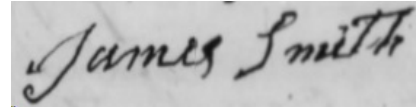
he states that the tour he served under Capt Humphreys he was a Sergeant what is called Second Sergeant and the tour he served under Capt Moffet at the taking Cornwallis he was regularly appointed orderly sergeant when he entered the Service and continued to discharge that duty the whole of the Tour and untill he was discharged

the second tour he served under Cormack is an addition to the services named in his former declaration which when aded makes a service of Eleven months all of which services he most positively states was done and performed by him in the war of the revolution for and on Behalf of the united states in a Corp called into service by Competent authority and for the time during which the services was performed he was not employed in any Civil pursuit and that he was in the field or in garrison and for which service he claims a pension subscribed and sworn to the day & year afs'd James hisXmark Smith

NOTES:

Since the duty of an Orderly Sergeant was to transcribe each day's orders, it is expected that James Smith would have been able to sign his name unless physically disabled.

On 12 Feb 1835 James Smith applied to have his pension transferred to Indiana, having moved to Gibson County IN for the following reason: "That all his children had removed from Kentucky to the State of Indiana and that he removed there for the sole purpose of spending the remnant of his days with his children." His application was certified by Andrew Smith and Stephen Dougherty. The signature as shown:

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Smith". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

A Treasury-Department document states that the widow of James Smith received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 30 Jan 1838.

On 9 April 1842 Margaret Smith, 87, of Montgomery Township in Gibson County IN, applied for a pension stating that she married James Smith in 1783, and he died 29 Jan 1838. On 13 July 1843 she was said to be 86. The file contains a copy of a bond signed in Loudoun County VA on 25 Jan 1783 by James Smith and John Meane for the marriage of Smith to Margaret Truax, spinster, of Shelburne Parish.

A letter in the file refers to Margaret Smith as "formerly Peggy Alias Margaret Truax, and it states that she was "Living almost on Charity... and her Children almost worn out by age and has to depend on one of her sons who is himself very old and has the misfortune himself to become a Cripple..." The letter also states that James Smith "went to his native county and married and soon after Left for the wild of Kentucky and from thence was one of the first Settlers of Indiana (or at Least his Children were)."