

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Smith Ferrill (Ferrell) S1513

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/28/06 rev'd 2/5/15

[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.]

State of Tennessee, Overton County: October Sessions of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of said County 1832

On this the 29th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court it being a Court of Record before the worshipful Patrick Post, Dempsey Moore and Joshua Mangold, Esquires, Justices of the Peace in and for said County commissioned to hold the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County Smith Ferrell [sic] a resident Citizen of the County of Overton & State of Tennessee aged Seventy-four years who being first duly sworn according to the laws of the land doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

He entered the service of the United States as a private Soldier under the following named officers and served as a private Soldier. He states that as he now recollects in the Spring of 1778 or in 1779, he volunteered in Washington County then North Carolina now in the State of Tennessee for the term of four months. His Captain was by the name of Joseph Wilson, his Company was joined by Captain Gibson's, Captain Daugherty's, & Captain Tremble's [probably William Trimble's] Companies. They were then marched down Holston River in canoes under the command of Colonel Isaac Shelby & Colonel Charles Robertson to the Chickamauga Town; had a skirmish with the Indians & killed some and burnt the town. Then they marched to the big owl Town and burnt it. The Indians had fled before we got there. Then continued to scout and range through the country till the last of June when he returned home and was disbanded but got no discharge. He was bound to hold himself in readiness when called upon to serve his country again. He states that he was called on and entered the service again in the fall following his said disbandment – was placed under the command of Captain William Tremble [William Trimble] who was attached to the command of Colonel Isaac Shelby & Colonel Charles Robertson and marched under them [to] the other side of Broad River in North Carolina. Stayed there some time – from there we marched under the command of Colonel Shelby about 20 or 25 miles to a Fort upon Thicketty – where Patrick Moore a Tory commanded – we took him and about 120 of his men [July 26, 1780] – we then returned to Broad River with the prisoners. Stayed there some time; continued to scout through the country for some time and returned home to Washington County – and was disbanded for a short time having served two months under this engagement. He got no discharge. He entered the service again in a short time after his disbandment and in the latter part of the same year in Washington County then North Carolina under Captain Nathaniel Davis, James Gibson was his Lieutenant. He was placed under the command of Colonel Sevier and Major Valentine

Sevier and marched to the Hiwassee Town, killed some Indians and burnt the town then went home and was again disbanded having served about two months this tour, got no discharge. He entered the service again about the first of September or last of August 1780 in Captain Robert Sevier's company, was commanded by Major Jonathan Tipton, Col. Valentine Sevier and marched from Washington County then North Carolina, the place where he entered the service under this engagement to Kings Mountain, was in that battle; he thinks it was fought in September 1780 [sic, October 7, 1780], marched from there to Washington County North Carolina from thence to the head of boys [Boyd's?] Creek on French Broad River where we had a battle. There were about Eighty-five of us and about seven hundred Indians, we killed Twenty-seven Indians. The officers in command were General Sevier, Major Tipton, & Major Walton besides the company officers, he was under Captain Trimble. He remained there until General Campbell came up with his Army. We then marched to Chota Town, burned the town and took some prisoners, remained there some considerable time scouting occasionally. He marched from thence to Washington County North Carolina where he lived; arrived there some time in January 1781, remained there until sometime in July following, he marched from thence to the aid of General Green [Nathanael Greene] on Santee River in South Carolina under Captain William Trimble, Jonathan Tipton was Major, John Sevier General, joined General Greene's Army at Santee River. After he had been there some time he heard of Lord Cornwallis's surrender [October 19, 1781], remained some time afterwards, he marched from thence home in Washington County where he arrived in the month of November 1781 having served this term about 14 months, got no discharge for this term. He again entered the service in Washington County in September 1782 under Captain Harden, marched to the Lookout Mountain, his company was commanded by Major Tipton, Robert Love was Colonel. He was in a battle [September 20, 1782] there with the Chickamauga & Creek Indians, Captains Hardin, Butler and Gibson were killed in that battle, killed some Indians; he returned from thence home about the last of December he served about three months this tour, he got no discharge this time. He has no documentary evidence of his services. That he can prove part of his services by Major Jonathan Tipton¹ and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify of the balance of his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

Where and in what year were you born? In York County Pennsylvania in the year 1758.

Have you any record of your age? And if so, where is it? I have not.

Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary war? And where do you now live? I lived in Washington County then North Carolina. I lived there sometime after the war, then moved from thence to Green County in this State, moved from thence to Cumberland County Kentucky, from thence to Overton County Tennessee where I now live.

How were you called into service? Were you drafted? Did you volunteer? Or were you a Substitute? And if a substitute, for whom? I was a volunteer.

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. For answer to this interrogatory, he refers to the statements

¹ [Jonathan Tipton W1098](#)

in the foregoing part of this declaration, and assigned as a reason for not being able to be more explicit my advanced age and the infirmity of my recollection.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a soldier of the revolution. Benjamin Gabbert Esq. -- attorney at law, Major Jonathan Tipton, Jacob Dillon, Esq. attorney at law, Colonel Hugh C. Armstrong, Joseph Griffin and Abraham Sevier.

S/ Smith Ferrell, X his mark

Sworn to in open Court 29th October 1832

S/ William Gore, Clerk

[p 9]

I Jonathan Tipton do certify that I have been acquainted with Smith Ferrell who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration and that said Ferrell was in the battle of Kings Mountain, the battle of the Lookout Mountain, the battle fought on the head of Boyd's Creek, in all of which battles this affiant commanded him as Major and that he has no doubt that said Ferrell served as he states in his declaration and that he knows of his serving the principal part of those stated in said declaration and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he now lives to have been a Soldier of the revolution and that I concur in that opinion.

S/ Johnathan Tipton



Sworn to and subscribed in open court 29th of October 1832.

S/ William Gore, Clerk

[Johnathan Tipton and Charles Harmon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 17]

State of Tennessee Overton County: July Sessions of the Court of pleas and Quarter sessions of said County 1833 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record before James Dennis, Alfred C Robertson and Joseph K McWall [?] Esqrs. Justices of the peace in and for said County commissioned to hold said Court Smith Ferrell a Citizen of said County being the same Identical Individual who heretofore filed his declaration for a pension in this Court – by way of amendment to his own general declaration made for a pension under the act of Congress of the 9th June 1832 being first duly Sworn deposed & saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the following periods as a private soldier during the Revolutionary War and during which periods of service he was in no civil employment and that he was called into the Service by competent authority one tour of four months, two tours of two months each, one tour of fourteen months and one tour of three months and for such service he claims a pension.

Sworn to in open Court 30th day of July 1833

S/ William Gore, clerk

S/ Smith Ferrell, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina militia.]