

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Smith S15989

NJ

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia Harrison County} SS}

On this 8th day of December 1833 personally appeared before Benjamin Brice an acting justice of the peace in and for the county of Harrison and State aforesaid Thomas Smith a resident of Coons run in the county and state aforesaid aged eighty two 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 United States service under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

1st that he was born on the 11th day of Oct 1751 in Monmouth county in the state of New jersey. That he was drafted in 77 as a spie and scouter under Capt. Wm Embly [William Embly] who was the commanding officer at the Blazing Star [ferry landing] and served under him six months: That he had no engagement while under capt Embly other than a few scatering indian shots. That Embly gave him a discharge at the Blazing Star but he has since (from the laps of time and negligence) lost it.

That he then in the latter part of 77 he was drafted for six months under Capt Ephraim Pittman who commanded at the Blazing Star and who succeeded capt Embly – that he was in no engagements while under Pittman, other than indian scrimages – that he received a discharge at the same place and lost it as aforesaid; – that he then was drafted under Capt. Peter Weighcough (or Waycough) [possibly Peter Wikoff] who commanded at Slabtown and Hattonfield [sic: Haddonfield] Monmouth County New Jersey (which was the county and state he served in under capt Embly and Pittman) for one month at a time, that he served under Capt Waycough six months, that he was in no engagement while under Capt Waycough other than indian scouts &c. that he got a discharge at Slabtown and has lost it in the same manner as the others.

That in 78 he was drafted under Capt Peter Conover (who commanded at Seder creek [Cedar Creek] Monmouth Co Newjersey) for one month at a time, that he served under Capt Conover six months. That he was at the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] and served under Capt Peter Waycough, as an auxillary officer – that the names of the officers that commanded and who were on the field are as follows, Gen Washngton [sic: Washington] Co [Daniel] Morgan Anthony Wain [sic: Anthony Wayne] Charles Lee Co Ray Lord Sterling [sic: William Alexander, Lord Stirling] and other subordinate officers, this was on the 28th june 1778. That he got a gischarge at Seder creek by cap Conover, that he cannot recollect the particular days and months that he entered into and was discharged from service. – That he afterwards in 79 [sic] was drafted and served for six months under Capt John Stout who was stationed at Seder creek Mon. Co. New That he was at the battle of Long-island [27 Aug 1776] and served under Capt Ephram Pittman as a subordinate officer. That the names of the commanding officers who commanded at Long island are as follows General [John] Sullivan, Washington come over to their aid – that he received a discharge at Seder-creek – that he has likewise lost that; That he served at other times and places, but the particulars of which he cannot recollect – that from the time he first entered the service till he received a total discharge was six years; That he was in no civil persuit while in the service; That the services that he can distinctly recollect amounts to thirty months; That he knows of no person in this country who can testify to his servises

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 –

Interrogatories propounded to the applicant by the justice; Where and in what year were you born.

Answer; I was born in Monmouth County Newjersey State on the 11th Oct 1751. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it; Answer: No, my age was once recorded in my fathers bible, but it has since been destroyed; 3rd. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war; and where do you now live. answer; I was liveing in Monmouth County

Newjersey State when I was called into service; I lived there seven years after the war & then mooved into Washington County Pennsylvania I lived in Pa fifteen years, I then mooved into Harrison County Virginia where I have eversince lived and where I now live. 4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom. Answer. I was drafted. 5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with troops where you served; Such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service. Answer. there was but one ridgment wher I served that was called the second ridgment. there were but one redgment in the State that I can recollect. I have stated the particular of my servises above 6th Did you ever receives a discharge from the services; and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it. Answer. Yes, I got discharges as stated above but have since lost them; by my negligence; as I did not expect that they would ever be of any use to me. 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your servises as a souldier and [illegible word] of the revolution. Answer I am known to Anthony Coon, Henry Boothe, Oliver Shurtleff and to a number of other persons in my neighbourhood who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my servises as a souldier of the revolution

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Thomas hisXmark Smith

[Smith's application was returned for amendment because drafted militia tours were seldom for more than a few months each.]

State of Virginia Harrison County SS

On this 24th day of January 1834 personally appeared before Absalom Knoltz an acting justice of the county court of Harrison Thomas Smith a resident of boons run in the county and state aforesaid aged 82 years, who being first duely 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 7 1832. 1st That he was born on the 11th day of Oct 1751 in Monmouth County State of New jersey. That he was living in Monmouth County Newjersey when he entered the service. that he lived there 7 years after the war, that he then mooved into Washington County Pennsylvania, that he lived there 15 years. that he then mooved into Harrison County Virginia where he has ever since lived. That he was drafted on the first of March in the year 1777 as a spie and scouter under Capt Wm Embly who was a legally commissioned officer and station at the Blazing State in Monmouth county Newjersey, that he was drafted for one month at a time under Capt Emby and served under him 6 months as follows, March April May June July & August. that he was in no engagement while under Embly other than indian scrimages – that he got a discharge from Embly at the Blazing Star but has since lost it. That he was drafted on the 1st September 77 as a spie and scouter under Capt Ephraim Pittman who was a commissioned capt. and who succeeded Capt Emby as a capt at the Blazing Star aforesaid – that he was drafted for one month at a time under Capt Pittman and served 6 months under him as follows – September October November December January & Februar in the years 77 & 8 – that he was in no engagement while under Capt Pittman. That he recived a discharge from Pittman at the Blazing State but has lost it. That he was drafted under Capt Peter Waycough on the first of March 78 and served under him for 6 months. that he was drafted but for one month at a time and served as follows – March April May June July & August – that Capt Waycough was a commissioned capt and stationed at Slabtown for the first 3 months and the remaining 3 months at Hattons field both in Monmouth County Newjersey. That he was at the battle of Monmouth and served under Cap Waycough as an auxilliary officer. That the officers who commanded at that battle wer Gen Washington Co Morgan Anthony Wain Charles Lee and Co Ray. this was on the 28 June 78 – that he got a discharge from Waycough at Hatton field but has lost it. that he was drafted under Capt Peter Conover who was a commissioned capt stationed at Seder creek Monmouth County Newjersey – that he was drafted for one month at a time and served 6 months under Capt Conover as follows – September October November December & January this was in the years 78 & 9 – that he got a discharge at Seder creek from Capt Conover but has lost it – that he was in no engagement while under Conover. That he was drafted under

Capt John Stout who was a commissioned Captain stationed at Seder Creek, Monmouth County Newjersey on the first of February 1779 for one month at a time, that he served six months under Capt Stour as follows – February March April May June & July that he was in no engagement while under Stout – that he got a discharge at Seder Creek from Stout but has since lost it. That he was at the battle of Long Island, that Gen Sullivan was the commander – that he got a discharge at Seder Creek from Capt Stout but has lost it together with all the rest as he did not know that they would ever be of any account to him. That from old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his whole servises, nor the Colonels under whom he served, as he was chiefly out on scouting parties under the captains above named. That he was either scouting or in garrison dureing the whole time above mentioned; and for the time dureing which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit. That he has no record of his age. That he is known to the Hon John J Allen member of Congress from this place who can testify as to his character &c. That he knows of no person in this country who can testify as to his servises &c.

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 in any state or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written Thomas hisXmark Smith

[On 28 Feb 1834 Thomas Smith was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year for at least two years of service. The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report “Fraud.”]

Thomas Smith, \$80–

This man is dead. I have been unable to procure any evidence touching his case – no money has been drawn on his certificate (as I am informed) – nor should there be, in my opinion, unless his services are found beyond all question – because the Declaration was written, and the certificate obtained by Wilson Shinn, whose cases are all wrong, and one of them manifestly fraudulent – it is the case of John Swiger [John Sweger S15998] to the report of which I ask your especial notice [see endnote].

W. G. Singleton/ Nov. 21, 1834

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] House of Reps. 24th Dec'm. 1835

I am requested to inquire into the case of Thos. Smith of Harrison Cty, Va. My correspond[ent] states that some time in 1833 he Smith was placed upon the pension roll, that his certificate was placed in the hands of the Honbl. J. J. Allen & by his mistake is lost. that the circumstances were made known by him to the Dept. which was then satisfactory. MP[?] afterwards Smith was informed that his case had been suspended for reexamination. Smith has since died, & his heirs wish to be informed on the subject

Your attention to the above is respectfully asked

Your obt. servnt./ J. Johnson [Joseph Johnson]

NOTE: Smith's certificate was sent to Congressman John J. Allen rather than Wilson K. Shinn. The only other pension application I have found in which Shinn was said to have been involved was the fraudulent one of John Sweger.