

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Smith S6117

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Harrison County } To Wit

On this 25th day of August 1832 personally appeared John Smith now a resident of the same County aged Seventy two years in Open Court before the Worshipful the County Court of said County now sitting who first being 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 the 7th 1832

That he was born in Prince George County Maryland and resided there with his father until he was about five years of age when his father removed and took him with the rest of the family to Frederick County in the same State where this applicant lived until after the termination of the Revolutionary War - where he married after the war and resided about two years and moved to Washington County Md. where he lived about two years & removed to Alleghany Cy Md. where he remained about 11 years and then removed to Harrison County Virginia where he has ever since resided this applicant states that he always understood from his parents that he was born on the 17th day of July 1760 but that he has no record in writing of his age. That in the year 1776 he was enrolled in the Company of Capt. Ralph Hillery who commanded a Company of militia in the said County of Frederick in the State of Maryland and was drafted for a two months tour and marched under the command of the said Capt Ralph Hillery in the Jany of 1777 from Fredericktown in Maryland to Gen'l. Washington's head Quarters in the State of New Jersey Col. Wm Batty [sic: William Beatty] commanded the Regiment to which he was attached and Maj Johnson was the Maj'r. of said Regiment They marched by the way of Tawney Town [sic: Taneytown], Peter Littles Town, McAllisters Town, Little York Pa, Philadelphia where they staid 16 days and from thence up the Delaware River to Trenton New Jersey and from thence to head Quarters at Bascon's Ridge [sic: Basking Ridge] in said last mentioned state a short time afterwards this applicant was attacked with the small pox and was removed to the Hospital where he stayed as well as he now recollects about four or five weeks and having been left there among the sick did not reach home until sometime in the month of April of the same year — In the August following his Brother Henry was detailed on a similar tour of Two months but he never having had the small pox and it being reported that the small pox still infested the Army this applicant substituted in his stead under the same militia Captain Ralph Hillery, Leut. Jacob Troutman, 2 Lieut Philip Neller - Col. Baker Johnson and Maj'r. Ogle were the Regimental officers. this draft was made in the said County of Frederick & State of Maryland as well as this applicant remembers they marched about the latter part of August 1777 and passed through Little Winchester in s'd state to the Cross roads, to Johnsons ferry on the Susquehanna River from thence to Downingstown Pa from thence this applicant was detailed as one of the guard to the Baggage Waggons which moved on to the Red Lyon [probably Red Lion Inn or Tavern] - the troops moved on to the White Horse [Tavern] where they had a skirmish with the Enemy - after said skirmish this applicant was again attached to his Company under Capt. Hillery and with Capt. Huffs Company marched to Jones Tavern & from thence to the head Quarters at Whitemarsh where was Gen'l Washington, Gen'l. [John] Sullivan, Gen'l Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and the militia Gen'l [William] Smallwood - After the battle at Germantown which took place in Oct'r. [4th] 1777 they retreated to Pikesney Creek [Poquessing Creek?] and after several marches and counter marches towards Germantown this applicant with the residue of his Company were discharged their time having expired This Applicant reached his home in Frederick County Md. some time in the latter part of October or the beginning of November of the same year.

The same Capt. Hillery in the same County of Frederick Md. as well as this applicant now recollects in the June or July of 1781 made up what was called a select company of Militia for a tour of five months of which this Applicant was one and enrolled then they were marched by him said Captain Hillery shortly afterwards for Baltimore but were met by an express at the

Poplar Springs in Md and informed their services were not then required They then were dismissed by their Captain till further Orders and returned to their several homes and shortly after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown [19 Oct] they were again called into service by their Captain (their period of service not having expired) and marched to Nolens [Nolands] ferry on the Potomac where they received the British prisoners taken at Yorktown from the Virginia troops and guarded them back to Fredericktown Maryland and this applicant with the rest of the Company to which he was attached so continued to guard them at the last mentioned place until their period of service expired a few days before Christmas in the same year - the time he stood on guard at Frederick he thinks was about five or six weeks he cannot now be certain which - he further states that he never received any written discharge for his said tour of services aforesaid. In regard to the duration of his several services and the time he was necessarily engaged in going to and from the places where they were performed he is well satisfied and believes they exceeded twelve months as during the period of his last tour he was always ready at a moments warning to repair to the standard of his Captain - And said applicant further states that he is not aware of their being any person now living in this country who served with him in his Company who is known to his said services, nor has he any Documentary evidence to prove them nor does he now know of any one of his comrades who are now living to whom he can refer for the evidence of his said services but can refer to the general belief of the neighborhood in which he resides to the following gentlemen John H Woodford Esqr Justice of the Peace of this County Hanson L Huff Postmaster of Huffsville in said County and John Rightmire in the same neighborhood and Jacob Coplin also a Justice of the Peace in said County and Richard W Moore Atto at Law and Hambleton [Hamilton] Goss a Preacher of the Baptist Church

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 any agency or state

John hisXmark Smith

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from Harrison and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

John Smith

this man has removed to Indianna. I could collect no evidence in relation to his right to a pension - from what I have understood from Richard W. Moore Clerk of the Federal court, who wrote the Declaration in this case I believe he is Entitled to all he draws.

W. G Singleton Nov. 21, 1834

NOTE: A letter in the file states that the name John Smith appeared on the muster roll of Capt. Ralph Hilleary's Company of Select Militia in 1781.