

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Elijah Smith W10504

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } This day appeared in open Court, before Henry Trott, James C  
Rutherford County } Mitchell and Varner D. Corell [illegible word] Justices of said Court now  
sitting Elijah Smith, a resident of said County aged 77 years, who being  
first sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the  
benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 – That in 1776 he thinks in the Spring he volunteered  
and joined the service of the United States, in Hunderton [sic: Hunterdon] County State of New Jersey,  
under Capt Mott, Leu't Danl Smith [Daniel Smith], and rendezvous near Trenton, under Gen'l Dickson  
[possibly Philemon Dickinson]; Col Joseph Philips [Joseph Phillips] commanded the Regiment to which he  
was detached. There was regular Troops at the Rariaton Heights [sic: Raritan Heights], under the  
command of Gen'l Washington, [Anthony] Wayne and others, to which place he was marched from  
Trenton. In our march we passed through Princetown [Princeton], then to Summersett [sic: Somerset]  
Courthouse and then to the main Army. The British Army then lay in Brunswick. He remained here Two  
or three months and was discharged by Capt Mott, and he returned home. Sometime in the same year, he  
again volunteered and joined a company of Light horse under the command of Capt Isarel Curl [sic: Israel  
Carle], and Le't Stout in the County of Hunderton, and the company was marched to Elizabeth Town,  
Genl Dickson was the commanding Genl and Capt Curl's Troops was attached to Gen'l Dickson's  
command. In the march he went through Princetown, and Brunswick to Elizabeth Town. The British lay a  
Staten Island. He does not recollect that there was any other Troops at Elizabeth Town, but Dicksons  
Corps, the militia from New Jersey. He recollects that there was a Maj. Hooper attached to the command.  
After remaining at the point three months he was discharged and returned home. While he was stationed  
at Elizabeth Town, and after Burgoyne was taken at Saratoga [17 Oct 1777], he was sent as express to  
Lancaster by his Genl. In the year 1777 in the fall of that year he entered the service as a volunteer and  
acted as forage master under Col [Clement] Biddle or as a deputy forage master under one Corkleron in  
Pensylvania at the Valley forge, he was foraging for the Regiment of Artillery commanded by Col  
[Thomas] Proctor. Proctor lay at the Valley forge. His duty was to go through the Country in search of  
provision for said Corps. Genl Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] was there, and there was a corp laying there  
called the jerman battallion [sic: German Regiment commanded by Col. Peter Muhlenberg]. He was on  
duty at this place three or four months. After he was discharged from this service he moved to  
Washington County State of Virginia in the year 1778. In the year 1779 he again volunteered in the County  
of Washington and joined Capt James Montgomery's company and marched to the long Islands of  
Holsten [sic: Long Island of Holston River at present Kingsport TN] under the command of Col Evan  
Shebly [sic: Evan Shelby], and we met at this place of Rendezvous, he met a corps commanded by Col  
John Montgomery State Troops of Virginia. Col Charles Robison was along with a Regiment of Militia.  
And there was attached to the State Troops Maj Quirk and Capt James Shebly [sic: James Shelby]. This  
expedition was destined against the Chickamauga Indians. The commanded decended the Holsten in  
Boats and Canoes, and landed at the mouth of Cickamauga Creek [10 Apr 1779], a number of Indians  
were killed, their Towns burnt and the whole dispersed. That State Troops under the command of Col  
Montgomery and the Militia here separated, and Col Montgomery decended the River and was under  
orders to Illinois Old Towns [with Gen. George Rogers Clark], and Shebly's command returned home,  
and he was discharged at the Long Islands on Holsten 1779. He was in service he thinks Two months  
during this campaign. In the County of Blount State of N. Carolina [now Tennessee] he again volunteered  
his services under the command of Capt Evan Shelby, Le't John Baker, – he thinks it was in the summer or  
fall of 1780, we marched to broad River in South Carolina and there joined Col [Joseph] McDowell. In the

march from Washington County he passed the Bald Mountain [possibly Bald Mountains], Catawba river North Carolina and then to Broad River. In his marched he joined Col Isaac Shebly [sic: Isaac Shelby] in said County of Blount, and Shebly took command of the Troop. And at Broad River he met Col Clark [sic: Elijah Clarke], who commanded the Georgia Militia, Col Brandon who he thinks commanded the North Carolina [probably either Thomas Brandon or William Brandon of South Carolina], Col Wade Hampton; the South Carolina – he was marched to a Fort called fort thicketty, which was commanded by Col Pad Moore [sic: Capt. Patrick Moore] a Tory. We reduced the fort [30 Jul 1780], took 100 prisoners [three illegible words]. In a few days after that affair we had a skirmish with Tarltons troops [sic: see endnote] at Pacolett, Buffontons Iron works, a place called cedar Springs. at this place Maj Smith of the Georgia Troops was killed, and a Capt Potts. On this campaign he served two months or upwards and was discharged at broad River, and he returned home to Washington County Virginia. In 17781 [sic] he thinks it was in that year, he again volunteered in Washington County State of Virginia, and joined the Regiment commanded by Col Daisy, and was appointed Adjutant [sic: Adjutant] of the Regiment and Col William Campbell took command of the Corps and marched us to the Morivian Towns [sic: Moravian towns of Salem, Bethabara, and Bethlehem] and then to Guildford Court House, and then to deep River, and there joined Genl Green and on Deep River there was a skirmish with the British, at a place called Whitesells Mills [sic: see endnote]; and after Two months service we were marched home, and discharged by Col Daisy. He thinks his whole service was from first to last about sixteen or seventeen months, he has lost his discharge – and he never was in any battles or skirmishes, than those herein stated – and he has no documentary evidence in his possession, and he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services, except the last campaign, under Col Campbell and of this he is not certain

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, Sworn to and subscribed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 1832. [signed] Elijah Smith

Interogatories. Where and in what year were you born?

answer I was born in the State of New Jersey on 13 August 1755

Question 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer – I have a record of my age, in the State of New Jersey

Question 3<sup>rd</sup>. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War; and where do you now live?

Answer In New Jersey, Hunderton County – then to Virginia and third to Tennessee

Question 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? if so for whom? He volunteered.

Answer

Question 5<sup>th</sup> 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 circumstance of your service?

Answer Maj Fortner, Jacob Laboo – Maj Lewis – Col Joseph Breley [sic: Joseph Brearley], Col [William] DeHart – Silas DeHart Leu't [probably Lt. Cyrus DeHart] – John McKinney, Capt Jonathan Philips. He recollects the German Batallia, at the valley forge He entered the service in New Jersey – Washington lay at the Raritan Heights – and the British at Brunswick – Afterwards he joined Capt Curly Company of Light horse – he afterwards acted as forage master in the winter of 1777 – 8[?] Land Troops under Corkelson. In the the year 1778 he moved to Washington County State of Virgin, and was in 1779 he was in the Chickamauga Indians. In 1780 he again entered the service, and was with Col. Isaac Shelby, Col McDowell

Question 6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer – I never did.

Question 7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons, to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and

who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Answer Hugh Robeson, David Palter, Barten L McFerra, John Ballard, John Espy – Cullen Carlen Calen Carlen Roberts –

State of Tennessee }  
Rutherford County }

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace for the State and County aforesaid Elijah Smith who being duly sworn, deposed and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades – For three months an orderly Sergeant under Captain Mott – For three month as a private in the light horse corps Commanded by Capt Israel Curley – For four months he acted as forage master under Col Biddle – For Two months as a private under Capt James Montgomery – For Two months under the command of Capt Evan Shelby – For Two months he acted as adjutant in the command of Col Campbells and Col Daisys command which was his last service – and for such service I claim a pension

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833

[signed] Elijah Smith

NOTES:

The engagement said to have been against Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion at "Buffontons Iron works" was actually against Loyalists under Capt. James Dunlap at Wofford's Iron Works on 8 Aug 1780. Maj. Burwell Smith (Burrell Smith) and Capt. John Potts were killed there.

The deposition is confused regarding the skirmish at Wetzel's Mill, which occurred on Reedy Fork of Haw River, 6 Mar 1781. Gen. Nathanael Greene did not march to Deep River until after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC on 15 Mar 1781.

On 19 Dec 1860 Lucretia Miler [possibly Miller], 52, of Cumberland County IL, applied for a pension stating that as Lucretia Jones she was married to Elijah Smith in Whitley County KY on 8 June 1828 by Rev. Abner Jones, and that Elijah Smith died at Jacksonville in Morgan County IL on 11 Mar 1836. The file contains a copy the marriage bond signed on 7 June 1828 with Jesse Perkins as surety, and also a copy of the marriage return dated the same day. Her application was witnessed by John E. Miler and P. A. Pearson. On 31 July 1862 she applied for bounty land and any arrearage of pension, giving her age as 55, the date of marriage to Elijah Smith as 7 June 1828, and the date of his death as 11 Mar 1835. She surrendered her pension to marry on 6 June 1837 in Morgan County IL John Miler, who died in Cumberland County in 1858. On 17 Jan 1876 Lucretia Jones, giving her age as 67 and place of residence as Neoga, applied to renew the pension that she had given up during her marriage on 4 June 1866 to John W. Jones who died 11 Dec 1872.