

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Roe R8932

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia }
Harrison County }

On the 19th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open court now sitting John Roe aged 75 years who being first duly sworn 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 was born in the County of Westmorelan [sic: Westmoreland] and State of Virginia in the year 1758 That he has no record of his age That he volunteered his services in a company under the command of Capt Thomas Smith in the spring of 1779, joined the Army commanded by Genl Antony Wayne [sic: Anthony Wayne of Pennsylvania] marched to New York was present at the taking of Stony point [15 Jul 1779] continued in s'd. service twelve months and was discharged in writing which discharge has since been lost immediately after he volunteered his services under same officer for twelve months was attached to a regt. commanded by Col. Black marched to South Carolina was engaged in the Battle of the Cow Pens [sic: Cowpens, 17 Jan 1781; see endnote] was discharged in writing by Col. Black having served the full term of twelve months immediately after he enlisted for during the war was placed under the command of a French Captain name not recollected was transfered to a company commanded by Capt Samuel Tankeslay marched from thence to Norfolk was stationed there some time thence to York Town was present at the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and was discharge in writing at the close of the war which discharge was signed by his Capt. & has since been lost in all the above tours he served as a private and was not engaged in any civil pursuit from Westmoreland he removed to Fauquire [sic: Fauquier County] from thence to Harrison County where he now resides

Has no documentary evidence and knows of no living witness by whom he can prove the above services. 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

[signed] John Roe

for his character &c he refers to Col G. J. Davisson, Judge Duncan &c of Clarksburg

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

John Roe — applicant.

on the 23rd July 1834 Mr. Roe made the following statement of his age and his services - he was born in Westmoreland County Virginia and in the year 1758 - when in his fourteenth year of age he went to Dumprys [sic: Dumfries] Va. - there go aboard of Schooner, and went down the river to little York - on getting to little York he volunteered under Capt Thomas Smith (this was in his fifteenth year of age [in 1773!?!]) he remained there until he was sixteen years old) - Capt. Smith was making up his company - after the company was filled it marched to South Carolina (- "all Capt Smiths Company were volunteers every man of us") dont recollect the name of the town to which the company marched - this was still in his sixteenth year of age - "Joined Head quarters in South Carolina" "Genl Wayns Brigade". He Roe was at the Battle of the Cowpen when his Captain Smith was killed# - after the Battle of the Cowpens the army under Genl. Wayne marched to Stoney Point - one Samuel Taylan[?] succeeded Capt. Smith - Roe says that he continued in the army as a soldier from 1775 to the close of the war — note this man wanted to say many other things about his services - But his protical [prodigal?] tongue went faster than my pen, and the day being very oppressive I concluded to quit him -

Roe made the statements above detailed to W G Singleton in my presence and hearing - Nathan Goff [Pension Agent at Clarksburg]

A Copy

W. G Singleton Nov. 20, 1834

#what a pitty it had not been this soldier. then [about 13 illegible words] W. G. S

NOTE: Singleton wrote on his report "not Entitled." He gave no reason aside from the heat and his dislike of Roe, but Roe's statement to him was obviously incorrect, perhaps not surprisingly since Singleton visited without warning. Gen. Wayne and his troops were still in the North during the Battle of the Cowpens. Nor was any Col. Black there. Neither could I find a Capt. Thomas Smith killed at the battle.