

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Moses Highsmith W7752
Transcribed by Will Graves

Esther

fn29NC
rev'd 2/22/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina Pitt County

On this ninth day of May 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Moses Highsmith a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged 73 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declarations in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1778 in Captain Moore's company under the Command of Colonel Williams and marched to South Carolina to a place called Purris Burg [sic, Purrysburg] (or something like that) from there they marched to the Savannah River some distance, and was discharged by Captain George Falconer who was then the commanding officer of the company. That he was enlisted for five months and served out that time. And again he was drafted for three months in Captain Lewis Cannon's company under the command of Major Sheppard in the year 1781, or served only one and a half months of the time when discharged in consequence of the declaration of Peace. That in each case he served as a private Soldier. That he has no documentary evidence of his 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 any agency in any State. That he was born in the County and State aforesaid and a resident thereof at the time of service, and has always resided in this County except four years of the time, which time he resided in Duplin County in this State. That he has no record of his age but that he is informed by old persons in whom he has confidence that he was born in the Spring of 1760. That he is known by Henry Barnhill, James Taylor, John Anderson, Simon Keel residents of this County who will testify to his character for veracity and belief of a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

Witness

S/ Reading S. Blount, D. C.

S/ Moses Highsmith, X his mark

I Simon Keel¹ of the County of Pitt & State of North Carolina do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Moses Highsmith whose declaration is hereto prefixed. That at the same time and place mentioned in said declaration I was in the service under the command of Colonel Williams & Major Sheppard and was discharged in the manner and the time mentioned by him. And I do further certify that he has lived in this County nearly all the time since the declaration of Peace.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year above mentioned.

S/ Archibald Parker, Clk

S/ Simon Keel, X his mark

[Henry Barnhill and William Clark, a clergyman, gave standard supporting affidavits.]

[Esther Highsmith, 75, applied in Pitt County on August 10, 1850, for a widow's pension stating that she married Moses on July 3, 1794 at the house of her late Aunt Franky Taylor, by William Bowers, Esq.; that Moses died December 27, 1846.]

[fn p. 17: on June 5, 1850 in Pitt County North Carolina, Telitha Taylor, 69, gave testimony in support of the widow's application stating that she has known Moses Highsmith since childhood, residing within five miles of each other; that she was present at the marriage of Moses Highsmith with Easter Taylor which marriage she is pretty certain was performed by William Bowers Esquire at the home of her aunt Franky Taylor.]

[fn p. 21: on September five, 1850 in Pitt County North Carolina, James Highsmith, 44, testified that he is the son of Moses Highsmith, a revolutionary pensioner; that his father died December 27 1846 leaving Esther Highsmith his widow, who is deponent's mother; that his parents had five children; that "the said Moses kept no family record -- A few years after this deponent married, and at least eighteen years ago, he set down in his own Bible the names of their children, affixing to each the year in which they were born, according as his said parents informed him, which lists I have cut out of the Bible and hereunto annexed, except my own name, which was omitted in the regular order, and placed on the next leaf at the head of my own children. There is no record I know of or have heard of, of the date of the marriage of my said father & mother the first child Nancy as I have been told by my parents, and always believed, was born on the 27th of December 1794 -- and they are all now alive except Catherine who was the youngest..."]

[fn p. 4: family record]

Moses Highsmith was Born ion [sic] the year of our lord 1760

Easter HighSmith was Born = M J 1775

Nancy High Smith was Born M D 179_[last digit obliterated by an ink blot]

Betsey Highsmith was Born = M D 1798

Sally Highsmith was Born MD 1809

Katharine Highsmith was Born MD 1816

This is the leaf out of the Bible alluded to in the depa. of James Highsmith

S/ M. Dickinson, JP

3 Sept. 1850