

**John Roe** appeared in Harrison County Virginia court on 19Aug1833 to apply for a pension (FPA R8932) based on service in the Revolutionary War. He stated that he was age 75, born in Westmoreland County VA in 1758. He volunteered under **Captain Thomas Smith** in 1779 and served in the north under General Anthony Wayne. In 1780, he re-enlisted and was assigned to Colonel Black and marched to the south. There he was in the Battle at the Cowpens. He was discharged by Colonel Black. Next he enlisted for the War and served under Captain Tankersly in Norfolk at York Town.

D.A. W.G.Singleton disapproved of the deposition.

Roe reapplied 23Jul1834 in Clarksburg before pension agent Nathan Goff and attorney Singleton. Part of the deposition was “Roe was at the **Battle of the Cowpen** when his **Captain Smith was killed.**”

Singleton said that Roe talked too fast and he could not write the details. It was too hot and he did not like Roe. Singleton scrambled Anthony Wayne into South Carolina, perhaps an error in recording, not in speaking.

In fact, several western Virginia (e.g. Botetourt County) militia men testified that they served under Captain Thomas Smith in Fall of 1780, but not later. Several served under Captain Tankersly in 1781 around Chesapeake Bay. If Roe misspoke Colonel’s name “Black” in his first deposition, then his accounts seem very plausible. The death of his captain would explain a discharge by his colonel. Several militia companies from Virginia were attached to regiments after they marched south. Let’s speculate that Roe was unfamiliar with the colonel and it was actually say Charles McDowell. The alternative is to say that an old man was wrong about Captain Thomas Smith being killed at Cowpens.