

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Lewis Collins S21142

fn14SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/30/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee County of Hawkins: On this 16th day of August 1834 personally appeared before me Lewis Mitchell one of the acting Justices of the County of Hawkins Lewis Collins a resident of the County of Grainger and State of Tennessee aged eighty years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1834 [sic, June 7th, 1832] –

That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1776 first of August as a drafted prive [sic, private?] under the Command of Captain James Stean [James Steen] [Andrew Williamson] in the Regiment of Colonel Williamson and marched against the Cherokee Indians that were doing mischief on the frontiers of South Carolina. I was then living in the State of South Carolina, the name of the County I think as well as I recollect was Montgomery it was on the waters of Broad River. Captain Steen's Company met at his house and we marched on to the frontiers of said state and joined Williamson at a place where the Indians had killed two families by the name of White and parrie [sic?] we marched from there without any particular occurrence until we arrived in the nation at a town called Keewee on Keewee River called by the Indians ____ . We there stationed ourselves the Indians had left the place we scouted about in the nation different times and different directions we took some Indians, killed some and also destroyed their crops of potatoes and corn by cutting down their corn we also burnt all the houses and lawns [sic?] we could find and then we returned home upon the same route arrived home about the 15th of December when we were dismissed without any discharge being gone four months and 15 days as well as I could recollect. In the year 1778 I had hired myself to make a crop in South Carolina Montgomery County with one Charles Tompson as I was not then a man of a family and there was a call for men and I was drafted again – I went under the command of my same Captain James Steen. I went from the same County the company of my Captain was to join some Regiment as I understood somewhere near Ninety Six but on our march our Captain told us he had received orders that we were not wanted and was returned home again and was dismissed. We returned home again the last of May – we were gone one month – I returned home and finish my crop and then left the state of South Carolina and went into the state of Virginia to my father's house in Montgomery County – I resided in that County until the year 1781 when there was a call for men that had to go out of the Captain's Company I was in five men There was a draft and it fell my lot to go again. I entered the service again in Montgomery County State of Virginia first of June 1781 under the command of Captain Gordon – we joined the Regiment of Colonel Malbury [probably a reference to Francois Lellorquis Marquis de Malmady (also Malmedy, Malmèdy)] – and marched on through some part of North Carolina the Counties I do not recollect and joined General Green [Nathanael Greene] at a place called the High Hills of Santee. We marched on from there towards Charlestown in South Carolina. On

our march we engaged with a party of British at a place called the Eutaw Springs under the command of Colonel Stuart [Lt. Col. Alexander Stewart] as I was told. Here a severe battle took place I think as well as I now recollect sometime in the first of September. We defeated the British and took a great many prisoners. I was drafted for three months but when my time expired I could not get off until new recruits came in. I was ordered to the Regiment of Colonel Locke and took charge of the prisoners we went on with the prisoners near Salisbury where we were met by a new guard and there we was discharged. I received my discharge from Colonel Locke which I have long since lost. I returned home I think as well as I now recollect near the first of November being gone five months. And I never was out anymore. This applicant further states the cause of his making his declaration in the County of Hawkins is he lives near the line of Hawkins County – he is very old and frail and has lost his hearing in a great measure he does about but very little and what intercourse he has with the neighbors are chiefly with Hawkins as he belongs to the Baptist Church and the church to which he belongs is in Hawkins County and it is all the place to which he has gone for several years. This declarant knows of no one whom he can prove his services by, he says he has no documentary evidence of his service he hereby relinquishes every Claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me

S/ Lewis Mitchell, JP

S/ Lewis Collins, X his mark

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Personally appeared before me Lewis Mitchell one of the Justices of Hawkins County Lewis Collins who being duly sworn deposes 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 service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades, for four months and fifteen days I served as a private under Captain Steen; for one month I served as a private a second time under Captain Steen; for five months I served as a private under Captain Gordon and for such service I claim a pension

Sworn to this 16th of August 1834 before me

S/ Lewis Mitchell, JP

S/ Lewis Collins, X his mark

Questions proposed to Lewis Collins applicant for a pension

[1st Where and in what year were you born?]

Ans. I was born in the year 1754 in the State of Virginia in what County I do not know

[2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?]

Ans. I have none only what my father told me

[3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?]

Ans. Once in the State of South Carolina once in the State of Virginia from Virginia I moved to the state of Tennessee Grainger County where I now live

[4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?]

Ans. I was drafted every time

[5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.]

Ans. Captain Steen Captain Gordon, Colonel Locke, Colonel Malbury and Colonel Williamson
[6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?]

Ans. I received one from Colonel Locke which I have lost

[7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

Ans. Rev. John Kidwell, John Coffey, William Malicoat, David McAnnally, Esqr.

[Thomas Crawley, a clergyman, and John Coffey gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 11: Dowell Collins and Edmund Collins, claiming to be heirs of Lewis Collins, deceased, a revolutionary pensioner, filed a power of attorney dated February 15th, 1853 in Knox County Tennessee.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 1/2 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]