

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of James Cole S3174

fn26NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Carroll County

On this 10th day of December A. D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Carroll now sitting. James Cole, a resident of the County & State aforesaid seventy seven 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he was born in the State of Virginia, County of Bedford, on the 5th Sept. A. D. 1755 and has now in possession the record of his age in the hand writing of his Father who removed from said County & State in the year 1756 to the County of Anson then, now Richmond, State of North Carolina, when claimant resided until his Draft in Spring of 1776 and where he continued to reside until Spring 1831 when he removed to his present residence. In Spring of '76, supposed to be in the month of June, perhaps May, in obedience to his Draft he marched under Capt. Hoy, Davidson Lieut., and David Love, Colonel, against the Cherokee Indians, who, at that time, in the service of the British were butchering and scalping the white settlers in the Western part of N. Co., and proceeding on to Pleasant Garden, joined Genl Griffin Rutherford's [sic, Griffith Rutherford's] army, and then through a waste and mountainous country, by aid of Pilots marched on to the Indian settlements, and with the loss of few lives, destroyed some twelve or fifteen of their towns & perhaps as many of their men, but had no general Engagement, as they generally fled at the approach of our Army: This done, [we] marched back & was discharged some time in the latter part of the month of October, or fall of November following, which is believed to be full six months from time of Draft, to time of discharge.

The Claimant states, that from the time of his discharge aforementioned, until the year 1780 he stood several Drafts, but was fortunate enough to escape being drafted, and volunteered in 1780 and was engaged in procuring and driving beef to Genl Gate's [Horatio Gates'] Army at Camden & was about a days ride of Camden when Gates was defeated. At & after this time the Tories became so numerous, bold and troublesome in this section that claimant was compelled for safety to flee his county and went into the

County of Wake, N.C. where he was taken sick of fever and continued so for about two months, when, getting well, he returned to his County of Anson, now Richmond, and volunteered under Capt. Crawford, and was again engaged in driving cattle for about two months, but for Genl Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army, he thinks in 1781. From this time he was constantly in the service under Colonels Wade, Crawford, Williams & Childs, Maj. Wall, Captain Dejarnatt [sic, Dejarnette?], Col, Warthen [?] & others names not now recollected; alternately now with one and then with another, and was in the first engagement with the Tories at Beauty's Bridge[sic, Beatti's Bridge] on Drowning Creek [skirmish occurred on August 4, 1781]; in which battle the Tories were successful. They were commanded by Cols. Fanning [David Fanning] and McNeill [Hector McNeill] and we by Cols. Wade and Crawford. This engagement took place perhaps July 1781. He was not in the second engagement at Beatti's Bridge which took place a short time after the first, perhaps a month or two, having been taken sick, a day or two before, while on his way to the place.

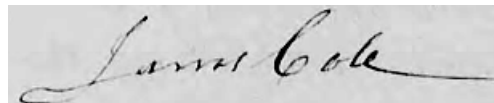
After this, Claimant was engaged in scouting the country where circumstances required, upon Drowning Creek and Little Pee Dee [Pedee River] and other places, but was in no engagements until several months after news of the surrender of Cornwallis, the Tories considering theirs a desperate case if taken still continued their depredations, and these were truly "times that tried men's souls."

This Claimant states that he got but one discharge that he now recollects and that was from Captains Hoy—but took no special care of it, considering it of but little value and knows not what has become of it. That he has no documentary evidence whereby to prove the foregoing service, and knows of no person whose testimonies he can procure on this course who can testify to his services, except Matthew Covington whose affidavit is annexed, who can testify only to the service against the Cherokee Indians.

Claimant refers to the following gentlemen, his neighbors, who can testify to his character for veracity. Namely, Col. John Clark, Matthew Covington, William L., McNeill, & Thomas Crawford, all of whom were well acquainted with him in North Carolina, and since his removal to this place, but knows of no clergyman near him who was acquainted with him in North Carolina and in fact there is none near him who have become, particularly acquainted with him since he came to this country.

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. Claimant verily believes and knows that the whole ans. of his actual service amounts to & exceeds two years.

S/ James Cole.



Sworn and subscribed in open Court the day and year first mentioned.

By and before—S/ E. Gwin, Clk.

[John Clark & William L McNeill & Matthew Covington gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

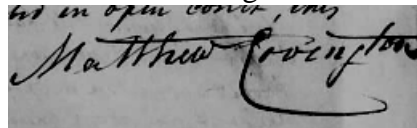
[fn p. 6]

State of Tennessee Carroll County: On this 10th day of December A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Matthew Covington aged about 72 years who being first duly sworn according to

law, Deposeth & saith, that he was well acquainted with James Cole who subscribed & sworn to the foregoing Declaration, prior to the Revolutionary War, that the said Cole was one of Captain Hoy's men in the expedition against the Cherokee Nation in 1776, & that he frequently heard of him during the whole of the Revolutionary War, perhaps was with him personally, and knows him to have been a true & faithful friend of the United States of America, & actively engaged in her service – Sworn to & subscribed in open Court, this 10th day of December A.D. 1832

Before S/ E. Givin, Clk

S/ Matthew Covington¹

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Matthew Covington" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored paper. Above the main signature, there is some faint, partially legible text that appears to say "but in open court, 1832".

State of Tennessee, Robertson County

Personally appeared before me John Hutchison, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Stephen Cole,² who being first sworn deposes and sayeth that he was born in the State of North Carolina, Anson County, on the 16th day of May in the year of 1760 and now a resident of Robertson County, State of Tennessee who testifying as to the service of his brother James Cole in the revolution states that from the long lapse of time and from old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service of this James Cole, nor all the general occurrences of his service, the actual situation of the country in which we then resided and defended it in such as to render it impossible to define with precision the length of service of the said James Cole as any other pension in that section of country for a necessity of the citizens of that section were Tories, and from the commencement of the war until the close we were in the actual service of the United States in some way for we were obliged to be in actual service within the army or in scouting parties for we dared not be at home in any employ whatever, for them that attempted the like were either killed by the Tories or taken prisoner and surrendered to the British, and numbers of those taken & surrendered to the British were [? looks like "handked"] and consequently myself, brother James Cole and some ten or dozen of others came to the conclusion & entered into a league that we never would surrender under any circumstances whatever, but would stand up in the defense of the Country as long as we could find ground to stand on or die in the attempt, consequently to the best of my recollection our service was as follows, to wit: He states that his brother James Cole was a resident of North Carolina (then) Anson County and that he was drafted to the best of my recollection and entered the service of the United States in the year 1776, but the precise month he does not recollect; this deponent states that his brother James Cole, together with himself served together under Capt. William Hay, in a Regiment commanded by Col. David Love, Major Davidson under Genl Rutherford in a Campaign against the Cherokee Indians. We served, I am positive four months and am of the opinion longer, but cannot testify in the positive that that fact.

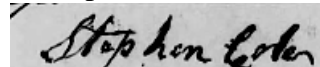
Again from the best of my recollection my brother James Cole in the year 1777 latter part or in the first part of the year 1778 in the County and State aforesaid volunteered his service & entered the service of the United States as appropriate under

¹ FPA S2444

² [Stephen Cole S3176](#)

myself as Captain of a Volunteer Campaign and at different times and various places and served under different officers though a considerable portion of North and South Carolina (to wit.) Col. Crawford, Major Wall, Col. Childs, Col. Wade, Col Speed, Col. Medlock, Col. Williams, Col. Donaldson according as we would and could fall into the different armies at different places, and when and where we would fall into any branch of the army we would serve and were commanded by our superior officers, and were subject to their orders, commands, and when in our own district we were commanded by Genl Harrington, we served in various little scrimmages during our service but in no general engagement; in one of those scrimmages with a party of Tories my Lieutenant Israel Medlock was killed at Betty's Bridge [sic, Beatti's Bridge] on Drowning Creek which divided the Counties of Anson, Cumberland, Montgomery, Richmond and Moore, it is impossible to define the length of the service of James Cole, myself and company under an particular Commanding Col. or General unless we had been kept a journal for our services were employed in scouting and spying expeditions across the country in various directions from one army to another ascertaining the situation of the country and the movements of the enemy and conveying the intelligence from our branch of the army to another &c until the war was ended or until the year 1783 perhaps in February making the service of my brother James Cole as a private in the Revolutionary War of the United States not less than five years. I have a personal knowledge of his service having served with him, we marched from Anson County, North Carolina when we entered the service through a considerable portion of both North & South Carolina at various times marching as necessity would require and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Stephen Cole



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7 June 1833.

S/ John Hutchison, Justice of the Peace.

State of Tennessee Carroll County: SS

On this 9th Day of September A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Court sessions of said County now sitting James Cole who having been duly sworn states that he is, and is known by the court to be the same person who made, and this court, his original declaration in order to obtain the benefit of said act of Congress, on the 10th of December A.D. 1832, and by way of amendment to the same, he states on oath as aforesaid 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 period below and in the following grades: For at least two years I served as a private; and for such service I claim a pension, and that is all for which I do claim –

S/ James Cole

State of Tennessee Carroll County

On this 9th Day of December 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of said County now sitting James Cole, who states that he is the same person who made in this court his original declaration in order to obtain the benefit of said act of Congress the 10th day of December 1832 and his first amended declaration on the ninth day of September 1833; and by way of further

amendment to the same, being still a resident citizen of said County of Carroll, having been first duly sworn he states that by reason of his old age, the great lapse of time and his consequent failure of recollection he cannot state the precise time at which he entered the service of the United States in 1780 or the precise duration of his service in that and succeeding years as required by the last direction to him from the Commissioner of Pensions, but, endeavoring to comply with that requisition he will state such times and circumstances as he can recollect tending to illustrate the points to which his attention has been called as aforesaid –

This applicant in the month of May 1780 resided in Anson County North Carolina near the corner of Anson, Cumberland and Moore Counties in said State – and in consequence of applicant's known devotion to the American cause manifested by conveying intelligence of the movements of the Tories to the weeks, and two parties of the American Army whenever he could in a few days after the surrender of Charleston South Carolina by General Lincoln in said month of May 1780, a company of British Dragoons were such and came to applicant's house for the purpose of taking or killing him; but he discovered them & escaped to a neighboring swamp, from which he saw them destroy all carry off everything he had no value. Applicant in a few days fell in with General Henry W Harrington who was also compelled to leave his house, and shortly afterwards they fell in with General Marion who had then but two or three men with him, and perhaps about a month after applicant left he & his flying party joined General DeKalb at Deep River with whom applicant returned to his own County where he immediately volunteered & joined a company of mounted gunmen commanded by Captain (afterwards Major) William Wall, who was under the orders of Colonel Thomas Crawford with other similar companies, or perhaps our Regiment was at that time commanded by Colonel Thomas Wade when applicant found Captain Wall on this occasion it must have been about the last of June or first of July 1780. From this time applicant continued in the service & was engaged in procuring & driving beeves to General Gates Army until his defeat in the month of August following. In consequence of this event the Court of which applicant belonged immediately dispersed & he went for safety to Wake County North Carolina where he was confined by sickness for two months as he has stated in his original declaration. As soon as applicant got well enough, as well he can remember about the first of November 1780, he again joined Captain Wade's company of mounted gunmen which was by that time we organized & the Regiment commanded by Colonel Crawford. From this time (first November 1780) applicant was constantly in the service until the spring of 1782, (month or day not recollected) under the officers, for the purpose and in the manner stated in his original declaration. And so this applicant states that he served the United States as a private soldier six months against the Cherokee Indians, and afterwards he was in the service as stated in this amended declaration from 2 to 3 months before the Battle of Camden and about 18 months after that event as herein before particularly stated, making in all to the best of his knowledge, belief and recollection at least two years and two months. This applicant knows of no person whose testimony he can procure as to his service, except those whose affidavits he will here with transmits, to wit Matthew Covington, Stephen Cole, and Samuel Watkins,³ the affidavits of the two latter of home he has been able to procure since the preparation of his original declaration.

³ [Samuel Watkins S3465](#)

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid

S/ Edward Givin, Clerk

S/ James Cole

State of Tennessee Humphreys County: Personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Samuel Watkins who being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was born in Anson County North Carolina on the 15th of June A.D. 1760 and now a resident of Humphreys County State of Tennessee – who is testifying to the services of James Cole in the Revolutionary war. States that he was acquainted with James Cole (the applicant) in Anson County North Carolina their parents being neighbors to each other; states that to his knowledge the above mentioned James Cole was drafted from Anson County North Carolina to serve a tour of three months against the Cherokee Indians; He well recollects this circumstance as he had two brothers who were drafted at the same time to wit William and Thomas Watkins both now deceased. This deponent states that the precise period when the above mentioned James Cole entered the service is not in his power to state but to the best of his memory it was either in the month of May or June A.D. 1776. He states that the Colonel under whom the said Cole went out was by the name of David Love; and that they returned from this tower [tour] in the last of October or first of November 1776. This deponent further states that to his knowledge the above named James Cole was in the service of the United States as a volunteer from the first June 1781 to the beginning of the year 1782. That he was at the battle of Beatys Bridge with him in 1781. The officers then in command were Colonels Crawford and Wade and Captain Wall. This Captain who commanded the company to whom this deponent belonged was by the name of Zachariah McDonald. He has long known James Cole and has no hesitation in saying that he was always true to his country. And further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this third day of August 1833

Test: S/ C. J. Wheatley, JP

S/ Samuel Watkins, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one year and six months service as a private in the North Carolina Militia.]