Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Collyer S16728 NC VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana } SS. Franklin County }

On this 11th day of November A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Henry Berry Esquire Probate Judge of the Probate Court of the County aforesaid now sitting John Colyer a resident of Franklin County aforesaid, aged seventy six 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 7 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War on the 10th day of March 1775 [sic: 1776], by enlisting under Capt Thomas Dillard at the Court house in Pittsylvania Virginia, in which said County of Pittsylvania he lived when he entered the service; Joseph Robert was our Lieutenant and Tully Choice [pension application W3774] ensign: our company rendexvoused at Murdocks store in the County of Pittsylvania aforesaid, and marched from thence to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] in the same state, where we met twelve hundred regulars under Taylor, remained at Williamsburgh a few days and then marched down to Gwynns Island [Gwynn Island] where we remained until Dunmore was defeated [11 Jul 1776]. Captain Peter Perkins Company marched with us from Pittsylvania County aforesaid through the whole route. From Gynnes' Island aforesaid we marched back to Pittsylvania County the last of August 1775 when and where we were discharge served in this tour as a private soldier five months and twenty days. And in this tour was crippled by having my ancle put [out] of place in crossing York river. About Christmas 1775 [sic] he moved from Pittsylvania County aforesaid to Wilks [sic: Wilkes] County in the State of North Carolina. In May 1780 he volunteered in the Militia of said state in the County of Wilks aforesaid where he then resided volunteered and served under Capt Benjamin Herndon; we marched down to the big Pedee [sic: Pee Dee River] at the mouth of Rocky river, where we had an engagement with the tories and routed them; in this engagement we lost our Maj. Davis who was killed. This expedition was commanded by Gen'l. [Griffith] Rutherford. At Pedee our Capt. Herndon and Col [Elijah] Isaacs left us and went to Gates army, and we returned home under the command of Lieut Hamblin. served in this tour as a private soldier two weeks. In September 1781 he lived in Wilks County as aforesaid, when and where he was drafted in the North Carolina militia under Capt. Samuel Johnson for three months. Paraded at Hamblins store in said County and from thence marched down to Randolph County in the same state, and were stationed at Harman Cox's Mills on Deep river [near the mouth of Mill Creek] and during our stay at that place had several skirmishes through the County after Col. Fannen's [sic: David Fanning's] men who were tories, and took about thirty prisoners. Served in this tour as a first sergeant the full term of three months. Making the whole time for which he served in the Revolutionary war as aforesaid six months and one week as a private soldier and three months as a first sergeant.

Answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department

- 1 He was born in Cumberland County and state of Virginia in the year 1757
- 2 He has a record of his age ie a bible which was given to him by his father when very young
- 3. He was living in Pyttsylvania County in the State of Virginia when first called into the service, from whence as before stated he moved to Wilks County North Carolina and was then again called into the service as before stated. After the Revolutionary War he moved from Wilks County afd to Pendleton County South Carolina and there lived four years, and from there moved back to Wilks County afd and lived two years, and moved from thence to Holsten [sic: Holston River] in Washington County Virginia

and lived two years, and from thence moved to Russell County on Clinch river in Virginia and lived thirteen years, and then moved to Floyd County Kentucky and lived four years, and then moved back to Russell County afd and lived three years and moved back to Morgan County Kentucky and lived eight years, and then moved to Franklin County Indiana where he has since resided & where he now resides.

- 4. He was drafted and volunteered as aforesaid & as hereinafter stated.
- 5. He was acquainted with Dillard Capt. Joseph Roberts Lt. Col. Cleavland[sic: Benjamin Cleveland], Col Isaacs, Col. Herndon, Gen. Rutherford, &c.
- 6. He never received a discharge
- 7. He is acquainted with William George & Daniel St. John of Franklin County afd who is acquainted with me & who can testify as to my character for veracity 7c.

He also recollects, that after he had served the two weeks under Capt Herndon & before the time he served as a Sergeant for three months as herein before stated, he was drafted for six weeks under Capt John Morgan, and served the full term of six weeks as a private soldier, he does not recollect the precise day when he entered or quit the service this tour, but it was between the time before stated and served as afd. the term of six weeks as a private soldier, which makes the whole time which he served as a private soldier seven months and three weeks instead of six months and one week as once before in this Declaration stated and three months as a first Sergeant. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

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 Collyer

NOTE: On 21 Jan 1843 Collyer applied to have his pension transferred to Missouri, having moved to Grundy County because "his children was moving from Indiana to Missouri and that he was Unsettled had no land in Indiana." On 26 June 1845 Collyer again applied to have his pension transferred, having moved to Mercer County MO because "he was unsettled in Indiana and owned no land and his Children had Generally moved to Missouri."