

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Corley S2422

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } S.

Wilson County }

On this 31th day of October 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Circuit Court now sitting, William Corley a resident of the County of Wilson & State of Tennessee, aged Eighty years the 2nd day of March 1752, 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 entered the Service of the United States as a militia man in May 1779 to the best of his recollection & belief, under Capt. Isaac Winston, met at Hanover Court-house where our Company was Completed, marched from thence to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg], and there remained at the Barracks until our term of service of two months expired, when we were discharged, though not in writing: he returned home to his residence in Hanover County; in this service Col. Wm. Dandridge [William Dandridge] Commanded the Regiment from Hanover County.

In the year 1780 he removed to the County of Spottsylvania [sic: Spotsylvania] Virginia, and in Jan'y 1781 was again required to serve another tour of two months in the militia. Thomas Tolls [sic: Thomas Towles] was the Capt. of the Company to which he belonged; is not certain, but his best recollection is that Henry Brock was Lieutenant; Major [William] McWilliams & Col. Oliver Tolls [sic: Oliver Towles] commanded the Regiment; we were marched from Spottsylvania Courthouse to Hanover Court, where we met Gen'l. Weeden [sic: George Weedon], who turned us back to Fredrickburgh [sic: Fredericksburg], to guard the Military stores, from being destroyed by the enemy under the command of Gen'l. [Benedict] Arnold; There we remained, until our term of service expired, when we were discharged by Gen'l. Weeden himself.

About the month of May of the same year 1781, he was again called into the Militia service, to oppose Lord Cornwallis & his forces; marched from Spottsylvania Court house under the command of Capt. Francis Coleman towards the main Army under the Command of Gen'l. LaFayette, in the County of Orange we came to the trail of the American army took that, marching through Louisa & into Fluvanna County where we came up with the main army at Michunck Creek [sic: Mechunck Creek, about 12 Jun] Gen'l. Wayne having in the mean time joined La Fayette [Anthony Wayne at Brock's Bridge, 10 Jun]. The same night Lord Wallis took up the line of march retreating from the American Forces, we marched early next morning in pursuit of them & followed them to the River at James Town where there was a severe skirmish with Gen'l. Wayne's forces and Lord Cornwallis [Battle of Green Springs Plantation near Jamestown, 6 Jul] Gen'l. Wayne retreated, but his retreat was soon covered by Gen'l La Fayette. in the mean time the British were making good their way across the River, except about 200 that were killed in the fight, according to his best recollection. We remained in that section of Country, above Williamsburgh until our term of two months expired, when we were discharged by Col. [Thomas] Meriwether who commanded the Reg't. to which he belonged this tour. Majr. Hardiman [sic: Henry Hardman] of the Regular army commanded with Col. Meriwether in this expedition.

He has a record of his age in his possession, has often seen it in the Parish Register.

He has already stated that he resided in Hanover & Spottsylvania Counties in the State of Virginia during the Revolutionary War. He removed to Louisa County, Virginia, about the beginning of the year 1782. Removed from Louisa County to Wilson County, Tennessee, where he arrived the 8th of January 1812 and where he has continued to reside ever since.

He knew Gen'ls. La Fayette, Wayne, Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene, who did not command in Virginia] & Gen'l. Weedon. Col Tolls was an officer in the Regular Army & also Majr Hardiman. – He

never rec'd. any discharge in writing, nor did he hold any commission in the Revolutionary army.
He knows of no person except his brother Austin Corley [pension application S3198] whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service.

He 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, to his knowledge.

[signed] Wm. Corley

I Austin Corley a resident of Wilson County do hereby certify that I know that my brother Wm. Corley who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, was soldier in the Revolutionary War and that I served the Campaign first above mentioned with him – he did not serve any other Campaign with him but knows that on other times & occasions he was in the militia service during the Revolutionary War, and believes that his services are truly stated & set forth by the said Wm Corley in his declaration.

Sworn to in open court 30th Oct 1832

[signed] Austin Corley