

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Collins S31613

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana } Sc

Ripley County } On this 10th day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared in open Court before the Honourable Henry B. Hukill probate judge of the Ripley County probate Court now in session William Collins, a resident of the said County of Ripley and state of Indiana aged sixty five[?] years the sixth day of May last 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated. The 1st day of November 1780. he entered the service as a substitute for his father John Collins (who was drafted) and served for two months in the Malitia of Virginia, under Genl Weeden [possibly George Weedon], Col MacWilliams, Lieut Col Murray, Maj James Thompson, Captain James Legg, Lieut John Daniel (Ensign forgotten) 1st Sergeant Uriah Proctor, and 1st Corporal Thos. Johnson. He left the service this first tour the 2^d day of January 1781. after serving faithfully for two months. He then on the 5 or 6th day of May 1781. entered the service a second time as a substitute for one Benjamin Stevens, and served for two months more lacking two days under General Nelson [possibly Thomas Nelson], Col Thomas Barton [or Barker], Lt Col John Williams, Maj Moore, Agutant [sic: Adjutant] John Seanthis[?], Capt. George Wane[?], Liut Benj'n Porter. Ensign John Jones 1st Sergeant ___ Simpson and 1st Corporal James Boston. He left the service the 3^d day of July 1781. entered the service a third time, and served as a substitute for one James Porter under the following officers to wit Genl Stevens [possibly Edward Stevens], Col James Mathews, Liut Col John Riggs, Maj Jones, Agetent Isaac Henderson, Capt James Hawkins, Lieut David Hawkins, Ensign Wacey[?] and 1st sergeant Beaman. He left the service the 3^d day of September 1781. after serving for two months. He then the same day (to wit) the 3^d day of September 1781. entered the service a fourth time, and served as a volunteer for two months under the following officers (to wit) Genl Antony Wayne [Anthony Wayne], Col James Edmonds, Liut Col Bridges, Maj Wise - agetant. Bridges (the brother of the Col) Captain James Jamison Lieut Jones, Ensign Isaac Norris & 1st sergeant Johnson. These were all Continental officers from the Pennsylvania line, and the way that applicant came to serve under them was this - he volunteered in Capt May Bentons Company of Virginia Malitia and there was 8 men more than his command called for and he with some others were transfer to the company of Regulars commanded by Capt. James Jameson who had not his full command at that time (Applicant deems it necessary to state these particulars to the Department, that it may readily explain how he came to serve under Capt Jamison and this was the way that he came to do so as applicant has always understood.) He came out of the service the 8th day of November 1781. and serving faithfully for two months and five days, which added to his three former terms as a substitute, makes the term of Eight months and three days for which services he now claims a pension. At the time he entered the service and during the same he resided in Orange County Virginia and continued to reside there during the whole war. The three first tours he served as a substitute for the persons mentioned above (see above) and the fourth and last tour he volunteered. He was in many severe skirmishes and at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. During his first tour of two months he was stationed at Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg] Va for the purpose of guarding the Magazine and provisions for the army. During his 2^d tour he marched from Richmond to Williamsburg, Va. there he was stationed during his 2^d 3^d and part of his 4th and last tour when he was marched to yorktown, where he was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. He recollects the following Continental Regiments and Companies who was with the troop where he served (to wit) Col. Taylors, Col. Edmondston's, Col. Jones Regiment of Regular troops Capt. Jamison, and Capt Johnson's company of Regulars and also Capt. Daniels from Louisa County, Capt. Simpson from Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] Co and Capt Jacob Oglesham (a dutch man) from Franklin County Va [sic: formed from Bedford and Henry counties in 1786] was who commanded Malitia companies and were under the command of Genl Wayne and LaFayette.

He [illegible word] remembers of seeing Genl Washington, Genl Greene, Genl. Gates, Col Edmonds, Genl. Wayne, La Fayette, Col Taylor Col Jones, Captain Jamison and many more. He has no [illegible word] or dockumentary Evidence, and he knows of no person living 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] William Collins

Answers to the 7 Questions prescribed by the War Department: Answer to 1st Quest. I was born in Orange County Va. the 6th of May 176[?]. Answer to 2^d Quest. I have a Record of my age it is now in Jessamine County Kentucky. Ans'r. to 3^d Quest. I was residing at the time I entered the service at during the same, in Orange County Va. in 1791 I removed to Kentucky where I remained until 1816 when I removed to Ripley County Ind where I now reside. Ans'r to 4th Ques. The 1st 2^d and 3^d tours I served as a substitute 1st for my father John Collins 2^d for Benj'n. Stevens and 3^d for James Porter - the 4th time I volunteered. Ansr. to 5th Ques (This Question is answered particularly within, and to which the Department is specially refered) see declaration) Answer to 6th Question. I rec'd written discharges for all of my tours, the 1st by Col Mac Williams, the 2^d by Genl Nelson, the 3^d by Col Mathews, and the 4th by Col Edmonds. They are now all destroyed or mislain I know not which. Answer to 7th Question Eugene & Joseph Clark, Robt. Randy[?] Benj Brown and all who know me Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[signed] William Collins

Amendment to the Declaration of William Collins for a pension

State of Indiana } Sc

Ripley County } Personally appeared before me James Wooley a justice of the peace in and for the County of Ripley and state aforesaid Wiliam Collins who being by me first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith, that on the 10th day of February last he made his certain declaration for a pension under the act of 7th June 1832 and that in said declaration he was greatly mistaken in regard to his age as there set down that he was not born as stated in his answer to the 1st of the 7 Questions presented by the War Department on the 6th day of May 1767 but in 1764 which makes the error three years. Deponent is of opinion that the mistake did not originate with him self, but with his Attorney Mr Harding as he well remembers that he was 16 years of age the May prior to his entering the Army the 1st time which was on the 1st day of November 1780. Deponent recollects of seeing the Record of his age in Jessamine County Ky. 72 years this present month and he there well remembers his age as there set down. As it regards the alleged error as to entering the service the 2^d time deponent is positive that he is not mistaking as he well remembers all of the transactions of the times, and the circumstances which attended his engagement with Stevens for whom he substituted. He well remembers that when Benjamin Stevens came to him for the purpose of hiring him as a substitute, he was serving together with his uncle Uriah Proctor with a Whip (or Pitt) Saw, that his Uncle made some objections to sparing him at that time but Stevens made him more liberal offers, and at last his Uncle told him he had better take Stevens up on his offer, which he did and on the 6th day of May to wit the day that he was 17 years old joined the Army. He well remembers this circumstance (to wit) of his Uncle telling him that when he joined the company (his Uncle having went with him to the place of rendezvous to do his duty and if he never saw him again to remember that he had joined the company on his birth day. Deponent is not mistaken as it regards the truth of his service for the transactions of those times are perfectly fresh in his memmory. And further deponent saith not.

[signed] William Collins

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of May 1834.

NOTE: Except for the Generals, none of the named officers could be found in records. Gen. Nathanael Greene and Gen. Horatio Gates were not at the places where Collins claimed to have served.