

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Costen S6777

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Transcribed by Will Graves

12/8/10

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State of North Carolina County of New Hanover: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions September Term 1832

On this day of September in the year 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of New Hanover now sitting at the Court House in Wilmington, Stephen Costen of the County of Onslow & State aforesaid aged about 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 County of New Hanover State aforesaid sometime in the year 1755. That he has no record of his age. That he lived in the County of Onslow North Carolina at the time he was called into service – has lived there ever since. –

That he was drafted & served three tours of three months each during the war under different officers, the particulars of which are as follows – viz. – That he first entered the service under Captain William Cray, Colonel Mathews & General Lillington in the latter part of the year 1779. That he marched under them from Wilmington North Carolina by the way of Georgetown & Moncks Corner to a place called Dorchester in South Carolina. That there being met with two United States officers Colonel Dickson & Major Sharp he marched under them in conjunction with his own officers to Charleston. That he there served with the troops commanded by General Lincoln seven or eight weeks & assisted in throwing up a breast-work or fortification for the defense of the city – At the expiration of which time, the militia under General Lillington being discharged he returned to Wilmington North Carolina under the command of Captain William Cray where he was discharged in the year 1780 in March. –

That he entered the service again in the year 1780 under Captain Daniel Yates & General Lillington. That he marched from Duplin Court House North Carolina there place of meeting or rendezvous to Fayetteville, from thence to Rocky River near a place called the shallow Ford from thence to Guilford Court House & from thence to Dan River near Virginia for the purpose, as he supposed, of joining the Army under the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], when intelligence was received that the British troops under the command of Major Craig had taken possession of Wilmington. That he then crossed a little stream called the Alamance & was marched down to Big Bridge within ten miles of Wilmington, where he was in a small engagement with the British troops under Major Craig, in which the Americans were

worsted & put to flight shortly after this his term of service expiring he was discharged by Captain Daniel Yates sometime in the year 1780. –

That he then returned to Onslow, was drafted & entered the service again in the early part of the fall or latter part of the summer of the year 1781 at the Richland Chapel in Onslow under Captain Daniel Newton & Colonel John Spicer. That he marched from thence to a place called Rutherford's Mills in Holly-Shelter North Carolina & from thence within ten miles of Wilmington, scouting about the country in pursuit of Tories. That about this time intelligence was received of the capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, upon the receipt of which he was marched back to Richland Chapel & discharged in the fall of 1781. –

That in addition to the above service he was called out for short periods at different times during the war for the purpose of guarding defenseless points within the limits & on the coast of North Carolina. –

That the above is a faithful account of his services – his discharges he has lost. That he knows of no person living who can testify to any part of his service except James Collins¹ of the County of New Hanover North Carolina who served in the same company with him and his tour to Charleston South Carolina under Captain William Cray & whose testimony as to that portion of his service is herewith transmitted – That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to an annuity or pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Stephen Costen, X his mark

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I James Collins of the County of New Hanover do hereby certify that I served with Stephen Costen, who has signed the above declaration in one tour of three months under Captain William Cray & General Lillington, in which tour we marched to Charleston South Carolina & served with the troops commanded by General Lincoln, & I do hereby further certify that I have heard that part of his deposition read to me & that the statement there made by him is correct & troop to the best of my knowledge & believed.

S/ James Collins, X his mark

[John Howard Senior & Nicholas N. Nixon gave the standard supporting affidavit

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for nine months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

¹ [James Collins S8246](#)