

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of George Collins S8247

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The following extract from a letter to Jonathan Wamsley is the only original document remaining in the file, the rest having been sent to District Attorney Washington G. Singleton for his investigation of pensioners from Lewis and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S 6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Nov. 12, 1832

J Wamsley, Esq.

Weston, Va.

Sir, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The claim of George Collins under the Act of March 18, 1818 has also been examined. He alleges to have entered the service in May 1777 and that he was discharged on account of wounds received at the battle of Brandywine. That battle took place on the 11th of September 1777. He could not therefore have served nine months; and on the examination of the roll of the Virginia line this supposition is corroborated by the fact that the amount received by him for the aforesaid services was only £15:4. The act under which he claims provides for none who did not serve at least nine months under one period of enlistment. His claim has therefore been rejected. The papers will remain on the files in this office.

[Collins later received a pension under the act of 1832, which required a minimum of only six months service and, unlike the act of 1818, credited service in the militia as well as in the Continental Line. His pension certificate issued 16 May 1833 states that he claimed to have served in the New Jersey militia in a company under Capt. Lewis and regiment under Col. Morgan for a total of 2 years and 18 months in both the infantry and cavalry. The pension was payable to J. Wamsley. Jonathan Wamsley filed many fraudulent pension claims in Lewis and Harrison counties and collected most of the pensions.]

[On the following report Singleton wrote "Fraud."]

George Collins. Pen. draws \$80.

John Mitchel [pension application S5761] of Lewis county, a Magistrate and pensioner aged 70 yrs. has known Collins 30 years. Collins has worked for him a many a day. - Collins is a talkative man and great egotist - never heard him say that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, nor does he think he ever was. Collins must be too young by some six or seven years.

Susan Mitchel wife of John, aged 52 years has known George Collins from her infancy. Collins & herself were at school together - Collins cant be more than 5 or 6 years older than herself.

Samuel Bennett (a man of character) has known Collins all his life. Bennett & himself are about our [?] age, about sixty.

Henry Flesher has known Geo. Collins for 37 years. - long after the close of the Revolutionary War. Collins settled in Harrison County then a young man.

Benjamin Copelan [possibly Benjamin Coplin, S10464] saw Collins for the first time long after the close of the war he was then a young man entirely too young to have been a soldier in the war of the Revolution -

Isaac Washburn has known Collins ever since he (Collins) settled in western Virginia - he Collins is too young by many years to have been a Soldier in the War of the Revolution -

Nicholas Carpenter knew Collins when a stripling of a boy. Saw him for the first time long after the war closed - has known him ever since.

William Powers [S18164] aged 71 yrs. (a Magistrate of Lewis cty) has known Collins since 1791. in that year Collins came to Harrison County & settled on his Fathers farm, then quite a young man.

Asa Squires, Jno. F. Singleton & Peyton B. Byrne all concur in saying that Collins is too young by many years to have been a soldier in the war of the revolution - All the forgoing gentlemen who have given evidence in reference to Collins concur in saying he is a man of bad character.

A true copy from original notes W. G Singleton.

Note. I was unable to see Collins. - I considered the evidence collected conclusive of his case and having heard that he was insolvent it was thought to be a needless waist of time to look further for him —

W. G Singleton Nov. 6, 1834