

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

Virginia documents pertaining to William Coleman VAS3065  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). The online images are very difficult to read.]

The affidavit of John Cheny.

This affiant states that he was born in the County of Norfolk in the State of Virginia and has always resided therein. That he is now in the seventy second year of his age. He recollects distinctly the battle of the Great Bridge [9 Dec 1775], the burning of Norfolk [1 Jan 1776], the siege and capture of York [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] and most of the occurrences which happened in the part of the State during the war of the Revolution. He recollects distinctly Capt. Thomas Bracy [Thomas Bressie R12763] and his company which was stationed in the County of Norfolk and he thinks remained in it during the whole war. He remembers distinctly William Coleman and that he was an officer in the said company and that he served therein to the end of the war and continued to reside in Norfolk County to the time of his death. What rank the said William Coleman held he does not distinctly recollect he was either a Sergeant or a Lieutenant however, but which this affiant cannot at present undertake to say.

[Norfolk County, 17 Dec 1834]

John hisXmark Cheny

The affidavit of Elizabeth Lowe. This affiant states that she is now in her seventy fifth year of age, was born in Norfolk County and has always resided in it. At the commencement of the American Revolution she lived on the Southern Branch of Elizabeth River. She knew Capt. Thomas Bracey who commanded a company and which was quartered in that neighbourhood at Mr. Burgess very shortly after the battle of the Great Bridge, think after remaining at Burgess for some five or six months the company removed to the Great Bridge and what became of Capt. Bracey aforesaid this affiant does not know. She knows that William Coleman was attached to the same company and that he staid with Capt Bracey at Burgess' house. What was his rank[?] this affiant knows not. She recollects he wore a cockade which this affiant made of horse hair and sold to him for a quarter of a dollar. The said Coleman marched with the company to the Great Bridge and [several illegible words at top of next page; left part of page missing where marked by \*]

I was born in the County of Norfolk [\*] [two undeciphered words] about forty eight years ago [\*]. Their children Polly, Betsey and [\*] Nancy were under age and [several undeciphered words] Polly lived [wi]th one John Wakefield but whether she [wa]s married to him this affiant knows [no]t. She had an only child a son named [W]illiam Wakefield and died many years [a]go. William Wakefield has also died. He left four children Elizabeth now the wife of William Gavit[?], Patsey, who married Lawrence[?] Enis[?], John and James. John died under age and unmarried. Patsey Enis is also dead leaving several children The exact number and names of Patsey Enis children [\*] unknown to this affiant

Betsey the daughter of William [Cole]man married Matthias Mannings and [\*] dead. She left four children – Willoughby, [M]atthias, Joseph and Markham who are [line at top of next page illegible]

[Norfolk County, illegible day, July 1835]

Elizabeth herXmark Lowe

To the Executive of Virginia [10 Aug 1835]

The memorial of William Gavit and Elizabeth his wife, James Wakefield and infant, Margaret, Marian, and Amos Enis infant children of Betsey Enis dec'd, Willoughby, William, Joseph and Markham Manning children of Betsey Manning respectfully sheweth that William Coleman was an officer, whether commissioned or not these memorialists do not know, in Capt. Thomas Bracy's company in the Virginia line in the war of the Revolution. They have understood that he entered the service about the period of the Battle of the Great Bridge and served to the end of the war. They submit herewith the depositions of

Elizabeth Lowe and John Cheny for the purpose of shewing the fact of service. They are unable at this [undeciphered word] period of time to obtain any other testimony. They have heard that the records of the army, at Richmond, will disclose the name of William Coleman as an officer in the Revolution.

The memorialists are the heirs of the said William Coleman as is proven by the affidavit of Mrs Lowe. They are entitled to his estate in the following portions.

Elizabeth Gavit a daughter of Wm Wakefield who was a grandson of Wm. Coleman one sixth.  
James Wakefield a son of Wm Wakefield aforesaid one sixth.

Margaret, Marian and Amos Enis infant children of said William Wakefield jointly one sixth.

Willoughby, Matthias, Joseph and Markham Manning jointly one half. These latter are grandchildren of said Wm Coleman by his daughter Betsey. William hisXmark Gavit

Report in the claim of the Heirs of William Coleman dec'd late a Lieut, in the Revolutionary army, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir; none of the Records, or documents, concerning the Army of the Revolution, afford any information (as far as I know) respecting the services of Lieut. William Coleman. The name of Wm. Coleman a soldier of Cav[alr]y is on the Army Register, of the State line. The same name also appears twice on the Army Register of the Continentals; & in each case, the Soldier who received his depreciation of pay is a Continental soldier, belong'd to the Infantry. (see Army Registers of the State & Cont'l line.)

It does not appear, that Wm Coleman has receiv'd bounty land, as a Commission'd officer, or as a Soldier.

Two eyewitnesses have been relied upon by the claimants, for prove this claim. They state the following facts viz – Elizabeth Lowe states that Wm Coleman, soon after the Battle of the Great Bridge, was in a Company commanded by Capt. Bracey, which was in service at & near the great Bridge – that she does not know his rank; but knows, that he wore a cockade, because she made one for him of horse hair. That she does not know what became of the said Coleman, after he march'd with the aforesaid Company to the Great Bridge (see the affidavit of Elizabeth Lowe) – John Cheny says that he remembers intimately Capt. Thomas Bracy's Company, which was station'd in Norfolk County & he thinks remain'd in Norfolk County & he thinks remain'd in it during the war. That he remembers distinctly William Coleman – that he the said Coleman was an officer in the said Company, and that he serv'd therein, until the end of the war – that he was either a Serjeant or Lieutenant; but which of the two, he (the witness) cannot undertake to say (see the afft of John Cheny.) There is no proof of the respectability of either witness. Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &c/ August 23<sup>th</sup> 1835