

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Edward Coleman R2160

SC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 Dec 2014.

[The first document is carelessly written and partly obscured by ink splatters (indicated by *). It may be a rough draft for the pension application that follows it. A note on the back reads, "This accidentally put among my private papers. Mr. Clark will please file it among the pension papers of [illegible word] House. J.C.J." See endnote for an attempt to make sense of the document.]

Edward Coleman a Coloured Man * Duly sworn Deposes and Says that he was in the Revolu* against great Britain * Behalf of the united States five year and six Months or * all the Whole time In Capt'n. Sinclairs Company * that Serg't. Marion Inlisted him to join said Company as * the Day he Inlisted he Doth Not Say But he says the same Day he Inlisted he went In action In Munks Corner the British gained We fought a gainst Jeneral Lastly

The Next at Pumpkin hill about 16 Miles Distance from the former The British gained The Next Camblin or Campden In South Carolina The British gained

The Next at lower Charlott We gained The Next at orangeburgh in North Carolina We gained The Next at gilford Courthouse The British gained and there he got wounded with a Ball In his Knee and Doctor Hard Castle took Care of him six months after he got well the Next action at Blackstock we gained

The Next at Catava River we gained the Next

The Next at Blafford River and there he got wounded with a Bayonet In his side and Doctor Hardcastle took Care of him six months. Then when fit for servise the Next action at Little Jerman town We gained the Next he was In was at the Vally forge In pennsylvania

(although we had many skarmages Not mention)

the Next at Indian town we gained

The Next at Little york and there we took Cornwallis and his army and this Deponent says, that some months after the taking of Cornwallis he got his Discharge and that he then went to sea and has Ben in the East Indies and other places But Now has Lit of and Lives in New york and is poor and has Not more then 25 Dollars worth of property In the world and hereing there Is a pension alloud for the old soldiers he wishes to have his as he knows he is Deserving of the same

Edward hisXmark Coleman

Sworn to before me this 19th day of June 1829

R Riker Recorder of the City of New York

State of New York }

City and County of New York } SS

On this Nineteenth day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Nine, personally appeared before me Richard Reiker Recorder of the City of New York, Edward Coleman a coloured man resident in the said city and county now aged Sixty Five years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th day of March 1818, and the 1st of May 1820; that he the said Edward Coleman enlisted in the Company commanded by Captain Sinclair, in the regiment commanded by Colonel Mayhem or Maiham [sic: Hezekiah Maham] in the line of the State of South Carolina on the continental establishment, that although he cannot tell exactly the time when he entered said corp; yet that he is certain that he served in said corps for Five years and Six months; when after the capture of Cornwallis at Little York in the State of Virgina he was regularly discharged, that during the time he was in the Continental service he was several times wounded sometimes severely an account of the wounds and battles received by said Edward Coleman, and in which he was engaged are hereunto annexed: That he the said Edward Coleman hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present; that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any State except the present application. And that

the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension are: that he the said Edward Coleman has been for a long time absent from the United States in the East Indies, and has earned a livelihood from following a seafaring life: and also from his ignorance of his rights, and privileges, not knowing any claims that he the said Edward Coleman, might rightfully and lawfully have upon the government of the United States, under either of the before mentioned Acts of Congress.

And in pursuance of the act of 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me; nor have I any income, and the said Edward Coleman further declares that his occupation when he can get any employ is that sometimes of a Wood Sawyer, and sometimes that of a Labourer in a Store when he can obtain employment, at either of which he declares he cannot earn sufficient to subsist upon, owing to his advanced age, the many disabilities he labours under in consequence of the wounds received during his service in the Continental Army in the War of the Revolution. That his family consists of himself and his wife whose name is Rachael aged about Forty three years, who is very sickly and unable to labour as she is willing to do. That he has no personal property excepting clothing and bedding which are by no means equal to what is necessary. That since the 18th day of March 1818, no change has been made in my property whereby I have been bettered in my situation; and that my circumstances were not better then, than they are at the date of making this declaration.

Edward hisXmark Coleman

Sworn to and declared to this 19th day of June 1829. Before me R Riker Recorder of the City of New York

State of New York }
City and County of New York } SS

On this Nineteenth day of June in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Nine Personally came and appeared before Richard Riker Recorder of said city; Jacob Francis a coloured man who made solemn oath that he is now about Sixty years of age, that during the War of the Revolution he was a servant in the French Army under the command of Rochambeau, that he was present at Little York in Virginia at the taking of Cornwallis, and although a Boy of Twelve or Thirteen years of Age he perfectly well remembers seeing Edward Coleman there, he belonged to the American Army, and was in the regiment belonging to the South Carolina line [sic: see endnote]. That since the Revolutionary War he has been acquainted with Edward Coleman; that he has heard the Affidavit of said Coleman read, that many of the facts therein stated, Deponent knows to be true; and such facts as are therein stated, as are not personally known to this Deponent he believes to be true. And further this Deponent saith not.

Jacob hisXmark Francis

State of New York }
City and County of New York } SS

Thomas Cook of the city of New York Doctor of Physic, being duly affirmed, doth depose and say that he has examined Edward Coleman a man of colour; that upon examination he found that said Coleman was wounded in the right knee apparently by a Ball; and that he appeared to be wounded in the Abdomen by a Bayonet. Affirmant is informed and verily believes it to be true that said wounds were received by said Coleman while in the Continental service in the War of the Revolution. and further affirmant saith not

Affirmed to before me this 20th day of June 1829
Flanagan Justice of Peace

[signed] Thomas Cook M.D. One of the
Physicians of the N. York Hospital James
President of the Med. Society of N. York

State of New York }
City and County of New York } SS [20 June 1829]

Henry Forster of the City of New York, Assistant in the Ballast Office in said city now aged Sixty seven years; being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists deposeth and saith that he has been acquainted with Edward Coleman since the year One thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven; that during a part of the time he has been acquainted with said Coleman, he has occasionally went to sea as mate of a vessel, that said Edward Coleman was cook on board the ship Manchester in the London trade. Deponent saith that said Coleman was always during deponents acquaintance with him, a sober well behaved and industrious man; that said Coleman hath always been lame in the right knee ever since Deponents acquaintance with him, and said Deponent hath always understood and verily believes it to be true; that said lameness proceeded from and was occasioned by a Wound received by said Coleman while in the Continental Service during the War of the Revolution. and further Deponent saith not.

[signed] Henry Forster

NOTES:

The following is an attempt to decipher the first document:

“ the Whole time In Capt’n. Sinclairs Company”

There was a Captain Sinclair, first name unknown, in the 3rd South Carolina Regiment of State Dragoons commanded by Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham.

“ the same Day he Inlisted he went In action In Munks Corner the British gained We fought a gainst Jeneral Lastly”

At Moncks Corner SC on 14 April 1780 troops under Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton routed Patriots including SC state troops. No General was present, but British General Alexander Leslie was active during this time in the siege of Charleston.

“The Next at Pumpkin hill about 16 Miles Distance from the former The British gained”

I could find no place with this name.

“The Next Camblin or Campden In South Carolina The British gained”

Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780; British under Cornwallis defeated Gen Horatio Gates. No organized South Carolina Continental forces were present, but there were SC militia and volunteers. (There was also a battle at Hobkirk Hill near Camden on 25 April 1781, but if Coleman was incapacitated for six months after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on 15 March 1781, he could not have been there.)

“The Next at lower Charlott We gained”

There was a skirmish at Charlotte NC on 26 Sep 1780, but South Carolinians were not involved, and the British gained the ground.

“The Next at orangeburgh in North Carolina We gained”

I could find no Orangeburgh in North Carolina, nor any engagements near Orangeburg SC before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. There were skirmishes on 10 - 11 May 1781, 25 July 1781, and in August 1781, but Coleman could not have been at any of these if he was recovering for six months from the wound received at Guilford Courthouse.

“The Next at gilford Courthouse The British gained and there he got wounded with a Ball In his Knee and Doctor Hard Castle took Care of him six months after he got well”

Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 March 1781 where the British under Cornwallis defeated the Americans under Greene. No organized SC troops were present.

“the Next action at Blackstock we gained”

At the Battle of Blackstocks Plantation in present Union County SC on 20 Nov 1780, Gen. Thomas Sumter’s troops, including SC state troops and militia, defeated Tarleton.

“The Next at Catava River we gained”

There was a skirmish at Fishing Creek near Catawba River on 18 Aug 1780, but the American forces under Gen. Sumter were routed by Tarleton.

“The Next at Blafford River and there he got wounded with a Bayonet In his side and Doctor Hardcastle took Care of him six months.”

I could not identify a Blafford River.

“Then when fit for servise the Next action at Little German town we gained “

The Battle of Germantown PA occurred on 4 Oct 1777. There were other communities referred to as Germantown, but I could find no battles fought at one of them.

“the Next he was in was at the Vally forge In pennsylvania”

There was no battle at Valley Forge. This may be a reference to the encampment at Valley Forge, which, of course, occurred in the winter of 1777 - 78 rather than after most of the events mentioned above.

“the Next at Indian town we gained”

This may refer to Indiantown in present Williamsburg County SC. British raided McGill’s Plantation near there about 7 Sep 1780.

“The Next at Little york and there we took Cornwallis and his army”

Yorktown VA, where Cornwallis was captured on 19 Oct 1781.

Contrary to the statement of Jacob Francis, there was no “regiment belonging to the South Carolina line” at the time of the siege of Yorktown, but only state troops and militia, none of which were present at the siege.

No explanation was given for rejecting Coleman’s claim, but the pension acts of 1818 and 1820 covered only service in the Continental Line.