

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Declaration of Isham (Isam) Coley, R2167

f11VA

Transcribed and annotated by Roy Randolph,

March 5, 2012 rev'd 3/13/20

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading. A bracketed question mark [?] indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Not all the material in the Pension File is included in the transcription.]

State of Virginia

Mecklenburg County

On the [16th] day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court before us Rob^t [Robert] R. Rogers, Jo^s [Joseph] B. Clausel[?], Jn^o [John] Hutcherson, and Alexander S. Jones of Mecklenburg now sitting, Isam Coley, a resident of Mecklenburg County and state of Virginia aged sixty nine 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the month of June in the year [sic, no year listed] he resided in Mecklenburg county and state of Virginia. He was there drafted [and] detailed to march in the lower part of Virginia. He rendezvoused at Dinwiddie Courthouse and then was discharged. This tour was performed under Captain William Green. Thence under the command he was of Captain Robert Smith, Major Hubbard, Colonel Mumford [sic, Robert Munford¹] he marched to Skipwith Ferry thence to Taylor's Ferry and crossed from thence to Hillsboro [sic, Hillsborough] in NC [North Carolina]. Thence to Guilford Courthouse thence to the battle ground and was there in the battle [Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781]. Thence he was sent [as] guard to the forage wagons from thence he was discharged and came home. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever in a pension or an annuity but the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. He has no documentary evidence of his having entered the service or of his having been discharged from the service. He knows that he was drafted and served two three-months tours. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Isham Coley



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Mecklenburg County Sct.

This day came Bartlette Cox¹ before John Hutchison a Justice of the Peace for said County and made oath that he became acquainted with Isam Coley of Mecklenburg County Virginia while they were in the United States service on their march from Taylors ferry to Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina and had every reason to believe that said coolly was in the battle at said Courthouse at which time I was wounded and saw no more of said coolly and furthermore he believes Isham Coley to be an honorable man deserving of Credit.

Given under my hand this 16th day of March 1833

S/ John Hutchison, JP

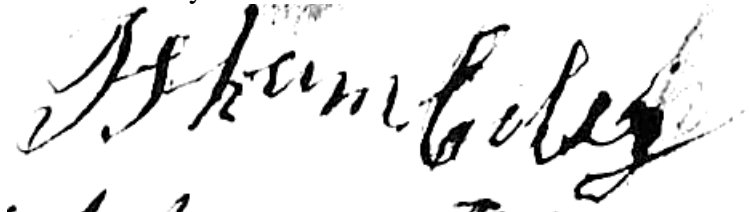
¹ [Bartlet Cox \(Coxe\) S24964](#)

Amended declaration

Virginia: Mecklenburg County, to wit:

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the county and state aforesaid, Isham Coley, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to be precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: For either 3 or 6 months in the year 1780, he served as a private under Captain Green and Colonel Street [sic, possibly Overstreet]: For three months he served as a private under Captain Smith in the year 1781: He states that he merely claims a pension for 6 months service in the whole. That he was born in Amelia County Virginia, he thinks, in March 1762 and that the family register has been lost or mislaid. That upon due inquiry he finds that all who served with him are either dead or moved to parts unknown. That he believes he is now about 80 years of age. That he received no written discharges. There is no minister resident in [his] neighborhood. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15 day of November 1842.²

S/ Isham Coley

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Isham Coley". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted.

S/ John Hutcheson. J.P.

¹ At least five other militiamen from Mecklenburg County, Isaac Roberts (S19453), Francis Farrar (S31672), John Hamner (W10081), William Kendrick (S31182) and Thomas Berry (S14941), claim in their pension declarations they served at Guilford Courthouse under Colonel Robert Munford and Captain Robert Smith. This coincidence leads me to believe the Colonel "Mumford" to whom Mr. Coley refers in describing his tour to Guilford Courthouse is Colonel Robert Munford.

² This date, November 15, 1842, may seem puzzling for an amendment to a pension declaration made almost ten years earlier, i.e., March 1833. Often amendments were made within a few months of the original application, usually in response to "objections" by the War Department "which require further explanation" before the pension was granted. However, Mr. Coley's application for a pension was rejected and it seems he tried to address alleged deficiencies in his application for several years.