

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Colfax <sup>1</sup> R2174      Esther Colfax      A Conn.  
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves      7/10/23

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[image 74]

State of New Jersey

Bergen County } SS      Bergen Common Pleas

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 1821, personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record, so created by the laws of the State of New Jersey aforesaid whose proceedings are according to the course of the common law with jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount William Colfax aged sixty five years resident in the County aforesaid who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath declare, in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820. That he the said William Colfax enlisted in an independent company for the Term of six months, in the month of May (as near as he can recollect at this time) in the year 1775 – in the State of Connecticut in the Company commanded by Capt. William Coit, not attached to any particular Regiment – That on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1776 he again enlisted in the Company commanded by Captain Eldridge in the Line of the State of Connecticut on the Continental Establishment as Sergeant Major; that he served as such until the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1777 when he received the Commission of Ensign in which Office he continued to hold the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1779. – Was then promoted to a Lieutenancy, and in April 1783 was promoted to the rank of Captain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut regiment commanded by Col. Swift, from which he was detached for some years, and served as Capt. Commandant of the Commander in Chief's life Guard – where he continued to serve to the end of the War, comprising in the whole a service of more than seven years – when he was discharged in New Burg in the State of New York. That he was in the battles of Bunker Hill, Long Island, White Plains, Germantown, Monmouth, Springfield in New Jersey, and at the siege of Yorktown in Virginia – and that he has no other Evidence now in his power of his said services, except his several Commissions here with annexed – And I do Solemnly Swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt378-300 Capt. Issued Dec. 9, 1796 No Papers. The reason there are no surviving papers relating to this bounty land claim is that the offices of the War Department along with the papers filed there were destroyed by fire in 1800 and all pension and bounty land records predating that fire were destroyed. Further, pension and bounty land papers generated between the fire of 1800 and 1814 were lost when the British burned Washington DC on August 14, 1814.

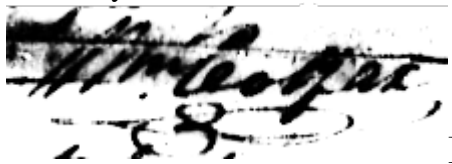
provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. That my occupation is that of a Farmer. That from my advanced age and want of health, I am unable to support myself & family by labour. That my family consist of myself, my wife Esther, aged fifty seven years, bed ridden and unable to labour, and my daughter Mary aged twenty years, who may labour.

Sworn to & declared in open Court  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 1821

S/ Wm Colfax

[The above is certified by the clerk of court as a true copy of the records taken from the Bergen County court records.]

[Image 90: Is a letter dated November 1821 from the veteran to John C Calhoun, then the Secretary of War.



[Image 94]

Revolutionary Claims  
Treasury Department,  
7 July 1828

William Colfax of Pompton in the County of Bergen in the State of New Jersey has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that was an officer in the Continental line, and served as such to the end of the War, at which period he was a Captain in the Second regiment of the Connecticut line; and that he received commutation certificates for the five years full pay granted by the resolve of 22 March, 1783; and, further, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March 1826, four hundred and eighty dollars, paid to him by the agent in the <sup>what</sup> State of he does not mention (perhaps New Jersey)

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary  
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department,  
Third Auditor's Office,  
July 9 1828

It appears by the records of this office, that final settlement certificates had been issued for the commutation of five years full pay to William Colfax Captain in the Connecticut line, amounting to Two thousand four hundred dollars.

It further appears that William Colfax is now on the pension list of New Jersey agency,

and has been so since the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1826 at the rate of Twenty Dollars per month.  
S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

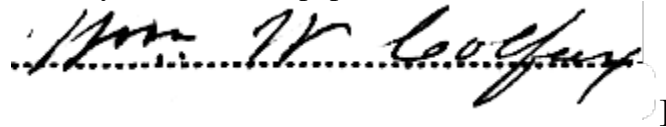
Him

[Image 77: On September 25, 1838, in Passaic County New Jersey, Esther Colfax, a resident of Pompton in said County aged 75 made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Colfax a Captain of Infantry in the Connecticut line; that she married him August 27, 1783; and that her husband died September 7, 1838.



Esther Colfax ]

[Image 83: On March 29, 1853, William W Colfax executed a power of attorney authorizing his attorney to look at the papers of his late father William Colfax.



William W Colfax ]

[Images 123-127 are images of the veteran's commissions as Captain, Ensign and Lieutenant.]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$20 per month commencing January 23, 1821, for service as a Captain in the Connecticut Continental line.]