

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Collins R2176

f17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/16/09 rev'd 11/16/14

[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' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia, to wit

On this 21st day of May 1835, Personally appeared before me Richard Thornton a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Halifax in the State aforesaid John Collins a resident of said County: aged Eighty-Seven 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 as a private Soldier in the War of the Revolution, being drafted, and marched from the County of Halifax where he then and now Resides in a Company of militia which was commanded by Capt. Kelly and Lieut. McDaniel in the month of May 1777 to Richmond, from thence to Hampton, from thence to Norfolk and from thence to the light House on the Bay Shore, where we remained until our term of service being Six months expired. I was discharged by Capt. Kelly at that place in the month of November 1777.

In the month of February 1781 I was again drafted into the Service of the United States, and marched from the said County of Halifax in a Company of Militia under Capt. Edmond King into the State of North Carolina, and joined the Regular Army under General Green [Nathanael Greene], at a place called the Red House, then I was transferred to Capt. Morton's Company of Rifle men, and continued with him still under General Greene marching in various directions until we met with the British under Lord Cornwallis in the County of Guilford North Carolina in March 1781 we had a Severe Battle [March 15, 1781] in which the American Army was defeated a retreat was ordered, we again rallied our Army and followed the British eight days, I was discharged by Col. Lee [probably a reference to Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee]. On the 10th day of April 1781 my discharges are both lost and cannot be found but the service rendered can be proved by William Abbott¹ & James Bates² -- who were Soldiers with me in the said Service, the time of Service rendered on this tour was about 2 months and 2 days. The total service rendered by me as a private in the War of the Revolution was not less than 8 months for which I claim a Pension.

I was born in the County of Amelia on the 10th day of September 1748.

My Age was recorded in a family Bible that is now in my possession or with some one of my children

I lived in the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia when I was called into Service, have lived in that County ever since the War ended and still lives in that County.

¹ [William Abbott W5616](#)

² [James Bates W5787](#)

I was drafted.

By reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory I cannot recollect the names of the field Officers or the number of the regiments that I was with except General Greene Col. Lee.

I received 2 discharges. One was given to me by Capt. Kelly and the other by Capt. Morton and Col. Lee.

Col. Benjamin Stone, Col. Thomas Davenport – Samuel Pannell Esquire and many others can testify as to my Character for Veracity: and their belief of my Services as a Soldier in the War of the Revolution.

There is no clergyman living in my neighborhood

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ John Collins, Senior, X his mark

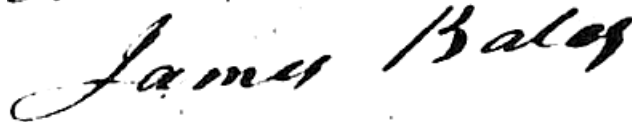
Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid

S/ Richard Thornton, JP

[Peter Barksdale and James Bates gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I James Bates of the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was then Ensign in the War of the Revolution and served as such under Capt. William Morton at the Battle of Guilford North Carolina in the month of March 1781 and know from my own Personal knowledge, that John Collins was a Soldier in Capt. Morton's Company with me at the least 8 weeks or 2 months as stated in his declaration. Sworn and Subscribed to in my presence this day, and that he was honorably discharged from the said Service. Given under my hand this 21st day of May 1835.

S/ James Bates



[attested by William Holt, Clerk of Court]

I William Abbott of the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was a Soldier in the War of the Revolution and served a tour of duty in the Eastern part of Virginia in the year 1777 and well remember that John Collins of this County who is an applicant for a Pension was also a Soldier and Service at Norfolk, Hampton and other places in the same year that I saw him while in Service with Capt. Kelly, when he entered the Service or when he left it I cannot say but have no doubt he served as he states, and was honorably discharged.

Given under my hand & seal this 27th day of June 1836.

S/ William Abbott

