

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Collins R2179

f44GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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 Georgia, County of Upson

On this the twenty seventh day of August in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before Christopher B. Strong, Judge of the Superior Court of the Sent Circuit and County of Upson, now sitting, Joseph Collins, a resident of the County of Upson, State of Georgia aged ninety-four 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, to wit, that he was born in the County of Rowan State of North Carolina on the 15th day of May in the year of our Lord 1739, that he has no record of his age. That he entered the service as a Captain in the militia of the State of Georgia in the Spring of the year 1777, the month and day thereof he is unable to state from old age and consequent loss of memory, that he served as Captain in Colonel John Dooly's Regiment for the term of three years at which time he left the service. That the Battalion to which he belonged, was commanded by Major Thomas Dooly until he was killed at the dry fork of Long Creek, Wilkes County Georgia and that Major Burwell Smith commanded the Battalion on the death of Dooly until he died, the Command then was assumed by Major John Cunningham who commanded the balance of the term of Service of this deponent. Colonel John Dooly commanded the Regiment to which this applicant along until his death, he being killed in his own House in the County of Wilkes State of Georgia by the Tories. After his death Colonel Elijah Clark [Elijah Clarke] assumed the command, and commanded during the balance of the term of this deponent's service. He resided in the County of Wilkes State of Georgia at the time he entered the service, and volunteered, and was commissioned a Captain by the Governor of Georgia, to wit, Governor John Houston which commission has long since been destroyed, or lost. He was in the Engagement of the two Sieges of Augusta Georgia¹, and at the Siege of Savannah [September 16-October 19, 1779] at the time that Count Pulaski fell, his marches, was confined solely and exclusively to the State of Georgia. He formed no acquaintance with the officers of the Continental line. He saw the Count d'Estaing at the Siege of Savannah. He saw many others there but it has been so long since that he has no recollection distinctly of them. He saw Colonel Lee at the Siege of Augusta. That he has no documentary evidence whereby that he can establish his claim. That he was wounded by a musket ball through the left arm at the Siege of Augusta. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. That he is known to Samuel Wright, William Worthy, William Robinson, Esq., John Edmondson, William Trotter, Davis Daws and Ichabod Davis, the Reverend John Ross and many others to which he confidently refer who will testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Christopher B. Strong

S/ Joseph Collins, X his mark

¹ the last Siege of Augusta took place between May 22-June 6, 1781; Col. Elijah Clark mounted an earlier, unsuccessful attack on Augusta in mid-September 1780

Judge Superior C. Flt. Dist.

[John Ross, a clergyman, and Samuel Wright gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 12]

State of Georgia, County of Upson

On this the twenty-sixth day of May in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open court before their Honors John Turner, Thomas Beall & Joshua B. Bateman Justices of the Inferior [Court] of the County of Upson, which Court is now sitting Joseph Collins a resident of the County of Upson and State of Georgia who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following additional declaration to his declaration made on the 27th day of August in the year 1833 before the Honorable Christopher B. Strong Judge of the Superior Court of the County of Upson and State of Georgia Flint Circuit in said State which said Court was then sitting in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed on June 7th, 1832 – and that he makes the same by way of explanation to the objections to the admission of his pension claim, made by the pension office War department, which requires that the several Tours of duty shall be specified.

In explanation thereof, this deponent states that he served as Captain commanding a company of Militia of the State of Georgia in a tour of duty of six months, under the command of Colonel John Dooly and in the Battalion commanded by Major Thomas Dooly, that he entered the service in this Spring of the year 1777, the month or the date this deponent cannot now say from old age & consequent loss of memory: That he was stationed at Dooly's Fort part of the time whilst engaged in said tour & from thence made several excursions in the Cherokee Nation against that tribe of Indians and their allies the Tories – at the expiration of this Tour of duty, this deponent again and his Company volunteered and served a tour of duty of four months under the Command of Major Thomas Dooly there being only a Battalion Engaged in this service. The time he entered in this tour was in the Fall season of the year 1777, the month or day from the reasons aforesaid this deponent cannot now state, his marches were confined exclusively to the State of Georgia on the frontiers of said State and was stationed a part of said Tour at Phillips' Fort, a part at Knox's Fort & part of the time at Dooly's Fort, until the time expired and he had volunteered to serve. This deponent again raised a company of volunteers in the month of June as well as he now recollects in the year 1778 which he commanded as Captain, and served as such a tour of duty of six months during this tour he belonged to Colonel John Dooly's Regiment and Major Thomas Dooly's Battalion, who commanded the same until sometime in the latter part of the summer, when he was killed at the dry fork on Long Creek in a skirmish with the Cherokee Indians, afterwards during said tour, the Battalion was commanded by Major Burwell Smith, his duties during the performance of this tour of service was in guarding the frontiers of the State from the incursions of the Indians and Tories, during of which he was engaged in no general Battle but in the occasional skirmishes with the Indians and Tories.

This deponent served a tour of duty of three months as a Captain commanding a company of Volunteer Militia of the State aforesaid which company was attached to a Battalion commanded by Major John Cunningham, he engaged and entered the service in this tour of duty some time about the last of December 1778, as well as this deponent now recollects. That he was engaged during this tour in guarding the frontiers of the State and was part of the time at Dooley's Fort, that during the performance of this tour that the Battalion made several excursions against the Cherokee Indians and the Tories. This deponent again entered the service as a Captain commanding a company of Volunteer Militia in the latter part of the month of May 1779, under the command of Major John Cunningham and in Colonel John Dooly's Regiment and served a tour of duty of six months, during this tour of duty this deponent was at the Siege of Savannah and after the Siege was raised returned to Dooly's Fort, during the latter part of this Tour Col. John Dooly was killed by the Tories, he having gone on a visit to his family on Savannah River.

This deponent served another Tour of duty of six months as Captain commanding a company of

Volunteer Militia under the Command of Colonel Elijah Clarke and Major John Cunningham, which tour commenced in the month of November (as well as this declarant now recollects) 1779 during the performance of this tour of duty this deponent was engaged in the defense of the frontiers and in garrisoning the forts before mentioned.

This deponent again served another tour of duty of six months under the Command of Colonel Elijah Clarke and Major John Cunningham. This deponent Commenced this tour of duty in the month of October 1780, as well as he now recollects, during the performance of this tour of duty this deponent was at the Siege of Augusta, and engaged in Scouting parties Searching for the Tories & British &c.

Sworn to & Subscribed in open court the 26 day of May 1834.

S/ Thomas Beall, JIC

S/ Joseph Collins, X his mark

S/ John Turner, JIC

S/ J. B. Bateman, JIC

[pp 33-35: File contains what appears to be a handwritten copy of the Georgia statute governing Militia service at the time of the Revolution. It required service by all "free males" between the ages of 15 and 60.]

[p 43]

State of Georgia, County of Upson

Before me Thomas G. Beach a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of person came William Duke Sr. who being duly sworn on oath deposeseth and saith that he was acquainted with Captain Joseph Collins, that he knew him as a soldier of the revolution, that as well as this deponent now recollects he served in Colonel John Dooly's Regiment as Captain and that he served as Captain in the militia of Georgia for a considerable length of time, the time this deponent cannot say but from the best of deponent's recollection believes it was three years.

Sworn to & Subscribed before me this 27th day of August 1833.

S/ William Duke

S/ Thomas G. Beach, JP

[p 44]

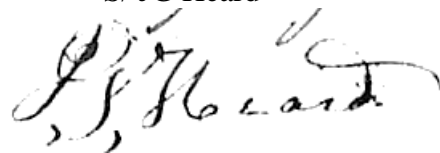
Georgia, Morgan County

Before me James W. Walker a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally came John G. Heard² who being duly sworn deposeseth and saith on oath that he is well acquainted with Joseph Collins of Upson County State of Georgia and, knew him well during the revolutionary War, that he at that time resided in the County of Wilkes State of Georgia when not engaged in the War, where this deponent then resided, and that the said Joseph Collins served between three and four years (at least exceeding of three) as a Captain commanding a militia company during that period in behalf of the United States, and this deponent was near to the said Joseph Collins when he received a wound in his right arm at a Siege of Augusta and Georgia.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me the 11th day of November 1833.

S/ James W. Walker, JP

S/ JG Heard



[p 42]

State of Georgia

This is to certify that Joseph Collins hath steadfastly done his duty from the time of passing an act at Augusta, to wit, on the 20th of August 1781, until the total expulsion of the British from this State; and that the said Joseph Collins cannot to my knowledge or belief be convicted of plundering or distressing the Country; and is therefore under said act entitled to a bounty of two hundred and fifty acres of good land free from taxes for ten years.

Given under my hand at Savannah this 2nd day of February 1784

S/ Elijah Clarke, Col.

By his order

S/ H. Freeman

Executive department, Milledgeville, July 16th 1853

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Original on file in this Department.

Given under my hand and the seal of the executive Department of Georgia

S/ W. W. Paine

Sec. Ex. Dpt.

[p 5: On July 19, 1853, Joseph Collins, 50, son of Joseph Collins filed in Spaulding County, Ga., for such pension as may be due his deceased father. He states: his father died August 25, 1838 in Upson County, Ga.; that he left no surviving widow but was survived by the following children: Joseph Collins, Enoch Collins, Thomas Collins and Nancy who intermarried with Benjamin Cochran.

Joseph Collins]