

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Collins S1653

f13NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/27/10: rev'd 4/29/21

[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 8th 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.]

State of Tennessee Madison County} SS

On this eighth day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court, before John M Johnson, James H Rogers and Jacob Perkins Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Madison in the State of Tennessee James Collins aged about ninety one 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 was born near the town of Edington [sic, Edenton?] in the State of North Carolina on the 17th of May 1741, from the history he has learned from his father who moved about two years after his birth to Johnson County [sic, Johnston County] and lived there about three years and then moved to what was then called Cumberland County (now Moore) on Deep River, where he lived during the Revolution. His age was registered in a book kept by his grandfather, which he often saw while he was growing up, but does not know where it can be found, or whether it was destroyed. In December 1778 he volunteered in the American service, in a troop of Horse under Captain William Jones (generally called Wicked Will Jones) and was attached to the horse Regiment commanded by Colonel Philip Alston of North Carolina, and about Christmas marched under General Ashe [John Ashe], who was the commander in chief of the North Carolina militia, to Charleston, South Carolina, where we arrived sometime in January 1779 and drew our arms. While here we had heard of the British forces about to land below Savannah in Georgia, and we were ordered by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] to Georgia, while we were on the march in February we heard that the British had landed and taken Savannah, and had gone up the country as far as Augusta, we were ordered to take a position opposite Augusta, to prevent the British from passing into South Carolina, about the time of our arrival the British left Augusta, and retreated, we crossed the Savannah River and took a position on Briar Creek – about the last of February or first of March, we were divided into two parties under General Briant [William Bryant] and Colonel Elbert [Samuel Elbert] who I believe was a Continental officer, but had very few Continental troops not exceeding a hundred – while here we were surprised by the British,¹ Colonel Prevost [Lt. Col. Mark Prevost], who had crossed over from East Florida, and by dividing his troops into two parties one in front and the other by a circuitous march crossed Briar Creek considerably above our Army and came in on our rear, while we were washing our clothes and amusing ourselves, some fishing and some at one thing and some at another, we were completely surprised, and routed, Some swam the River and others

¹ Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

made their escape, among the number who made their escape was General Ashe, Colonel Elbert did make some fight, but was overpowered directly and I was taken prisoner with many others amongst whom was my Colonel Alston. The prisoners were carried to Savannah, and here offered three alternatives, to enlist in the British Service, or go aboard the Prison Ship and be put in Irons, or be sent to Florida. I was sick when we came to Savannah, and met with an old friend by the name of William Armstrong an old friend of my father's, who lived in Savannah who interceded for me and I was left with him to be responsible for me, when I got well afterwards I was sent over towards Florida and was kept on Turtle River, and remained there a prisoner until August 1781, when he was told he was at liberty to go, he understood he had been exchanged, after leaving there he came to New Port, and the Tories and Indians were so bad killing and robbing, that he was afraid to go further and remained at New Port about two months, when he left there and arrived at home in January 1781 [sic]. He never performed any other campaign after this. In the said Campaign he had volunteered for six months service and by being taken prisoner as before mentioned he was from home about three years. He never received any regular discharge, and was never called on to perform any military service after he came home. I refer to Philip Alston the son of the said Colonel Alston & Asa Stone who will state as to my veracity and their belief of my Services. After the Revolution I lived in Moore County North Carolina until the year 1822 or thereabouts when I removed to this State and lived about a year in Maury County, from thence I came and lived two years in Carroll County and from thence removed to this County where I now live. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court on this eighth day of August 1832.

S/ R. M. Iver, Clerk

S/ James Collins signed
by J. H. Talbot in the
presence of the court &
at the request of said
Collins

[Philip Alston gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[Asa Stone gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for six months service as a private in the North Carolina cavalry in the militia.]