

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Benjamin Colvin S16727

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Missouri }

County of Boone } Sct.

On this day of Jun 1832 personally appeared before Daniel Todd judge of the circuit court for the county of Boone now sitting, Benjamin Colvin a resident of said county and state, aged seventy 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 provision 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 Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] county Virginia where he resided in the month of April 1778 [sic: 1781] and on 20th day of that month he stood a draft and drew a service ticket, he was commanded by Capt. Elijah Kirtley from Culpepper county, he was commanded by Col John Willis from Hanover Va. when we turned out first, it was said we were to go on and join Washington who was then in the north, but in a few days news came to us that we must go down on the Potomac to guard the British from coming up, we left Culpepper and went on down the country & joined Genl [Daniel] Morgan at the Bird Orinary [sic: Bird's Ordinary] in Amelia county Va. we went from there on to Richmond Va. we were armed there or rather just above there at what was called the Bacon branch, a short time, when we were there Genl Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] joined us, Genls. Morgan & Muhlenburg both left there with the troops we went down the country to a little town not now recollected, from there we crossed over towards Roanoak [sic: Roanoke River], where Genl Morgan understood that Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] was doing mischief, when we arrived in that quarter Tarlton had left there, we returned back & crossed James River about 20 miles above Richmond, about 12 or 15 miles after we crossed the river we met Genl [Anthony] Wayne, in two or three days after that we met with the British at old James Town [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], where we had a battle Genls Wayne, Morgan & Muhlenburg were all there as he now believes, the battle commenced about one oclock and ended about two hours by sun, it was fought in the latter part of the summer but the precise day he does not recollect. he here states that before Genl Wayne met us as stated we had a battle or skirmish with the British at a place called hot water [Battle of Spencer's Ordinary (Hot Water Plantation) 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 Jun]. this engagement was with a party of the British who were out robbing the country of cattle, the British had a great many cattle fenced up in Genl [Robert] Lawson's field, we succeeded in getting them all from the British - this was in July as he now believes — after the battle of James town in a few days we returned to Richmond and remained there scouting round through the country from one place to another, occasionally exchanging shots & having light skirmishes with the British, he here states that when drafted for service, it was for six months and that he turned out for that time, his term of service expired when stationed at the Bacon branch above Richmond on the 20th of October, he here will state that it is the American army that was stationed at the Bacon branch but that when his term expired he was out on a scouting expedition with Genl Morgan [sic: see note below], on the Pamonka [sic: Pamunkey] river — he further states that a day or two before his six months expired, Capt. Samuel Ferguson with a company from Culpepper joined us, being a near neighbour of my fathers and his company all raised from the young men immediately in his neighbourhood when his time as before stated expired he joined Capt Fergusons company for three months longer, and never went home from his first entering the service in April until this last tour expired, after joining Capt Ferguson I remained under Morgan, and we returned back to our head quarters at the Bacon branch. he was under Col John Willis both tours, nothing particular took place during his last tour, they remain at Richmond and round about through the country on different excursions until his tour expired and was discharge the last of January having been in service three months & 10 days. and both tours 9 months & 10 days. as a private soldier. when he was discharged from Capt Kirtley's company he got no written discharge but left one company & joined the other, on being discharged from the last tour he got a written

discharge from his officers but has long since lost or destroyed it. states that he has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove the same, nor does he believe that such witness can be had. he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, & that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

[signed] Benjamin Colvin

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Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in & for said county Benjm. Colvin, who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades, for nine months & 10 days I served as a private soldier & for such services I claim a pension,

[signed] Benjamin Colvin

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 26th day of June 1833

NOTE: After retiring from active service for several months to recover his health, Gen. Daniel Morgan returned to service in Virginia on the same day as the Battle of Green Springs Plantation. He finally retired for good in Aug 1781.