

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Collins S17895

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } Ss

County of Monongalia } On this 23^d day of December in the year 1833 personally appeared in open court before the County court of Monongalia, now sitting James Collins, a resident of said county, aged seventy two 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 7th June 1832.

That as well as he can now recollect, it was in the year 1777, and in the summer of that year, he was drafted for two months service out of a company of Pennsylvania militia, to march to Brownsville [then Redstone Fort] on the Monongahela river, from Uniontown – that there was about fifteen men drafted, and placed under a Lieutenant Fawcett who marched us to Brownsville, where other militia men were assembled guarding the magazine, all commanded by a man named Brown – that at the end of a month, Fawcett returned home, to the neighbourhood of Uniontown, and all our men were ordered, and descended the river in boats to Pittsburgh, where we were placed under Capt. Jacob Springer; the whole troops being commanded by Col. Gibson [John Gibson, pension application S41578] – that after serving out the other month we were discharged and returned home, by a general discharge.

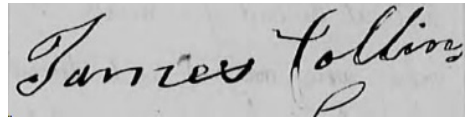
That some time in the summer of the year 1778, his father was drafted to go an expedition under Gen'l. [Lachlan] McIntosh against the Indians – that he marched as a substitute in the place of his father, sometime in August, from Uniontown, under Capt. Isaac Pearce of Col. Stinson's regiment of Pennsylvania militia to fort Pitt, and after remaining there some time descended the Ohio to near the mouth of Big Beaver, where his company assisted to build fort McIntosh [began September 1778 at present Beaver PA], from there we marched to Tuscararaw, where we erected a fort called Lawrence [sic: Fort Laurens on Tuscarawas River near present Bolivar OH, begun 10 Nov 1778]. from there we returned to McIntosh where we were discharged, by a general discharge, after having served four months, and reached home two or three days before Christmas of 1778 – that he recollects Col. Gibson & Lieut. John Dent [W4663] of the regular officers and many others whose names he has forgotton, he also recollects Col. John Evans [S8444], and many others whose names he has forgotton – that Dent and Evans are yet alive but he supposes they would not recollect him as he was a boy.

That about the first of March in the year 1782 he turned out at Uniontown Pennsylvania, and volunteer (to go another expedition under Col. [David] Williamson against the Indians) under Capt. John Beeson, that we marched to the Mingo bottom [now Mingo Junction OH] the place of rendezvous, where after about two weeks, the troops assembled and it was agreed that Col. [William] Crawford should take the command – we marched thence to the Sandusky plains, where we had scarcely encamped and obtained something to eat, when the indians appeared and the battle commenced [4 Jun 1782], we maintained our ground and on the next day, a party of Shawnees appeared on horseback (as they were called) when we commenced a retreat. that on this retreat he was wounded the ball passing through the hip and out near the back bone. Col. Crawford, was taken prisoner and after burnt as he understood – that we made our way back as well as we could to Montures bottom [sic: Montours Bottom near present Coraopolis PA] subsisting upon anything that we could find, where he remained about a week untill horses were impressed to carry him and the other wounded home, where he arrived about the last of June after being absent more than three months – that he has no written discharge, or any person to prove all the above service. That he was born he beleives, in the year 1761 in Lancaster county Pennsylvania, to which he was removed whilst an infant to Loudon county [sic: Loudoun County] Virginia, and at the age of about fourteen years – that upwards of thirty years ago, he removed from Fayette county Pennsylvania to this county where he has ever since resided – that he beleives his brother John Collins, has the record of his age, who lives near Portsmouth, Ohio, as he understands. That he has been known for many years to persons residing in this county towit Rev'd Joseph Shackelford, Samuel Hanway, John Evans jun'r.,

Noah Ridgway, and many others, who he beleives can testify as to his character for veracity, and their beleif of his services in the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes evry 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "James Collins" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTES:

On 4 April 1834 James Collins was issued a certificate for a pension of \$30 per year nine months service. On 16 April 1835 this certificate was replaced by one for \$21.66 per year for 6½ months of service. The reduction probably resulted from the decision of James L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner, that service against Indians on the frontier was not really military. For further discussion see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.

The file includes the cover of a report in the handwriting of US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia, but the report itself was not found among the Fold3.com images. On this cover Singleton wrote, "Entitled." For details of Singleton's investigations see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.