

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Cole S2458

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

To the honourable Lewis Cass Secretary of War [16 Oct 1832]

Sir I am an applicant for a pension under the Law of Congress past 7th of June last I was born on the 17th day of December 1752 raised in King George County Virginia remained there until 1773 then went to Federick [sic: Frederick] County, then remained until June 1775 I then Enlisted in Capt Daniel Morgans Company of Volunteer independent Rifle men rendezvoused at Winchester marched from there about the 16th July for Boston and arrived at head quarters which was Cambridge I think was the 8th day of August we were there a few weeks, from thence sent to Roxberry [sic: Roxbury] the four volunteer Companies (to wit) Capt Daniel Morgan & Hugh Stephenson of Virginia, Thomas Price & Micael Cressop [sic: Michael Cresap] of Maryland remained there until some time in October Capt Morgan then with his Company those that were fit for duty march'd with Colo. Arnold to Quebeck [Benedict Arnold to Quebec] myself and three others were left in a Hospital at Cambridge, two of which died John Butt & And'w Longaker [possibly Andrew Longacre] I remain'd there about three months and when recovered applied to Gen'l Washington to no what I was to do the winter approaching and much reduced from disease my clothes very thin could draw no money his Excellency spoke to Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates who were present to give me an order to Majr Miflin [sic: Thomas Mifflin] on the Cloth Store I there got a Coat, Shirt, pair of Stockings & pr of Shoes which I never paid for & then by general direction went to Roxberry and then joined Capt Stevensons Company continued with him, nothing of note occurred till the 12th of March 1776 then under a heavy cannonnade & bombardment we marched into Dorchester hights [sic: Dorchester Heights] continued under arms until about noon on the 14th then were marched back by our Barracks gathered our little baggage took the road to New York and remained in the City about two weeks then three Volunteer companies of Rifle Men were sent to Staten Iland [sic: Staten Island] to prevent the inhabitants from trading with the British fleet which was coming in and anchoring below in sight we continued there and nothing transpired worth notice until Easter Sunday [7 Apr] the Savage Sloop of War came up for the purpose of procuring Water on the Iland we were informed of it by some of the inhabitants a part of the three companies gathered and went down upon them took 17 Prisoners a Musket a stand of Colours a twelve oar'd Barge 27 Water casks buckets & funnels the sloop slipped her cable and floated down with the tide, then with the Barge and other small crafts we got the Cable and anchor we continued on the Iland until the first day of July was then discharged with others I went back to the City of New York with the guns that were purchased for the Country the next day while in the City the British came up and landed on the Iland the Army being weak by the discharge of the 12 months men Gen'l. Washington requested us as many as were there to take up arms and serve as Volunteers a few days until the Army should be strengthened we did so in force was discharged with his Excellencis Thanks I have lost my discharge and have never claim any portion heretofore & am a citizen of Barren Ct'y Ky

[signed] John Cole

Commonwealth of Kentucky } to wit
Barren County }

On this 5th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the Judge of the circuit court of the County of Barren now sitting, John Cole a resident of Barren County, State of Kentucky, aged 80 years the 17th day of December 1832, who being first duly sworn according to law, makes the following statement (in addition to his declaration heretofore made in the Barren county Court on the, 16th day of October 1832) in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions of the act of congress of the 7th of June 1832 He states that his former declaration was made & sworn to in open court on the day above named in the

county court of Barren county Kentucky. He states that he enlisted as stated in his original declaration for the term of one year in Captain Daniel Morgans company of Independent Riflemen, the same Morgan who was afterwards General Morgan, & the same who had been whipped for knocking down an officer while in the British Service in what was called Braddocks war the time of his said enlistment was in the month of June 1775 the day of the month he does not now remember, at the time of his enlistment he lived in Frederick County Virginia on the Shenandoe [sic: Shenandoah] River

He states he has no record of his age, but the tradition in his family is that his age is as he has stated, he so learnt it from his parents & has no doubt, but it is correct.

He also states, that he is induced to believe his name will be found on the rolls of said troops in the war department.

He served out fully the twelve months for which he enlisted and was discharged at Staten Island on the first day of July 1776 & at the request of General Washington (as stated in his former declaration served four days after his discharge. Said Cole also stated that he was well acquainted with Hudson Martin, Samuel Bell, William Fielding & Robert D. Maupin who reside in his neighbourhood, or at least who live within fifteen or sixteen miles of him, now, but who have lived much nearer, than that distance, of where the said Cole formerly lived, these gentlemen he is well acquainted with, and they with him, by them he believes he could shew that his statements on oath are entitled to belief and that his character for veracity is unimpeached, and that it is the rumor of the neighbourhood, where he lives that he was a soldier of the Revolution and that they concur in the belief of that report to be true

He has no documentary testimony of his said service nor does he know at this time of any living witness by whom it can be proven except John Smoot [pension application S1252] who lives in Hart County Kentucky if alive, or, did live there a few years since. He relinquishes every claim to any pension or annuity from the government except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state of the Union Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] John Cole

State of Kentucky Barren County Sct.

Be it remembered that on this 17th day of September 1833 John Cole of said county came before me a justice of the peace in and for said county, and being by me first duly sworn according to law, made the following additional statement, in order to procure a pension for the united states under the act of 7th June 1832. That he enlisted and served as he has stated in his original declaration in an independent rifle company commanded by Capt Daniel Morgan, and that he served under him the whole of his term of enlistment which was for one year, with the exceptions as he has stated in his said original declaration at the same time that Morgans company was raised & marched into service, three other companies of the same character & kind of troops were raised and marched into service, commanded by Capt Hugh Stevenson, of Virginia, Capt Thomas Price and Capt Michael Crissop of Maryland, these troops were attached to no particular redgmt and of course commanded by no particular colonel When Morgans company marched to quebec, the company was then under the command of Colonel Arnold, tho he did not serve in this expedition, in consequence of indisposition. This is all he can say in relation to his being under the command of any colonel – for it is all that is consistent with the truth. His service was for a year, only & in a quarter of the country, and at, a time when his service was in detached expeditions.

Sworn and subscribed before me the date above

[signed] John Cole

NOTE: The file includes a note reading “Rejected. See Mr. Singleton’s report Enclosed.” No such report is in this file. The note evidently belongs in the file of the John Cole whose pension application (R2130) was investigated and rejected by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton. For details see my appendix to the pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.