

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Josiah Collins S30336

f47VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/9/08 rev'd11/17/14

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Bath County

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful Justices of the County Court of Bath County now sitting, Josiah Collins, a resident of the County of Bath and State of Kentucky aged Seventy six years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, they were the following declaration in order to attain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein Stated (To wit)

About the last of February or the first of March in the year 1778 on my way to Kentucky from the State of Virginia and County of Halifax, the County and State in which I was raised, and resided until that time, I enlisted in Captain Dillard's Company, the said Captain and company being on their way to Kentucky as well as myself. I marched thither with them and we arrived at Boonesborough Kentucky on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 1778. We found upon our arrival at that place a party of poor desolate and distressed people, without provisions almost, and with very little clothing, and what added most to their distress was, their exposure to constant alarm from the Indians who were very troublesome. We had our meat to procure from the forest always in great danger of losing our lives.

After I had served under Captain Dillard three months (in the length of time for which I enlisted) I again enlisted; but under a different officer who was Captain Harrod [William Harrod]. Stationed at Harrodsburgh [Harrodsburg], and was kept in constant service against the Indians either with the Scouting parties – or with hunting parties to procure meat, and food for the Garrisons. I was thus employed attending to no business but that of a Soldier. On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1778, Captain Harrod called out his company and requested that fifteen of his men should volunteer and march with him at their head to the Salt works on the Mississippi River in the Spanish Settlement on Said River to procure Salt for the use of our own and the other Garrisons, an article we very much needed, as we had not had any from the time we arrived in Kentucky until our return with the Salt, it was considered by all to be an enterprise as dangerous, as laborious and hence it was that the Captain preferred that those who went should volunteer. I volunteered and we marched to the Falls of the Ohio River, descended Said River to its mouth in a boat and ascended the Mississippi to the Salt works on the Spanish Side as it was called, where we were detained for a considerable length of time; but finally succeeded in getting a load of Salt and returned with it to the Garrison at the falls of the Ohio a short time before Christmas, in performing that enterprise we were informed by two Frenchman, that a party of 400 Indians lay in ambush at the mouth of the Tennessee River for the purpose of taking us on our return. We only escaped them by taking the opposite shore and commanding silence of every one.

I remained at the falls until the River was cleared of ice, which was in February 1779, making about one year or nearly so, which time I was in actual Service as a Soldier, in February 1779, Captain Holder [John Holder] came from Boonesboro for the Salt with a small party of men, I returned to

Boonesboro with them, and assisted in taking the Salt in a boat which was designed for that place, and arrived at Boonesboro about the first of March 1779. On my arrival there I immediately went to Harrodsburgh, and remained under the Command of Captain Harrod, under whom I had enlisted, until the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1779. On that day I marched under Lieutenant Patterson [perhaps Robert Patterson], who commanded 25 men to the place where Lexington, Kentucky now stands, and there built a block-house for our safety. We remained there without any molestation until after we had planted our Corn, the Indians not having discovered us. We first built the block-house at the place before named and then planted some Corn, and about the latter part of May 1779 Colonel John Bowman raised a company of two hundred sixty four men for an expedition against the Shawneesee [Shawnee] Indians at old Chilicothe, as they were very troublesome, and had annoyed greatly the different garrisons. This expedition was undertaken by men who volunteered for the express purpose. I volunteered for that expedition under Captain Holder, who was Captain under the command of Col. Bowman. On a Friday morning we left the Ohio River and on the Sunday morning following about the break of day we entered Chilicothe, whereupon a battle ensued, we fought the Indians until nine or 10 o'clock in the morning, and got possession of a part of the town. A Negro woman at length came out and informed us or rather our officers, that runners had been dispatch to Picawa [Pickaway or Piqua] for one Simon Girty a white man, who had gone to the Indians, lived with them and assisted them in their wars to reinforce them with a strong party of Indians. Upon that information, Col. Bowman immediately ordered a retreat, as our situation was very dangerous, the town being on one side and a skirt of woods on the other. We therefore left the town but about one o'clock of the same day the Indians overtook us, and attacked us, we formed and a general engagement [May 1779 ] ensued, which continued about one hour, the firing then for a time ceased, at intervals however the firing was heard, and continued in this way until a short time before sun down, when we made a violent attack on them, forced their ranks and compelled them to retreat, we could not pursue them and formed to retrace our steps homeward, in this action we lost nine men killed and four men were wounded. We got two scalps. Upon my return from that expedition, I continued in the service stationed at the block-house we had built for the defense of the frontiers until about the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1779. I then obtained leave of my officers to visit my father in the State of Virginia. I had then been in the service of my Country in the midst of danger and deprivation for the space of seventeen months. I went to Virginia and about the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1780, I again returned to the block-house where Lexington now stands – and again enlisted under the above named Patterson, who had in my absence been promoted to the rank of Captain – during the ensuing winter Captain Patterson was again promoted to the rank of Colonel, and one William McConnel [William McConnell?] was appointed Captain in his place, during the Spring and Summer of 1780 the Indians committed a great many depredations, and outrages in every part of the Country, about the first of August 1780, General Clarke commenced an expedition against the Indians at Picaua [appears to be the same word as above but with a different spelling] – I was not in that expedition because myself and one for one Thornton Farris had been sent an express from Lexington to Colonel Bowman on the South side of the Kentucky River by Colonel Todd [Levi Todd]. We crossed the River in the morning, went to Colonel Bowman, done our business, and got as far back on our return as the River aforesaid, we were there met by a party of Indians, and pursued by them to McGarie's [? McGarry's?]<sup>1</sup> Station, we were enabled to make our escape, being on horseback, but they lay in ambush around the station though, and killed one man who had gone out of the Fort to a Spring nearby. We were detained there for two days on account of the Indians, and in our absence the officers in the Garrison at Lexington had made a draft, and of course I was not drafted; but was left to guard the Garrison, procure provisions for the women, Children, invalids &c at by hunting the only means by which it could be done. At the close of that expedition we had peace for one or two months, that is to say they committed no depredations

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*McGarie's*

for that length of time at Lexington but I was sent out to guard more exposed points, and in that way was still kept in continual service, and at Bryan's Station in September 1780 where I had been sent to guard that Fort for two weeks I lay on the ground with scarcely any clothing and no food but roasting ears. Sometime in October 1780 Colonel Daniel Boone [spelled Boon throughout] and his brother Edward Boone, went out to hunt, the Indians killed Edward Boone and gave the Colonel chase, but he made his escape, and arrived at the station safe. He reported what had happened, and a party of men (of whom I was one) were immediately ordered out under Colonel Boone to make search for his brother Edward, and to punish or give the Indians battle, we found Edward Boone dead, we buried him, and followed on after the Indians nearly to the Ohio River without being able to overtake them, we then concluded they had too far the start of us so we returned. I was not engaged in any particular expedition during that winter but I was kept still as a soldier to guard the Garrison, hunt for the benefit of it, and did not attend to any other business than that of a Soldier, and had no other employment than that of a Soldier. On the morning of the first of March 1781 a party of Indians made their appearance and attacked McConnel's Fort, which was situated one mile from Lexington, they wounded one man and disappeared. Colonel Todd started Alexander McConnel and myself an express to inform Colonel Boone that the Indians were in the neighborhood we performed our duty and returned to Lexington that night, on that day the Indians killed a man named John Wymer near the Lexington Fort and Henry McDannold [sic, McDonald?] killed the Indians while he was scalping Wymer. Our Country was in a state of continual alarm and danger, and I was kept at all times ready to serve her in any way that she needed my feeble assistance and the calls indeed were frequent either to go on scouting parties, or to the assistance of some weak point on the frontier, and in that way I was engaged during the spring of 1782, when I was called to go to the falls of the Ohio to assist in repairing the Fort there, as a party of Indians and Canadians were expected there from there I again returned to Lexington, and continued in the service there. On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 1782, a party of about 500 Indians commanded by Simon Girty came to Bryan's Station, five or six Indians fired on two white men in the lane, but did no injury, whereupon an express immediately came to Lexington for assistance. We had but very few men at that time in the Fort as a greater part of them had been sent out to bury the men who had been killed at Holder's defeat on Fleming Creek, Colonel Todd and Captain McConnel, however, took the men who were left and went to Bryan's Station. I was one of the number, and was on foot part of the company being on foot and part on horseback Colonel Todd commanded the foot and Captain McConnel the horse. On our approach to the Fort all was silent, the Indians having killed the cattle belonging to the Fort, were hid in the cane roasting and eating beef, we approached the horse in front, the Indians rose up out of the cane attacked the horse, and drove part of them back, a part of them succeeded in getting in the Fort, and the footmen were compelled to retreat, on that retreat two men were killed and two were wounded; this happened on Friday. Immediately Col. Levi Todd sent an express to his brother John Todd, then at Colonel Trigg's on the South Side of the Kentucky River, on Saturday Colonel Todd & Colonel Trigg arrived with a company of men, and the next morning set out with what force they had in pursuit of the Indians, on Monday morning they came up with the Indians at the lower Blue Licks where a battle ensued [August 19, 1782], the melancholy result of which is never to be forgotten. Besides many other brave patriots Colonel John Todd and Colonel Trigg lost their lives thus in misfortune terminated that memorable battle. I continued still as a soldier on duty and on the first day of November 1782 I volunteered in Captain McConnel's Company, who was under General George Rogers Clark, to march with said at Clark's regular troops, and who wanted able stout-bodied men volunteers to go with him in a campaign to destroy the Shawneese towns on the Miami River, in that expedition we took eight prisoners, a few scalps, and destroyed five towns Captain McCracken [sic, William McCracken?] was wounded, we then retraced our steps homeward, and on our way Captain McCracken died and we buried him in the honors of war on the North West bank of the Ohio River and on the last day of November 1782, I returned home thus terminated the term of my service as a Soldier during which time I served in no other capacity but that of a common Soldier, and the length of time I

served was at the least four years, and according to my calculations in which I think I am not mistaken, I served four years and one month exactly. Of the fact of my service I have no documentary evidence. I have either lost or mislaid my discharge so that I cannot find it, and have it not in my power therefore to produce any documentary evidence of my service, but I can prove a part of my service from June 1778 till August 1779 by Daniel Trabue,<sup>2</sup> whose Deposition is herewith forwarded I can prove at least two years service by Moses Nelson<sup>3</sup> who served in the same company with me in Bowman's campaign in 1779 whose deposition is herewith forwarded, he being very sick and infirm and unable to travel – and I can prove my service as a soldier of the United States by John Kersey<sup>4</sup> aged 69 to prove my services from the first of September 1780 till the last of November 1782, who served in the same company with me from the first of September 1781 till the last of November 1782.

Interrogatories were propounded to Josiah Collins & his answers

1<sup>st</sup> When and in what year were you born?

Answer} I was born in Halifax County State of Virginia on the second day of May in the year 1757.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer} I have a record of my age, which I made myself from my knowledge of my age as my parents told me.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer} I was on my way to Kentucky from Halifax County State of Virginia when I was called into service, on Clinch River I enlisted, I have lived in Kentucky ever since the revolutionary war and lived at this time in Bath County State of Kentucky where I have lived for many years.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer} I first enlisted for three months under Captain Dillard, and was a volunteer always when in service.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer} I first enlisted under Captain Dillard, then under Captain Harrod at Harrodsburg, I knew Benjamin Logan, Colonel Richard Calloway, Colonel John Todd, Colonel Levi Todd, Colonels Daniel Boone, McGary, and many others, Captain Holder, Colonel Bowman, General George Rogers Clark &c. the Continental Regiments were not known to me, as they were not near me and the militia or were such as I have described in my statement above some of the most general circumstances or, the battle at Chilicothe in 1779, the attack at Bryan's Stationed a few days before the battle of the Blue Licks, the battle of the Blue Licks, the description of the Shawnee towns on the Miami River &c for further circumstances I refer to my statement.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer} I received one discharge from James Wylie in 1779 who was an officer under Captain Harrod, but I entered the service again soon after that – that discharge I have either lost or mislaid so that I can't find it, and I have no recollection of receiving a discharge after I entered the service the second time, if I did I have lost that one also or mislaid it so that I can't get it

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer} Col. James McIlhenney, William Boyd, Thomas J. Young, John Tice [could be Vice], Andrew Lynam, &c.

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2 [Daniel Trabue S14727](#)

3 [Moses Nelson R7585](#)

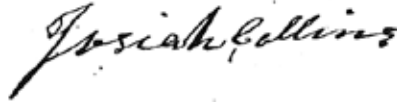
4 [John Kersey S16435](#)

I do not know of any of the persons by whom I can prove my services except the persons I have named.

He the said Josiah Collins 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Josiah Collins



State of Kentucky, County of Bath

I John Kersey resigning in the County of Nicholas and State of Kentucky age Sixty-nine years do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Josiah Collins who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that I have known him the said Josiah Collins ever since-I was remembering anything almost, that is to say I knew him when I was a boy he a man grown, we both lived then in Halifax County State of Virginia I believe him to be 76 years of age, I further certify that in the year 1780, I volunteered as a Soldier in Captain Patterson's Company Stationed at Lexington, Kentucky that the said Josiah Collins was then a Soldier in said Patterson's Company, I remained in the same Company, although Patterson was promoted and McConnel was appointed in his place, yet it was the same company, and I remained in said company together with the said Josiah Collins from the first of September 1780 until the last of November 1782. I know he therefore was in the service of the United States during that time, and that he who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration is the very same Josiah Collins, with whom I then served and knew. I have lived in an adjoining County to the said Collins, and have kept up my acquaintance with him ever since I have lived in the State of Kentucky which is 50 or upwards years, I have lived in an adjoining County he having resided and still resides in the County of Bath and I in the County of Nicholas, I have resided in the State ever since 1780, and he was here when I came, and I served in different expeditions with him, during the time I have spoken, but too many to be here particularly set forth. I further certify that the said Josiah Collins is a man of good character, and is a credible person.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Kersey, X his mark

[Andrew Lynam, a clergyman and William Boyd gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Kentucky, Bath Count

Personally appeared before me William O. Wylie one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace in and for said County of Bath – Daniel Trabue a resident of the town Columbia, Adair County and State of Kentucky aged seventy-three years and made oath that he was acquainted with Josiah Collins as early as June 1778, and that he knew the said Josiah Collins then as a Soldier, doing duty as such, that he marched to the falls of the Ohio River under the command of Colonel George Rogers Clark, that he the said Daniel Trabue knew the said Josiah Collins in the service as a Soldier from June 1778 till August 1779, that he the said Daniel Trabue was Issuing Commissary and recollects to have issued provisions to said Josiah Collins as a Soldier and that he recollects to have seen the said Josiah Collins at different times and places in the service till August 1779, that he knows the said Josiah Collins, that he is now present with him and that he is the same Josiah Collins he knew many years ago in the service, and of whom he has just above spoken, and that he knows that the said Josiah Collins now resides in the County of Bath and State of Kentucky. April 29, 1838.

S/ Daniel Trabue



State of Kentucky, Bath County

Personally appeared before me James Morgan one of the Justices of the Peace for said County, Moses Nelson, resident in the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-five years, and made oath that he became acquainted with Josiah Collins who (as he has been informed is about to apply for a Pension) at the place where Lexington Kentucky now stands, in the year 1779, that the said Josiah Collins was then a Soldier in Captain Holder's Company, and that he knew him to be in the service of the United States a Soldier and went with him in the same Company under Captain Holder and served with him on Bowman's Campaign in the year 1779, and that the said Josiah Collins continued in the Service of the United States as a Soldier for at least the Space of two years to his the said Nelson's own knowledge and that the said Josiah Collins had no other employment during that time, but that of a Soldier or of hunting for the support and benefit of the different garrisons in the Country, which was also a part of the duties of a Soldier, that he has known the said Josiah Collins ever since the year 1779, that he has resided in the same County with the said Josiah Collins for many years past and knows him to be the same man he has spoken of in his testimony above, and that he is now present with him, and is the same Josiah Collins he knew in 1779 and that he now resides in the County of Bath and State of Kentucky.

May the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1833

S Moses Nelson, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]