

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Isaac Collett S30964

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky. Henry Cty} SS

On this 14th day of Nov 1833 personally appeared before me Price Nuttall a Justice of the peace in and for Henry County Isaac Collett aged 73 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 The declarent states that he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated, viz, that in the month of April 1781 he entered the service as a drafted militiaman and was commanded by Capt William Vestal of Berkly [sic: Berkeley] County Virginia for a tour of three months he states that he with with the balance of Capt Vestals company rendezvoused at Martinsburg in said County of Berkly and after remaing there a short time that Coln Richard Willis [probably Robert Carter Willis] Regiment to which he was attached was ordered to march to Fredercksburg [sic: Fredericksburg] on the Rappahannock River in Spotsylvania County for the purpose of arresting Cornwallis progress in the country. he states that about the first of May that Coln Willis' Regiment reached Fredricksburg where they remained for a few days waiting for a supply of ammunition &c on arriving at Fredricksburg he states that the militia from Hampshire County Commanded by Coln Higgins were there stationed waiting for arms and amunition after some consultation between the officers it was ordered by the commanding officers that such soldiers as had arms should form a company and march in haste to Richmond he further states that out of the militia from the counties of Hampshire and Berkly a company was formed and he having taken his rifle from home with him was put in that company The company thus formed was officered by Michael Stump Capt, Thomas Hart, Lieutenat, and Mr Toff Ensign, he states that they were then ordered to mach to Richmond, which they did and joined the main army Commanded by General Lafaette [sic: Lafayette] after remaining with General Lafaette army about two day Capt Stump's Company was ordered to march to a place called the Ground Squirrel Bridge [on South Anna River 20 mi above Richmond] to unite with Capt John Hugh's [sic: John Hughes's] Company of Cavalry at this time the British army commanded by Cornwallis compelled us to retreat, he states that they were ordered up into the country, into the County of Albemarl [sic: Albemarle] as well as he now remembers where they were stationed for a short time thence to a place called the Racoon ford on the South branch of the rappahannock [sic: Raccon Ford on Rapidan River] the British failing to come as was expected this high in the county Capt Stump's Company and Capt Hugh's Company of Cavalry were then ordered to march to Richmond and as they marched to Richmond they fell in with General [Anthony] Wayne's army that had united with General Lafaette about two days march above Richmond [at Brock's Bridge near Monrovia, 10 June]. the whole army under the command of General Lafaette was then ordered and marched to New Kent within a few miles of the British army the time of this declarents drafte being out he state that was discharged in writing by his said Capt Michael Stump in the absence of his Coln (Richard Willis) this declarent states that upon receiving his discharge that Capt Stump proposed to his men to volunteer for an other tour of three month as General Lafaettes army had been reinforced by General Wayne there was then a prospect of being able to withstand Cornwallis army and to prevent his making inroads into the county he states that he and nearly all of Capt Stumps company volunteerd for an other tour of three months and that after remaining some time in New Kent that Cornwallis directed his course towards Little york to which place the army under the command of Lafaette marched and was there statione till his second tour expired when they under the command of Capt Stump were discharged he states that he has no documentary evidence of his service and that he knows of no living witness by whom he can prov said service he also states that from old age and being severely strickin with the palsy that he is unable to appear in open court to make

his declaration he 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 State

[signed] Isaac Collett

Inneragatories put by by the magistrate

Qus Where and in what year were you born

Ans I was born in Baltimore Couny State of Maryland 1760

Qus Have you any record of your age

Ans. I have as taken from my Father family record

Qus Where were you living when called into the service

Ans Berkly County State of Virginia

Qus. Where have you lived since the revolution and where do you now live

Ans I lived in Berkly County Va till the year of 1784 when I moved to Ky and I now live in Drennon ridge in Henry Couty Kentucky

Qus How were you called into the service

Ans I was drafted and marched to Fredericksbug under Capt William Vestal and and there transfered to Michal Stunp and a second tour I volunteerde under Capt Ml Stump

Qus Did you receive a discharge and by whom was it given (and) what has become of it? Ans I received two two written discharges given by my Captn michael Stunp which discharges I have lost many years since these discharges were given in the absence of my Coln (Richard Willis)

Qus State the names of som of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served and such continental and militian regements as you can recollect? Ans) Major Mcpherson and Capt Ogden were all the regular officers until we joined General Lafaette near Richmond General Wayne afterwas joined us Coln Higgins regiment of Militia was with us a part of the time and whether his regement was discharged or sent to an other place I am not able to say at this time

Ques State the names fo some of your neighbours who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Ans I will name Capt John Field and Mr Anthony Lindsay.

[The handwriting is extremely shaky except where indicated.]

The Honorable J L Edwards { Milton Gallatin County Ky

Commissioner of pensions { 4th of January 1836

Whereas I have become a revolutionary pensioner under your administration of that business, I am induced to make a statement of my situation in life which is singular. As to any satisfaction to be made me for my service, had it been double, or thribble I should not have thought about, but consider the great benefit derived from such a government to my self and posterity amply sufficient for such short lived services, as I was fortunate enough to go through without any uncommon disaster. I did it freely and feel gratified in contemplating that I can be hailed among the heroes of the revolution Whether this course pursued is consistent or not, I am at a loss to know, should it be out of order your Honour can determine and treat it accordingly. Though I heard it spoken of that government was extending its clemency to shorter times of service than at first contemplated, I still was neuter, but at length there were a number of persons took in head for lucrative purpos to make diligent search for all whom they considered by their appearance of age, probably existed, and might be active in the service, proposed to make a statement by their information agreeable to the provision of the law of congress in that case made and provide their terms was half the first draw by which they made money, and in that way myself and many others were brought forward before you my case was before you, and was sanctioned beyond my expectation for had it been returned without allowance I should have been satisfied after an acknowledgement of your clemency, for myself I will aver that the facts contained in the address were

true to the best of my recollection, and had I been depraved enough to betray my veracity which I had supported through life for Lucre's sake I could as easily have claimed more as there were no one living who could controvert me, there is one point in my case which was not as fully set forth agreeable to my information as I would have set forth had I complied it myself. that is, it was a critical time of service, we were too weak to contend in any way, our cavalry consisted of less than 100 under the command in common of Capt Hughs much worn down. Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] with 900 it was said in contact in good flight[?], in order to support in some measure our deficient cavalry as before mentioned a detached company of what then was termed regulars and commanded by Capt Ogden and the company to which I belonged a company of riflemen commanded by Capt Stump were associated and acted with the cavalry, which of course rendered our service very hard and fatiguing and, destitute of Tents or baggage Waggon; for six weeks day and half of the night either on the scout or standing on our arms, only one piece of a day were permitted to lie at rest in that time. It was my opinion always that it might be considered a two-fold Tour (But it is not my province to dictate) I just mention those sacred facts as introductory to some other circumstances which is rather disagreeable to my feelings. Early in 1784 I emigrated to Kentucky fell into an open dangerous frontier which was attended with many difficulties [ink blot] But had I not met with difficulties more serious in consequence I should have considered those as nothing but unfortunate about forty four years past I was taken with an intolerable attack of the Pleury [pleurisy?; the handwriting becomes steady here], by the eminent skill of a physician, and the blessing attending the means the disorder was broke, but not finally cured. I have ever since experienced a painful disagreeable passage through life, its effects was such, it immediately rendered me incapable of laborious exercise, the way in which I depended for the support of a family, which I had undertaken to support, but so it was, I was incapacitated and considered after 6 or 7 years practice as an eminent Teacher of common English schools by which I could have supported myself and family well and carried on concerns to have something prepared beforehand for the rainy day, But alas the lingerings of the complaint mentioned was the foundation of divers heavy sickness which terminated in destroying the articulation of my speech which put an end to my capacity as a teacher, which with propriety I can say has been thousands out of my way because my capacity and integrity would have given me a place as an assistant in the public Seminary – And though advanced in age, and labouring under various afflictions had I the use of speech I could command an income that would set me on a footing more agreeable to my feelings than pensioning [handwriting becomes extremely shaky] (not considering the gratuity allowed as derogatory) my case is such, that to keep the system in an easy regular position on account of a weak digestion I am bound to be very particular in dieting, cannot make use of what I could live on that is called common fare also heavily oppressed in the discharge of Urine in consequence thereof a constant applications of medical [illegible word] that and many nourishment for comfortable [about eight illegible words] needful also. I have no resource of friends [illegible word] to supply. If consistent for some addition such as may be thought proper can be made to the former it can come together there is particular attention is necessary to be given to the collection and some cost – I now submit my case upon a hazard not knowing whether right or wrong and as [illegible word] treated agreeable to the [illegible word] if consistent well if not cast it by and no response necessary with submission yours &c

[sigend] Isaac Collett

NB when beggars are supplicating (which epithet on the present case I fall under) They make use of all disaster attending their case which I missed in due form – I mentioned I had no friends situate to supply my real necessities – to be brief I state myself and four children one son and 3 daughters form a family which is such as is naturally a heavy charge on the one male whose employment is cooperating for support. but unfortunate for him very recently his shop together with all his tools and a large quantity of materials collected to work on was consumed by fire in a very unaccountable way not less than \$300 worth damage to him which is a very considerable check to his concern – us old Revolutioners cant trouble the government long. I frequently hear of the cost of those who are pensioners – If worth your perusal

excuse a confused diction compiled by a palsified hand with submission and reliance that your Honours will give it such attention as is consistent

[sigend] I Collett