

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Collinsworth S30965

VA

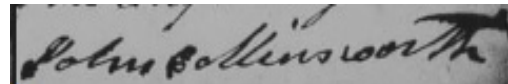
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 Dec 2018.

State of Tennessee }

Grainger County } On this 13th day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Honorable Samuel Powell Judge of the Circuit Court of Grainger County in the state of Tennessee John Collensworth a resident of the County of Grainger in the state of Tennessee aged sixty nine 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 made by act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1776 with Lieutenant Wescott [probably Wright Westcott R106] as a substitute for Edmond Collinsworth my brother and went to Alexandria (now in the district of Columbia) where I joined Capt John Lee [VAS871] in the marine service on board the sloop of war Liberty commanded by Capt Walter Brooke [R14] afterwards Commodore Brooke where I remained for one year after the expiration of said term of service I enlisted in the land service for three years under Capt John Lee near Norfolk in the state of Virginia. He states that he first entered the service under Capt Lee sometime in the Spring of 1776 the precise time not recollected previous to his joining the Marine corps He states further that he entered the land service some time in the spring of 1777 under Capt Lee the precise time not recollected – and then the first state regiment was made up He further states that in the year 1776 my brother Edmond Collinsworth went to a muster in the County of Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] state of Virginia where there was a Lieutenant Wescot who was a recruiting officer enlisting soldiers for the term of two years in the continental volunteer companies The said Edmond enlisted and took the bounty. When he returned home and thought of what he had done he did not like it. I stated to my father that I would take his place and I did so. When the company was made up it was put under the command of Capt John Lee from Culpepper County Virginia we were directed to march to Alexandria (now in the District of Columbia) on the Potomac river where I joined the marine service on board the sloop of war Liberty Commanded by Capt. afterwards Commodore Walter Brooke where I remained for one year. In the year 1777 I volunteered for three years in the Land service under the beforementioned Capt John Lee then the first state regiment was made up and marched off under the command of Col George Gipson [sic: George Gibson BLWt985-500] and joined General Washingtons army at the Valley Forge on Schuylkill [sic: Schuyllkill] river The said state regiment was attached to General Muhlenbergs [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] Brigade early in the month of June 1778. The army left Valley Forge and came up with the British army at Monmouth and on the 28th day of June 1778 Gen'l [Charles] Lee commanding the van of the American troops was ordered by the Commander-in-chief to attack the retreating enemy Instead of obeying the order he conducted in an unworthy manner and greatly disconcerted the arrangements of the day. The battle was fought on the 28th day of June 1778 and lasted all day. I was in the engagement all day At night the British left the field and moved on to sandy hook where they took shipping. From thence the army marched on through the Jersey and nothing more took place worthy of notice until the battle of Stony Point which was taken by the American army on the night of the 15th of July 1779 [16 Jul 1779] Gen'l Muhlenberg's Brigade was ordered to draw near to the fort to cover a retreat if it should be necessary. As Gen'l [Anthony] Wayne had lost some of his men orders were given to fill up the Brigade I volunteered a few days after the battle of Stony Point and joined Gen'l Wayne and went on with said troops to Sandy Beach on the North river (or Hudson river) After we left Stony Point it was taken possession of by the British and in a short time after I was ordered to take three men and reconnoiter the fort which was fifteen miles off and to report any discovery I might make I accordingly reconnoitred the fort but discovered nothing of importance and then returned to Sandy Beach after an absence of one day and night. I remained in Gen'l Waynes Brigade until I was discharged in the year 1780. I returned home and in the year 1781 [sic] I went to Montgomery County Virginia and just before the battle of Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780] I volunteered with two drafted companies commanded by Capt

Stephen Trigg and Capt Parris [sic: George Pearis] Maj'r [Joseph] Cloyd commanded the van We marched on to join the army that fought at Kings Mountain. We had got within one or two days march when word was brought the battle was over. On the same night an express came that there was two hundred Tories to cross the Adkin [sic: Yadkin] river the next morning and we marched on to meet them. We met and fought and conquered them [skirmish at Shallow Ford NC, 14 Oct 1780] 16 or 17 of the enemy were killed and wounded. Capts Burk and Brient [sic: Ben Burke and James Bryant] their leaders were killed and we lost but one man. I then returned from the army
I was also engaged in the last campaign against the Cherokee Indians which was the last campaign against them [16 Sep 1782].

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



Questions propounded by the court &c.

Question Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in Culpepper County Virginia in the year 1763.

Question Have you any record of your age if so where is it.

Answer I have no record of my age to be come at now

Question Where were you living when you entered the service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer When I entered the service I was living in Culpepper County Virginia and have lived principally in Tennessee since the Revolutionary war and I now live in Grainger County Tennessee

Question How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Answer I entered the service as a substitute for Edmond Collinsworth in the Continental army.

Question State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Answer. Regular Officers Gen'l George Washington Gen'l Wayne Gen'l Muhlenberg Gen'l [Daniel] Morgan Gen'l Lee Col George Gipson Lieut Wescott and Lieut Triplet. I do not recollect any of the continental or militia regiments and as to the circumstances of my service I refer to my declaration.

Question 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 did receive a discharge but by whom it was given I cannot now recollect as it has been lost many years ago.

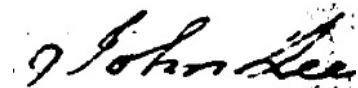
Question State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer Michael Massingill Col Samuel Bunch Maj'r Gen'l John Cocke

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) under the name Collingworth, John.]

This may Certify that John Collingworth inlisted with me as a soldier in the State Service of Virginia to serve three years from the twentieth of December 1776.

John Lee Capt



NOTE: On 18 Jan 1864 Collinsworth applied to have his pension transferred to Illinois, having moved to St. Clair County “for the purpose of making a better provision for his family.” A Treasury-Department document states that the administrator of Collinsworth’s estate received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 6 Sep 1838.