

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Eli Collins S31615

NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 26 Sep 2022.

The State of Alabama } SS
Limestone County }

On this 10th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the County Court of the County of Limestone State of Alabama now sitting Eli Collins a resident of Athens in the County of Limestone, aged seventy four 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 June 7 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

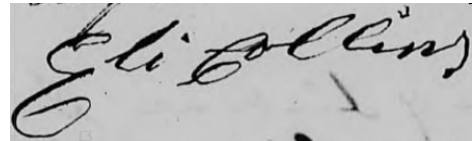
That about the first of June 1776 he volunteered joined the Company of the North Carolina Militia, commanded by Captain Micajah Little [sic: Micajah Lytle] in which John Jones was the Lieutenant & Moses Little [probably Moses Lytle] was Ensign, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel [Zachariah] Dozier. That on the 8th of June he was marched from Martin County in the said state of North Carolina the place where he resided when he entered said service, in said Regiment to Wilmington in said state, where he joined the army under the command of General [John] Ashe. That in doing duty at Wilmington & occasionally marching to Brunswick & Fort Johnson [sic: Fort Johnston], he served out the Term for which he volunteered as aforesaid, which was three months, when he received a written discharge signed by his said Captain Micajah Little. That while on said service he recollects to have seen & known Colonel's Sawel [possibly Benjamin Seawell] & Irvine & Major Sharpe of the militia & General [James] Moore & Adjutant Williams of the regular service – all of whom did duty at the same time at Wilmington & that said General Moore was commander in chief of said station.

That on the first of June 1780 he volunteered again Joined a company of the militia of said state commanded by Thomas Farmer in which Robert Nelson was ensign in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Stephen Moore & was immediately marched from Orange County where he resided when he volunteered as last aforesaid with the Troops under General [John] Butler to cross creek [now Fayetteville] on Cape Fear [River] where they joined the Troops under General [Richard] Caswell & after a good deal of marching under him he was finally marched to Cheraw Hills in South Carolina & from thence they joined the main army under General [Horatio] Gates shortly before his defeat [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780]. That he was in the battle when Gates was defeated – when the troops to which he belonged were dispersed & he returned home a about six days before he had served out the three months for which he had agreed to serve. He recollects to have seen & known while on this campaign in addition to the officers already named, Gen's Gates, & De Kalb, Colonel Dickson [sic: Henry Dixon] Major Donohue [possibly Thomas Donoho] & Captain Wm Litle [sic: William Lytle] & [undeciphered] regular troops & Majors Lang[?] & Williams & Colonel Ramsay [sic: Ambrose Ramsey] of the militia.

That again in the last of September 1780 whilst he resided in said Orange County he was drafted into the company of said militia commanded by Captain Wood [possibly John Woods] & Campbell was Lieutenant in the regiment commanded by Colonel [John] Collier & was immediately marched under General Butler to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] where he was stationed until he received a written discharge signed by General Butler for the full Term for which he was drafted which was three months – that he was discharged about the time General Green came on & took the command of the Army [sic: Gen. Nathanael Greene about 2 Dec 1780] —

That about the first day of September 1781 he was again drafted into a company of the militia of said State, commanded by Captain James Kill [sic: James Kell S32357] in which Joseph Nily[?] was Lieutenant – in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Collier [sic] & Major Daws [possibly Abraham Dawes] — was marched immediately marched under General Butler & Colonel Maybin [sic:

Robert Mebane] against the Tories under Fannin [sic: David Fanning]. That he was with the troops who attacked Fannin at Lindley's Mills, shortly after Fannin had captured [interlined in different handwriting, "Sept 13 1781;" see note below] Governor Burk [addition inserted here in different handwriting: "Interrupted going to Wilmington by Genl Butler with a sever skirmish at Lindly Mills on Cane Creek & Fanning Loyalist of NC wounded but escaped with his prisoners"] & others at Hillsboro. That Fannin retreated & he was marched in pursuit to near Wilmington where they had another skirmish with the Tories & British — That he served three months on this campaign & received a written discharge from Captain Kell. That he resided in said County of Orange when he joined the troops last as aforesaid. That besides the four campaigns above named in which he served twelve months, he did militia duty very frequently, in guarding, ammuniton, small parties of prisoners at short periods as the country was much infested with the tories & frequently overrun with the British That he was born the 26th March 1759 in Sussex County State of Delaware, that he has his age recorded in his bible which was taken from the record of the same in his farther's Prayer Book. That after the revolutionary war he resided in said Orange County untill 1804 when he removed to Wilkes County State of Georgia & from thence moved in 1818 to Limestone County state of Alabama where he has lived ever since & still resides. That having long since lost his discharges aforesaid he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person in the Western Country or whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service — 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 any state—

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eli Collins". The ink is dark and the background is light-colored paper.

NOTES:

The sentence referring to the engagement at Lindley's Mill would more coherently read as follows: "That he was with the troops who attacked Loyalist Col. David Fanning at Lindley's Mill on 13 Sep 1781, the day after Fanning had captured Governor Thomas Burke at Hillsborough."

On 24 May 1837 Collins applied to have his pension transferred to Hempstead County AZ where he had moved because "his son with whom he has lived for many years and on whom he looked for protection in a great measure through the remainder of his life removed to this state and urged him to accompany him." He was still living there in 1842.