

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Stephen Cole S3176

fn47NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Robertson County

This the tenth day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 Captain Stephen Cole personally appeared before the County Court for the County of Robertson in said State now in Session aged 73 & being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832 for the benefit of the officers & soldiers of the Revolution – he declares that he was born in Anson County in the State of North Carolina, & that in the year of 1776, he thinks in the month of August, he entered the service of the United States as a substitute for his father who was a drafted militia man, in the company commanded by Captain Hay & Lieutenant Edward Davidson, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel David Love & Major Davidson – that they marched in the summer of 1776 from Anson County against the Cherokee Indians under the command of General Rutherford, that he believes they were called out for a tour of three months but that the Regiment to which he belonged was actually in service about four months, when upon our return to Anson County we were discharged – that he does not recollect whether he received a discharge or not, but that he never received any compensation therefore – That after this time the Tories became very troublesome in that part of North Carolina, & he was engaged as a volunteer in a great many scouting parties against them & without any definite time being specified for serving, & performed such services very frequently as occasion required, until he received the Commission of Captain signed by Governor Caswell, authorizing him to raise in command a company of volunteers – that in pursuance thereof he raised a company of volunteers & took the command of them as Captain and Israel Medlock was appointed his Lieutenant and John Hunt the Ensign – that he is unable to specify the time when he received his Commission, but immediately upon his receiving the Commission, he was actively employed in ranging & scouting in five or six counties around Anson where he resided – that whilst engaged in the performance of such services, he was under the command of the various superior officers in whose district he happened to be employed – he recollects to have been under the command of Colonel Wade, who commanded in Anson and also of Colonel Medlock who commanded in Richmond County, which had been a part of Anson & also of Colonel Williams & also of Colonel Donelson – in that section of North Carolina & also in the upper part of South [Carolina], the times were very troublesome & dangerous and that in the discharge of the various duties assigned to him after he was commissioned as a Captain, he sometimes had the command of a whole company & at other times of smaller numbers of men, depending upon the services to be discharged and that his whole time was given to the services of his Country – that he recollects he had been at one time ordered, together with others to take charge of a drive of cattle & drive them to the Army of General Gates & that after crossing the River Pedee with the cattle he met the troops of General Gates

who had been defeated at Camden on their retreat -- & then returned to the opposite side of the Pedee-- that he was well acquainted with General Caswell under General Gates in that battle & was slightly acquainted with the Baron De Kalb & General Smallwood who were in the battle – that he had joined with his troop of Cavalry, the Army commanded by General Gates, at a plantation of Montgomery on Deep River in Chatham County, near Wilson's Iron work, on his march to South Carolina & he was then ordered to pilot Col. Armung [sic, probably Charles Armand] a French officer who commanded a Regiment of Dragoons, to some part of South Carolina, which is not now recollected & after the performance of this service, he was returning to join the Army of General Gates with the drove [sic] of beeves, when he met the troops of General Gates flying from Camden – that after the battle of Camden, his company as well as most of the Militia scattered & were dispersed in various parts of the Country, where they could be most secure, -- that he & his brother James Cole who had served under him as one of his soldiers retreated to the neighborhood of Raleigh, where James was taken sick & remained confined to his bed for some months at the house of Mr. Bledsoe, a true Whig & an honest benevolent man-- after his brother had so much recovered as to be out of danger, he returned to Pedee, for the purpose of collecting if possible his scattered company, that he succeeded in collecting a few men & as early as practicable again marched with them in to South Carolina, & took his station on the Pedee River at a place then known by the name of Culp's ferry, his command then amounting to about 30 men, of the Whig refugees & took possession of a large Brick dwelling house of Colonel Culp & occupied it as a fort, & were guarded at that bank of the River, the British being about 300 strong on the opposite side of the River, at, what was then called the long bluff court house about 3 miles from the ferry – that he & his company remained in the occupation of Culp's house until the arrival of General Greene, when I met him at the mouth of Rocky River, that he & his company was then ordered East toward the Fayetteville district where there was a great abundance of Tories for the purpose of making discoveries & getting information of the situation of the Country – that he continued after that time in the command of his company ranging & Scouting & acting as spies until the close of the war – that [he] recollects in one of the scouting parties to have met General Marion, at Cole's bridge on rounding Creek in Richmond County, where he had but two men with him & I had but two or 3 – I was personally acquainted with General Greene, having been repeatedly sent for by him to his tent, for the purpose of giving him information, as to the situation of the Country and the parties – that he was constantly employed in that section of the Country in the performance of such duties until the taking of Cornwallis at Yorktown & until peace was finally made.

After the Battle of Camden, when the Country seemed to be lost & the Whig cause almost desperate, I became apprehensive in that I should fall into the hands of the Tories & from the part I had taken against them did not [word or words obliterated by an ink blot] humanity or mercy from them & fought the best way to secure myself in such an event would be, to keep them, and ignorance of my name & therefore destroyed all the papers I had & supposed that the commission I had received was destroyed at that time & he further declares, that he has no written evidence of his commission or services, further than a letter addressed to him after the peace was made by Charles Brooks, who was one of his soldiers, requesting him to hand a certificate of his services to John Hunt, who was a cousin of said Brooks & who was the Ensign in my company – the said letter bears date of 1784 & is addressed to me as Captain & is enclosed in these papers for the satisfaction of the department – he does not know of any person now living by whom he can prove his services except the following – 1 man by the name of Lot Stricklin¹, who am informed now lives in Richmond County North Carolina, who served under me as one of my soldiers and my brother James Cole² who now resides in Carroll County in the State of Tennessee – he is informed that a few others are probably living who might prove some incidents in the revolution, which would tend to show, that he had been an officer & in

1 [Lot Stricklin S7657](#) FPA S7657

2 [James Cole S3174](#)

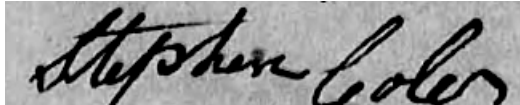
service but none so fully as his brother James & said Lot Stricklin – that after peace was made he settled himself in Richmond County North Carolina & remained there some years & removed himself to the State of Tennessee and Robertson County where he now resides – that he is not upon the pension list of any state or that of the United States – and that he hereby relinquishes all claim for any pension except that under the act of 1832 for which this declaration is filed.

I have procured the deposition of Lot Stricklin spoken of in the foregoing declaration which I hereby transmit in support of my declaration. I have endeavored by the same source to obtain the deposition of James Cole but have failed to obtain it from what cause I am unable to state whether he is dead (being 77 years of age) or what the cause is unknown.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

Test: S/ W. Seal, Clk

S/ Stephen Cole



[Thomas Gunn, a clergyman, and James Seal gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The answers of Captain Stephen Cole to the interrogatories put to him by the court in open Court and ordered to be embodied as part of his declaration.

Interrogatory 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Anson County State of North Carolina in the year 1760.

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

Ans. I have at home a copy of an original record made by my father his family Bible, which shows my age to be as above stated

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

Ans. When called into service I lived in Anson County North Carolina after the revolution Anson County was divided, I fell in Richmond County taken from Anson where I resided until I removed to Robertson County Tennessee, from Robertson County Tennessee, I removed to Tuscaloosa Alabama, where I remained three or four years, then removed back to Robertson County where I now reside. I have lived in Robertson County Tennessee in all upwards of 20 years

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

Ans. I was called first into service by a substitute, for my father John Cole & served subsequently as stated in the body of my declaration.

5th 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.

Ans. I knew General Green intimately well General Smallwood & Baron DeKalb & all of whom commanded when I occasionally served. I remember also the different Colonels mentioned in the body of my declaration to which I now refer for brevity's sake

6th Did you ever receive a discharge Commission, and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans. I received a commission as stated in my declaration and it was signed & destroyed as therein stated.

7th 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.

Ans. Colonel Shannon, John Hutchison & John Stoather Esqr.

S/ Stephen Cole

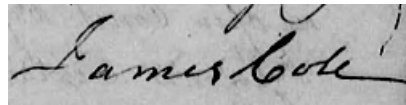
State of Tennessee Carroll County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions December Term 1832

On this 10th day of December at A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Carroll, James Cole, a resident of said County, aged seventy-seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that his Brother, Stephen Cole, now residing in the County of Robertson, State of Tennessee; that at the period mentioned below residing in the County of Anson, State of North Carolina, in that part of said County which has since become Richmond, went as a substitute for his Father, John Cole Senior, in 1776, under command of Captain Hoy, David Love, Colonel, in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, and was thus engaged about the term of six months –

After his return Deponent does not recollect particularly of his being engaged in the service until the year 1780 when he volunteered, Deponent thinks, under Colonel Crawford, or Colonel Wade and some time after, time not particularly recollected, he (Stephen Cole aforesaid) obtain the appointment of Captain, and Deponent well recollects serving under him as such – but how long said Stephen Cole acted as Captain, or whether Deponent never saw his Commission or what has become of it, he is unable to say – yet well recollects having heard his Brother Stephen Cole frequently say, that, being in some close place, & fearing that he might fall into the hands of the Tories & British, he collected his papers & burnt them – Deponent further states, on his oath aforesaid that his Brother, Stephen Cole, from this time, was constantly in the service of the United States, until the surrender of Cornwallis and for several months afterwards, the Tories acting as though they were sensible that their's was a desperate case after the news of Cornwallis surrender. This Deponent further says that the time of service of his said Brother Stephen Cole, from first to last exceeded two years, but cannot say that he acted as Captain as long as two years & wishes not to be understood as saying that he did not.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day & year first above mentioned, by and before
S/ Edward Givin, Clerk

S/ James Cole

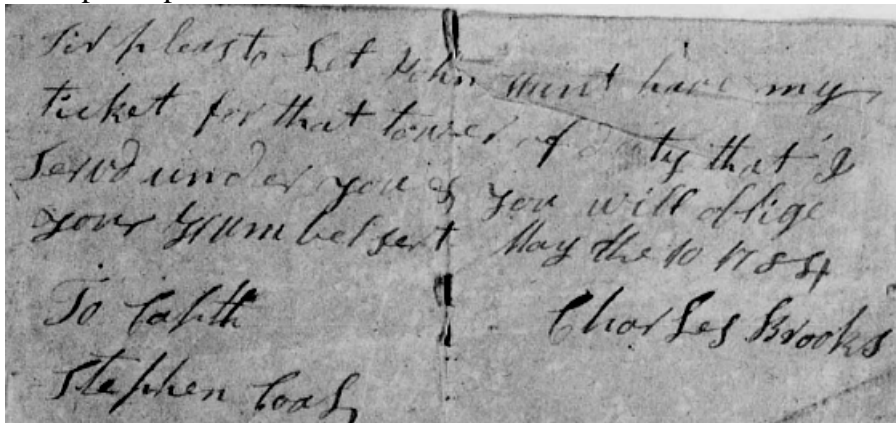


[fn p. 20]

Sir Pleas to let John Hunt have my ticket for that tower of duty that I served under you & you will oblige your Humbel Sert. May the 10th 1784

To Capt. Stephen Coal

S/ Charles Brooks



Let please let John Hunt have my
ticket for that tower of duty that I
served under you & you will oblige
your Humbel Sert. May the 10 1784
To Capt
Stephen Coal
Charles Brooks

[fn p. 22]

State of North Carolina Richmond County: Personally appeared before me Henry W Harrington one of the Justices of the Peace in and for this said County, Lott Stricklin a Citizen of the said County, who being first duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that he is in the seventy third year of his age, that during the

War of the Revolution he was a resident of Anson County in the said State, that he was well acquainted with Captain Stephen Cole who was then a resident of said County of Anson, now a resident in Robertson County in the State of Tennessee, that said Cole was, sometime in the year 1776 called into service as a private, (the said Stricklin being called into service at the same time) under the command of Captain William Hoy, Edward Davidson Lieutenant, under Colonel David Love, that the said Cole & Stricklin served a tour together, under the said officers which was to have been a route of three months, but that they served four months or thereabouts, all being under the command of General Rutherford. After the expiration of this term of service this deponent saith that he was engaged in company with the said Cole in various excursions against the Tories & that about the latter part of the year 1778 or early part of the year 1779 as the said Stricklin believes, the said Stephen Cole was appointed a Captain of a Volunteer Company & that he the said Stricklin volunteered & served as a private in the said Company under the command of the said Captain Cole during the whole of the remainder of the War. That the said Captain Cole held himself as a minute man & served his Country faithfully as a Captain at different [word obliterated] & routes against the Tories & enemies of the Country, in watching the movements of the Enemy & in giving intelligence of those movements, reconnoitering the Country & procuring provisions for the Army. And whenever we would fall in with any part of the main or Standing Army, we were commanded by our superior officers & held ourselves subject to their orders and obeyed them in detached routes. And that the said Captain Cole as Captain of the said volunteer Company of Minute Men held himself subject to all calls & obeyed all legal calls, as this deponent believes, & served faithfully, punctually and resolutely during the war until peace was made, discharging all the duties enjoined him and him as Captain of the said Volunteer Company of Minute Man, faithfully & valiantly, as this deponent fully believes.

And further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 7th day of September 1832.

S/ H. W. Harrington

S/ Lot Stricklin



[fn p. 25]

State of Tennessee Robertson County: This day being the 27th day of May 1833 Personally appeared before me John Hutchison a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Stephen Cole the applicant in an original declaration made on the 13th day of [illegible] 1832 for a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 to which this is appended as amendatory to form a component part. This applicant being first duly sworn states that the first tour of service mentioned in his original declaration he will from the best of his recollection say in the positive that he served four months as a private and was by his officers placed to drive a wagon in the Army. He also states that in the year 1777 he volunteered and received the Commission of Captain and Commanded a Volunteer Company accordingly as set forth in his original declaration in Ranging and Scouting through and across the Country in various sections and under the various standing Commanding officers as stated in his original declaration as to precisely Identify the precise length of time he was with and under each commanding General he cannot possibly now recollect but he states in the positive that he continued in the service of the United States in the manner and mode under the Commission of Captain of a Volunteer Company as specified in his original declaration and was not employed in any civil pursuit whatever until the close of the war in 1783 making his service in the Revolutionary War as a Captain five years from the best of his recollection. He here with transmits the deposition of James Cole in support of his claim which he has received since he sent his original declaration. That he also states that he served some portion of his time under Colonel Thomas Crawford.

S/ Stephen Cole

State of Tennessee Robertson County: Personally appeared before me John Hutchison a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Stephen Cole the applicant in the declaration for a pension to which this is appended as an amendment who being first sworn depose and say that as to the time he received his commission of Captain of a volunteer Company he perhaps may be mistaken in saying it was in 1777 it probably was in the latter part of the year 1778 or early part of 1777 this matter he states from the best of his recollection, he cannot say in the positive the precise length of his service but from the best of his recollection he served as a private in the year 1776 four months and from the time that he received his commission as Captain he served actually and continually not less than three years and eight months as Captain of a volunteer Company and for which service he claims a pension.

S/ Stephen Cole

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 14th day of December 1833

S/ John Hutchison, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$253.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for four months service as a private in the North Carolina militia and one year service as a Captain in the North Carolina militia.]