

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Cocke S3187

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State Tennessee }
Rutherford County } County Court August 1832

On this 24th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before Henry Trott James C Mitchell and Varner D Cowin Justices of said Court now sitting William Cocke a resident of said County and State aged seventy two years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832

That he entered the service of the U States on the 10th day of Sept 1779 under Capt. Tolberts in the county of Bedford State of Virginia and that in a day or two afterwards the company of Capt Tolbert was marched through the city of Richmond to Williams Burg [sic: Williamsburg] in the State of Va. where they remained about two weeks under the command of Colo [Thomas] Nelson. Colo Nelson marched Capt Tolberts company with one other Company then station at Williams Burg to York Town whose distance apart is about 12 miles. They remained at York Town something like seven weeks. when we arrived at York Town there was but a small force remaining most of them being discharged before we arrived. During the whole of our stay at York three men of war belonging to the British fleet were anchored in the mouth of York River within sight of York Town. From York Town Capt Tolberts Company was marched back to Williams Burg where they remained 2 or 3 days thence through Richmond back to Bedford County no engagement took place during this tour. In this campaign I served three months, but do not know exactly what time we were discharged, but know that we received 3 months pay

Again about 2 years afterwards in the month of Febr. 1781 as well as he recollects he enlisted as a volunteer in the County of Bedford State of Va. under Capt William Jones, whose company was attached to Colo. Lynches [sic: Charles Lynch's] Regiment, and in Colo Lynches Regiment, which consisted of 500 men, he marched through Hallifax [sic: Halifax] county State of Va. crossed Dan River at Irvins fery [sic:: Irvine's Ferry, 3 to 4 mi W of present South Boston] thence into Caswell County State of North Carolina where we joined Genl Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] He found Colo Washington at the head of the horse [William Washington's 3rd Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons] under Genl Green. These forces were in that section of the state for some time and went thence towards Gilford [sic: Guilford] Courthouse He was at the battle of Gilford which he says was fought on the 15th day of March in the year 1781. The circumstances attending the Battle that made most impression upon his mind were these (to wit) that Genl. Green was Commander in chief Colo Washington Commanded the Caveldry & if he is not mistaken, Genl [Robert] Lawson Commanded the militia. Genl [Edward] Stevens was present and as he understood was wounded in the thigh and his horse was shot under him. the 3 captains belonging to Colo Lynche's Regiment viz. Capts Jones [Jacob] Moon & Hellum [probably Helm] were slain at the battle of Gilford. The British forces remained upon the ground after the engagement and the american forces retreated in confusion about 8 or 10 miles north of Gilford C. H. He does not Recollect the precise time when he was discharged but thinks twas about the last of Aprile, that he received pay for 3 months. He was discharged at a place called deep river about 40 or 50 miles south of Gilford C. H. He does not recollect tho have received any other than a verbal discharge

Again in August, 1781 about the 1st he believes he volunteered into the U. States service in the county of Bedford State of Va. under Colo Qualls [sic: John Quarles]. They remained in the county of Bedford and Pytsylvania [sic: Pittsylvania] engaged in collecting Beef – putting them in pastures and branding them upon the horns with the letters U.S. The cattle were to be sent to the army which was some where in the neighbourhood of Richmond. He was in no engagement during this term of service. He was discharged

sometime between the 1st and 15th of November of the same year. He does not recollect to have received any but a verbal discharge. He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to 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. Sworn to the day and year aforesaid

[signed] William Cocke

And the s'd court propounded the following interrogatories to William Cocke the within named applicant for a pension, in open court on the day and year aforesaid.

Q 1st. where and in what year were you born

A. In the county of Hanover State of Va in the year 1759

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

A. I have a record of my age in a family Bible at my house in the county

Q. 3rd. Where were you living at the time you were called into service, where have you lived since the revolution and where do you now

A. When I entered the service I lived in Bedford county State of Virginia remained there for some years after the revolution & then moved to Rutherford County State of Tennessee where I have resided ever since and where I now reside

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

A. In my 1st campaign under Capt Tolbert to York town I was drafted, But in the campaign to Gilford and in the service under Colo Qalls I volunteered. Was never a substitute.

Q. 5th 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

A. Genl Green Colo. Washington, & Colo Leigh [sic: Henry Lee] Genl Stevens were with me at the battle of Gilford. Genl Lawson commanded the militia at Gilford, Troops of the Maryland line served at Gilford. I do not recollect any important circumstance except such as is mentioned in the above declaration

Q 6th did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whome was it given and what has become of it

A. I do not recollect to have received any other than a verbal discharge

7th State the names of persons to whome you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief that you served in the revolution

A. I am known by Maj Dance Martin Clark Solomon Beasley Esq and to many others, also to Granville Crockett