

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Collins S39354

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 Jan 2019.

Virginia

At a Court held for Charlotte County the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four.

On the fourth day of May 1824 personally appeared in open court being a court of record for the County of Charlotte, William Collins aged 73 years 20<sup>th</sup> December next and a resident in the aforesaid County of Charlotte who being first duly sworn, according to Law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 and the first of May 1820. That he the said Wm Collins enlisted for the term of one year on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 1775 in the state of Virginia, in the Company Commanded by Cap'n. Robert Ballard, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Francis Eppes [VAS1942] being the first Virginia Regim't in the line of the state of Virginia, on the Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in the said corps until the latter part of September 1776, when he was discharged from the said service in Williamsburg in the state of Virginia. That he was in no battles; but several skirmishes. And that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except the Certificate of William Lane [S38124], which is herewith enclosed.

And in pursuance of the act of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

No property – That he is a farmer by occupation but possesses but little ability to pursue it.

And at a Court held for the said County of Charlotte the 6 day of September in the year 1824 The said William Collins being duly sworn saith – that in the year 1822 he sold all his property consisting of Hogs, sheep, cows & Household and kitchen furniture and plantation utensils to Richard Collins for the sum of \$307.00 which I applied to the payment of two debts – one to William L Norton &c and the other to William K Watkins &c and that this is all the property which he has disposed of since 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818. And the said William Collins under oath, proceeding to give his reasons for not applying for a pension previous to the 1<sup>st</sup> of May last saith that several years ago he sent in his [illegible word] which was rejected, because his name was not found upon the rolls; and that since that time he has been waiting to hear from the claim of William Lane, who served with him in the revolutionary war.

Charlotte County towit. Thomas McDearman [S5749] made oath before me a Justice of the peace for said County that William Collins of said County and State of Virginia was in the regular service under Cap Robert Ballard during the Winter of 1775 & 1776. The affiant further states that Capt Robert Ballards Company was attached first to Col Patrick Henry's Command and afterwards to Col Francis Epps, so that that part of the time which said Collins was in the service as coming within the affiants knowledge he was commanded first by Colonel Patrick Henry and then by Colonel Francis Epps. To say with certainty when Collins entered the service, the affiant cannot, but from several circumstances has no doubt it was in the fall of 1775. Given under my hand this [undeciphered] October 1824

Virginia to wit:

At a Court held for Charlotte County the 3 day of January in the year 1825:

William Collins' claim as a revolutionary soldier

On the motion of the said William Collins and on hearing the testimony of several witnesses, the Court doth Certify that they are satisfied that the statement of the said William Collins of the 6 day of September last in relation to the disposition of his property is correct, and that the said William Collins has at this time no property whatsoever – and the said William Collins produced in court the following Certificates and affidavits.

Charlotte County to wit. This day came William Lane before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Charlotte and State of Virginia and made oath that William Collins enlisted under Capt. Robert Ballard in the regular service sometime in September 1775 and served til sometime in the fall of 1776 and was discharged at Williamsburg Va by the order of Col Francis Epps the Commander of the Regiment under whom he served, and the said Collins was discharged a few days before the time his service expired in consequence of his being in bad health, and further the said William Lane states upon oath that himself and said Collins enlisted about the same time under the same Capt Ballard, continued in the same mess together during our time of service, came home together and have been acquainted with each other ever since and are both now residents of the said County and State of Virginia. Given under my hand the 29 day of September 1824

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

[Parts in brackets are missing from the image.]

The deposition of Thomas McDearmon taken in the County of Charlotte before me a Justice of the Peace being first sworn deposesh as follows

The deponent well recollects William Colli[ns] being in the first Virginia Regement with h[im] at Norfolk and Williamsburg and their h[e] left him and saw him no more untill Pe[ace] was proclaimed but supposes he went to the N[orth] November 29th 1834

To His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

The Memorial of the Heirs and legal representatives of William Collins Dec'd, late of Charlotte County, who was a soldier of the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment during the war of the Revolution: Respectfully sheweth:

That the said William Collins in the early part of the year, 1776, enlisted as a soldier of the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment, under Capt Ballard, for the term of Twelve Months it being the first company of Regulars which had marched from the County of Charlotte. That he served the said term of Twelve months faithfully, and immediately re-enlisted in the same service for the term of Three years under Capt. [William] Cunningham in the Spring of 1777, and marched directly to Head Quarters of the American Army then stationed in the north. The said company was attached to the first Virginia Regiment on continental establishment, commanded by Col [Richard] Parker and General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850]. That the said William Collins was in the service something like four years successively, having enlisted in the early part of 1776, and not returning from the service untill some time in 1780, after the term of three years for which he enlisted, had expired. All of which will appear by reference to the accompanying certificates of soldiers who served with him.

Your memorialist further state, that by refference to the Public Records, it appears that a soldier by the same name has received Land Bounty: but upon examination of the papers filed in that case, your Excellency will readily perceive that he was not the same individual now claiming. That the said William Collins, the father of your memorialist in his life time, often mentioned that he was entitled to land Bounty, and intended to claim it, but his general bad health, produced in a [undeciphered word] by great fatigue and exposure in the service, during the Revolutionary war, prevented him from doing so. That the

said William Collins had a discharge, which they suppose has been lost or mislaid, as it cannot be found upon examination amongst his papers.

Your Memorialist, therefore, humbly pray that they as the Heirs and legal representatives, may be allowed the quantity of land to which the said William Collins in his life time was entitled, for services rendered as a soldier of the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment, during the war of the Revolution, pursuant to the laws of Virginia in such cases made and provided – and as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c

[signed] Richard Collins [son] John Shelton

[3 April 1837]

Virginia. Charlotte County to wit:

I James Mullings [S10251] do hereby Certify that I was well acquainted with William Collins Decd, late of Charlotte, for many years, both before, during, and after the Revolutionary war, having lived in the same neighborhood with him to the time of his death. I know that he was a soldier of the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment during the war of the Revolution, something like four years successively. He first enlisted under Capt Ballard for Twelve Months in the early part of the year 1776, which term he served faithfully, it being the first company of Regular troops that marched from the County. Immediately on his return home, he enlisted again in the Spring of 1777 under Capt Cunningham for the term of three years, and marched directly on to the northern army, from which he did not return untill sometime in the year 1780. Capt Cunningham's company was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment on continental establishment, commanded by Col Parker. I am in the 86<sup>th</sup> year of my age, and was a soldier of the Revolution.

[3 April 1837]

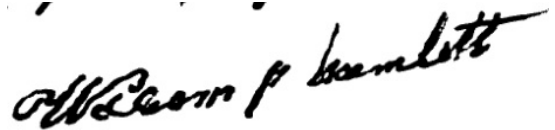


Virginia. Charlotte County to wit:

I do hereby certify that I have read with care and attention the within certificate of Mr. James Mullings, an old soldier of the Revolution, relative to the servises of William Collins a soldier of the Continental line; according to my best recollection at this time of said Collin's enlistments and services, the statement given by Mr. Mullings is entirely correct, and freely unite with him in certifying to the same effect. I am in the 78<sup>th</sup> year of my age and was a soldier of the Revolution.

William P. Hamlett [S13305]

[3 April 1837]



1837 May 30 Rejected D. Campbell [Gov. David Campbell]

NOTE: The federal pension file includes an account of payments made to William L. Norton by Richard Collins, who was security for a debt incurred by William Collins.