

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Collins S8248

f38SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/16/09 & 8/18/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

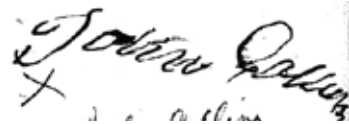
State of South Carolina, Spartanburg District: To Wit

On this 29th day of September, 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Sessions now sitting John Collins, a resident of Spartanburg District in the said State aged Seventy Eight 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 7th, 1832. I entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under Captain And. Bussy [? Andrew Bussy or Bessy or Beny] and Col. Thomas, Col. Richardson having the chief command, and served a six weeks campaign in 1775 in the winter of that year—but cannot recollect the day. In 1776 I again went into the Service against the Indians (as a volunteer) under Capt. McElkanye [sic, McElhenney?], and General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], and served another tour of six weeks. In 1778, I served in the Florida Expedition three months as a volunteer under Capt. Palmer and Col. Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon?]. On the 1st of March 1780, I entered the service as a Captain in the Militia under Col. John Thomas, and was ordered on to Georgia where I came under the command of Genl. Williamson, and was ordered by him to Cubbert [sic, Cupboard] Creek under the Command of Col. Purvis—I was then ordered by Col. Purvis, with a detachment as a Picket Guard to Spirit Creek where I remained until the fall of Charleston in May. The June following I joined Genl. Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] on the Catawba near the old Nation ford and was shortly afterwards ordered home to raise more men—I then joined Col. Shelby and Col. Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke], and fought at the Battle of the Iron Works—and then took Thicketty Fort [July 26, 1780]—I next fought at Musgrove's Mill [August 19, 1780]—and was ordered on to conduct the prisoners to North Carolina, after which I returned and joined Genl. Sumter and fought under his command at Blackstocks ford [November 20, 1780] and immediately afterwards joined Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] at Grindal Shoals and was by him ordered home for more men, and on the night before the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] I again joined General Morgan with 24 fresh men, and fought with my company the next day. The next engagement was at Watkins, at night. We met the same party again the next morning; routed them and regained our prisoners. I next had a small engagement at Bush River under command of Col. Roebuck [Benjamin Roebuck], against the Tories who were commanded by Young and Neely. I then joined General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] and we marched [?] to Augusta to the siege of Grason's [sic,

Grierson's] Fort and had several skirmishes there. I then joined General Twiggs in Georgia and was sent under Maj. Carr over the Altamaha [sic, Altamaha River] and there had two small engagements with the Indians and whites and finally returned home in June 1782. I have no documentary evidence of my service, but can furnish many living witnesses who served with me. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State. I was born in the year 1754 November 28th in York County Pennsylvania. I have the Record of my age at home. I resided in Spartanburg when I entered the Service and reside there still. My services as a private were rendered as a volunteer. My commission as a Captain was signed by Col. John Thomas and supposing it of no value after the end of the War, I lost or threw it away.

As to my character for veracity and moral conduct, I refer to the Rev'd Mr. Dickson and A. B. Moore and any other respected citizens of my neighborhood or District.

S/ John Collins

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Collins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John B. O'Neale, Pres. Judge

[Michael Dickson, a clergyman, and A. B. Moore gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of South Carolina Spartanburg District

On this 19th day of April 1833 personally came before me, Wm Trimmier a Justice of the Quorum Ex officio, in and for the District aforesaid, Capt. John Collins to being duly sworn, in due form of law, on his oath saith, in addition to his Declaration hereto attached, that he did serve in the militia in the Revolutionary War, for the space of 6 months -- as a private -- And did serve as a Capt. in the Militia from the first of March 1780 until the month of June 1782 -- 2 years and 3 months, making in all 2 years and 9 months -- as a private and officer -- to wit 6 months as a private and 2 years and 3 months as a Capt. This deponent again repeats that there are many persons by whom he can prove his services -- but believing the testimony herewith submitted will be sufficient, submits the affidavits of Mr. William Caldwell¹ and Mr. Solomon Crocker² -- he knew him and his services in the Revolutionary War --

S/ John Collins

Sworn to & subscribed or me 19th of April 1833

S/ Wm Trimmier, J. Q. Ex.Off.

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State of South Carolina Spartanburg District

Personally appeared Captain John Collins aged 78 years on the 28th day of November last, before me William Trimmier Judge of the Court of Ordinary & Ex officio Justice of the Quorum for said District, who upon being duly sworn according to law

¹ [William Caldwell W22727](#)

² [Solomon Crocker W9398](#)

deposeth & saith that he entered the service of the United States as a Captain in the Militia on the 1st day of March 1780, in Ninety Six District and 2 days afterwards viz. on 3 March he received his commission as Captain from Colonel Thomas & was attached to the Regiment commanded by him. He continued to serve as Captain to the end of the War Viz. 2 years & 3 months. He was marched under the command of Colonel Thomas to Augusta in the State of Georgia from where Colonel Thomas returned to Ninety Six District & the Regiment was attached to the Brigade commanded by General Williamson. He was ordered by General Williamson to Cupboard Creek. See the original Declaration. He was in the battle at the old Iron Works – Colonels Shelby, Clarke & Captain Grimes commanded. He was in the Battle at Musgrove's Mills, Colonel Williams [James Williams], Shelby & Clark commanded. He was in the Battle at Blackstocks Ford General Sumter & colonels Thomas & Chandler commanded. He was in the Battle at the Cowpens General Morgan commanded the Regulars & General Pickens the Militia Colonel Washington commanded the horse. That from old age & consequent loss of memory he does not recollect any other officers who commanded at the different battles above named. That the other tours mentioned in the original declaration he cannot recollect the dates so as to bring himself within the provisions of the law. That he served as Captain in the Militia 2 years & 3 months.

Sworn to & subscribed 20 August 1833

S/ Wm Trimmier, JQ Ex. Off.

S/ John Collins

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State of South Carolina Spartanburg District

Personally appeared Capt. John Collins before me William Trimmier Judge of the Court of Ordinary & ex officio Justice of the Quorum in & for said District, who being duly sworn deposes & saith in amendment of the foregoing declaration that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise time when he received his commission; but to the best of his knowledge & recollection on the 3rd day of March 1780, he received a Captain's commission in the militia of the State of South Carolina, in the Revolutionary War, in the District of Ninety Six from Col. Thomas that he served as Capt. in the South Carolina Militia 2 years & 3 months -- during which time he was not engaged in any civil pursuit a part of his services were rendered in the State of Georgia as may be seen by his original declaration -- And for further particulars that See the original declaration & amendment thereto.

S/ John Collins

Sworn to and subscribed before me in 11th November 1833

S/ Wm Tremmier, O. S. D. & Q. J. Ex. Off.

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South Carolina Spartanburg district

Personally came before me, the subscribing Magistrate, William Caldwell, who being sworn, on his oath saith, that he knew Capt. John Collins, who makes the foregoing Declaration and affidavit, in the Revolutionary War, that this deponent served under his command, and knows, and believes that he rendered the Services as stated in the said declaration and affidavit. And has been well acquainted with him ever since the end of the War.

S/ Wm Caldwell

Wm Caldwell

Sworn to and subscribed before me 19th of April 1833

S/ Wm Trimmier, J. Q. Ex off

Personally came before me Solomon Crocker, who being sworn, saith that he knew Capt. John Collins in the Revolutionary War, and has known him since -- that he was in service with said Collins -- and knows much of the service by him stated, and having such knowledge believes the whole of his Statement to be true and correct.

Sworn to & subscribed before me 19th of April 1833.

S/ Solomon Crocker, S his mark

S/ Wm Trimmier, J. Q. Ex off

[Facts in file: Veteran died April 4, 1841; in 1855 the veteran's son John S Collins was living in Spartanburg district South Carolina; there is no other family data in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a Captain in the South Carolina militia.]