

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Collett W3003 Elizabeth Collett VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky Shelby County Towit

Be it Rembered That this twenty third day of September 1818 Came before me Silas M Noel one of the Circuit Judges in and for the State of Kentucky John Collect: who made oath on the Holy Evengalist of almighty God That he Inlisted as a Regular Soldier in the Eliventh Virginia Regiment the last of March 1777 under Captain Charles Potterfield [sic: Charles Porterfield] and That he seved faithfully as a soldier in the servic of the United States for more than Two years when he was regularly & Honorrally discharged by Danel Morgan [sic: Daniel Morgan] Col Commanding said Regiment, That he gave up his discharge to Capt George Rice an officer in the Virginia Line to Enable him to settle with the war department and adjust the claim of this petitioner for pay, and that he has never reganed it, That he is now in the sixty first year of his age That he is poor has a large family of female children and stands in need of the aid of his Country for support and that he never has received any pension from government for His servics he is a Resident of Shelby County in the state of Kentukey
[Certified by Isaac Collett, pension application S30964.]

Commonwealth of Kentucky. Shelby County Sct

Shelby County Court July term 1820.

On this 17th day of July 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record of probate and common Law Jurisdiction John Collett aged near sixty three years resident in the County of Shelby and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows that he enlisted in the Service of the United States in the revolutionary war in the month of March 1777 in the Company Commanded by Captain Charles Porterfield in the regiment Commanded by C'l. Morgan afterwards by Lieut. Col. Febenger [sic: Christian Febiger] of the Virginia line on Continental Establishment and was discharged in the month of March 1779. he was in the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] German town [Germantown PA, 4 Oct 1777] and Mont. Mouth [sic: Monmouth NJ, 28 Jun 1778] he further states that he made application for his pension by his declaration dated 23^d day of Sept. 1818 under the act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and recieved his pension Certificate dated the 2^d of June 1819 No 11,294 he has drew his pension up to the 4th March 1820. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th 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 18th 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.

he further states that he follows the occupation of farming that he has a wife and ten children living with him three sons and seven daughters his oldest Son is over Twenty one years of age and is considered as his own man and doing for himself his next son about ten years an other son about four years. his daughters one about twenty five years his next twenty three his next daughter twenty his next eighteen years next daughter about seventeen years and the next about twelve years of age and his youngest daughter about eight years of age his family over which he can have any Controul is a helpless one and can render him but little service in his occupation &c.

The following is a schedule of his property (towit)

Two old mares beasts worth about \$35 —

one horse worth about	40 —
one two year old Colt	15 —
Six cows and five calves & four year old Calves	70 —
eight head of Sheep	8
five sows with some shoats & pigs	30
one old small waggon and geer worth	50.
two plows three hoes axe and mattack	10.
Cupboard \$10. table \$5. 7 chairs \$7.	22
some cooking utencills and table furniture	<u>15 —</u>
worth together all about	\$295

Making the whole of his property in his possession worth about three hundred dollars he further state that he has been and yet is more in debt than the amount of his property is worth and containd the Schedule herewith that an Execution is yet hanging over him in the United States Circuit Court of Kentucky for an amount over the amount of his property and of course he thinks himself worth not the amount of the schedule as above he has procured the Clerks Certificate hereunto attached of this fact

Jno. Collett

I have at length with seven months Mention as you may see by the date of the different papers got them ready to send on for your inspection, havin[g] had six different journeys first I tried at the County Court being disappoint[ed] there, I have finally succeeded in the Circuit Court of Franklin Cty in geting the affidavit of Doc'r P. Major. – but before I left the Courtyard, I was told I ought t[o] renew my schedule, as I had rec'd no instructions from you, nor never heard it mentioned before I thought I would venture to omit it and drop you these lines and I was the more in this notion as for this seven months I have been stating to you the situation of my affairs in the papers now before you which I thoug[ht] if it would otherwise been necessary, would be sufficient to supercede the necessity of doing it at this time, but sir, should I be mistaken, if you will be so kind as to return this schedule (which I suppose might be done with out the other papers) I will renew it, and I can affirm and it will be the result, that the amount will be less than the one now before you, if in no other property, the stock of hogs have absented, twenty six that were reported have never been seen by me since – the ballance that were got home and wintered absented to the woods at the return of spring as they can subsist out in summer and autumn I have not seen more than half of them, and very likely never may, and be assurd, sir it will be found that no material difference will be found to report and what is will not be out of my favour, but finding the business so troublesome I wish to evade it – Another matter I can report as it is a real fact, my oldest son is induced to move his residence, being employed by John J. Marshal near Frankfort to assist in cultivating his farm and keeping his slaves to their business, never will live with me any more as I expect – My younger daughters mentioned in my statement, think it time that they begin to recede from exposing themselves at hard labour in the fields as they have hitherto done and as the age they have all now arrived to, together with the custom of the country forbids my coerceing the matter, its beyond a doubt with me that they will decline in future that species of assistance, and I shall be without just grounds to attatch any blame to my children for they have been helpful to me in this way untill they are fully grown – These last named circumstances relative to the alteration which has taken place as to my son, and also my daughters, whilst it casts a dark gloom over my own situation by leaving me almost single handed, at the head of my helpless family at the advanced age that I now am, yet I wish you distinctly to understand that its not a farce, fabricated as a pretext in order to report unfavourable to the war dep, as to my own situation, but that it's the natural result of the effects of time, which is so famous for bringing about changes in all worldly affiars – Should anything in this uncouth address appear to you improper pray ascribe it to my inability in the undertaking, as it had (like all the other papers) to be done without other assistance than myself – its true that my own statement, as also the affidavits of my son, and Benjamin Bennett and

perhaps some one or two other papers were truly transcribed from my own original statements by the clerks or deputy but this is not, and I hope and pray Sir, that in accordance with your own Ideas, with Justice, and with everything, in which you are responsible, that you will find yourself justifiable in restoring me to the list of pensioners &c

[signed] John Collett Sen'r

Honble/ James Barbour/ sec'y War

this 23^d of October 1825

PS it will be seen that Doc'r Major was sworn before the Circuit court of Franklin, it was because he resides in Frankfort in which stands the Courthouse

[signed] J Collett Sr

State of Kentucky Shelby County Sct On this 15th day of November 1826 personally appeared in the Shelby County Court being a Court of Record in and for the County aforesaid John Collett aged sixty seven years resident in said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of the 18th March 1818 the 1st of May 1820 and 1st of March 1823 that he the said John Collett enlisted in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War in the month of March 1777 in the Company Commanded by Capt. Charles Patrifield in the regiment Commanded by Col. Morgan afterwards by Lieut. Col Febinger of Virginia line in the Continental establishment and was discharged in the Month of March 1779. he was in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth he further states that he made application for his pension by his decleration dated 23^d day of September 1818 under the act of Congress of the 8th of March 1818 and received his pension Certificate dated 2^d June 1819 No. — And he has drawn his Pension up to the 4th of March 1820. he further states that he made a declaration on the 18th day of July 1820 in the Shelby County Court aforesaid which was sent on to the war department And on the 19th of October 1820 his name was directed to be stricken from the pension list. On account of the amount of his property of which he has received notice And I do solumly swear...[oath similar to the previous one follows]

One sorrel horse 11 years old	value. . . . \$40.00
One old sorrel mare blind of one eye 19 years old.	9.00
One Yearling Colt \$15 one spring Colt \$4.	19.00
Seven Cows from calves & one yearling.	47.50
36 head of sheep.	27.00
67 head of hogs Composed of sows shoats & 9 young pigs. . . .	52.00
One small old waggon.	20.50
one wheat fan.	15.00
two plows & one harrow.	8.00
one old draft Chain.	3.00
some old hoes & axes.	5.00
house hold furniture.	18.00
Kitchen furniture being pots &c.	10.25
an old rifle Gun.	5.00
one old cross cut hand saw.	<u>3.50</u>
	making in all \$282.75

Amount I am in debt to Samuel M Craiggs

Adm'r. upon a Judg't. in the Federal court at Nov Term 1816	<u>\$640.50</u>
Worse than nothing	357.75

And a bout 20 hogs running out in the woods (shoats) which are lost. J. Collett

That since the establishment of my first Schedule the changes which have taken place in my property have resulted entirely from the killing & using of stock for the support of myself and family. and the age of some stock and growth & increase of others. He further states that he is by profession a farmer that he is poor and unable to pay the debt above stated which is due from him – that he is old and infirm, that he has entirely lost one eye which was sore and about going out at the date of his former application that he

is unable to work he has nine children living with him & a wife who is also old and infirm his son Moses named in his former schedule is dead the Other Children is as follows one son 26 years old next March, he is his own man & for himself and one other son now about 8 years old and daughter about 29 years old Another daughter 27 years old, Another daughter 24 years old, another daughter 22 years old. another daughter 20 years old, Another daughter 18 years old another daughter 12 years old said Children are poor and work for their subsistence and being indigent himself he does therefore humbly pray that the proper authority will reinstate him on the pension list that he may receive something from the Government of his Country to aid him in procuring necessaries and Comforts in the decline of his life.

John Collett

NOTES:

The 156-page file also contains a letter written by John Collett from "Near Hardinsville, Shelby County" dated 31 Jan 1826 and a letter with the same date from "North of Benson," as well as many other documents relating to his debts. There is also a 15 Aug 1825 letter by John Collett, Jr., "resident with my father Jno. Collett Sen," certifying a business transaction.

On 12 Nov 1838 Elizabeth Collett, aged 69 on 18 Nov 1838, applied for a pension stating that she married John Collett in Aug 1790 in Berkeley County VA, and he died on 21 Sep 1830 in Shelby County. Her statement was certified by James C. Sprigg and John Collett. On 31 Jan 1841 William McCormick, 71, stated that he was born in Berkeley County within a mile of where Elizabeth Collett was raised at Daniel Collett's, in whose house she was married to John Collett. On 23 Feb 1853 Elizabeth Collett applied for an increase in pension.