

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

Pension Application of John Collins W6736                      Jane Collins      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefits of the third section of the act of Congress of the fourth of July 1836 — State of Virginia King William County, On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 1837, personally appeared before me James Johnson a justice of the peace for the County of King William and State of Virginia, Jane Collins a resident of the County of King William aged eighty years on the 4 day of September next who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July the 4 1836. That she Jane Collins is the Widow of John Collins who was a regularly enlisted soldier for three years in the army of the united states during the the revolutionary war which enlistment for three years my deceased husband the said John Collins faithfully served. That my said husband John Collins enlisted into the service of the united states and revolutionary war under Captain David Pannel [sic: David Pennell] of King William County as a common soldier and marched from King William Courthouse where he enlisted to york town under Captain David Panel and Col Elias Edmunds my said deceased husband enlisted into the service of the united states in the month of September 1777 and left the service in the month of September 1780 after after having served his full time of of enlistment of three years and I was married to my said husband John Collins in the month of april 1780 and went with him immediately after our marriage into the service and remained with him in the service until he had served his full term of enlistment of three when the army was ordered to the South my husband John Collins was commanded by Captain William Spiller Captain Pannel remaining or being ordered elsewhere and I was at Gates's defeat with my husband [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780; see endnote] and who remained in the service five or six months after I was married to him I mean the regular service but was several times in the malitia service after he left the regular service I was lawfully married to my deceased husband in Williamsburg by parson Bracken [possibly Kracken] a regularly ordained minister of the Gospel in the month of april 1780 but on what day of the month we were married I do not now recollect, but positively know, that we were married between five and six months before he left the regular service. My said deceased husband John Collins was born, and raised, and lived in the County of King William to the day of his death. He died in the year 1822 of a rupture which was brought on him during his regular service in the revolutionary army of the united states by excessive fatigues hard marching, &c &c. I further declare that I have never married and am now the widow of the said John Collins deceased, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.      Jane herXmark Collins

[Mason Collins, pension application S39355, certified the above declaration in similar words. On 1 Sep 1837 he made another supporting declaration in which he stated that the name of Jane Collins before her marriage was Jane Richeson. In the same document part of the surname is lined through, making the name Jane Rich. See also the more detailed statement by Mason Collins below.]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 13th day of June 1783, in the name of John Collins as a Soldier of Artillery for £70.9.6, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 5th day of October, 1838.

A. W. Morton/ AUDITOR absent

State of Virginia King William

The affidavit of Jane Collins, widow of John Collins deceased, an old revolutionary soldier, aged eighty three years, who after being first duly sworn according to law, doth say, that she was lawfully married to the said John Collins dec'd in Williamsburg, in the state of Virginia, in the month of april 1780, and that soon after her marriage, she went with her husband, the said John Collins to Hillsborough [NC], and from there she went with her husband, and was in the camp with him at Gates's defeat, and some short time thereafter, she came on to Richmond through Petersburg, and from thence she came on to King William County, where she has lived ever since, to this day further this affiant saith not. Given under my hand and seal this 9 day of January 1840—  
Jane herXmark Collins

State of Virginia King William County ss.

The affidavit of Mason Collins an old revolutionary soldier, resident of the aforesaid County, aged 81 years, who after being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say, that he was intimately acquainted with John Collins a revolutionary soldier, and husband of the widow of Jane Collins who is now alive and is still a resident of King William County, where she has always lived ever since the revolutionary war. This affiant further saith that he himself was at Gates's defeat, and perfectly recollects to have seen the said John Collins and Jane his widow there, both before and after the battle, and that some short time after Gates's defeat, they the said John Collins and Jane his thin [sic] wife came on through Petersburg to Richmond City, in Virginia and from thence to King William County in Virginia, from wence they wint; they the said John Collins and Jane his now widow were lawfully married in Williamsburg in april 1780 and lived together as man and wife until his the said John Collins's death. further this affiant saith not. Given under my hand and seal this 9 day of January 1840—  
Mason hisXmark Collins

State of Virginia City of Richmond Ss.

On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1844 personally appeared before me the subscriber Mrs Jane Hargrove a resident of the County of Henrico, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath state, that she was well acquainted with John Collins who it was computed and beleaved intermarried with Jane Harn; that the said John Collins and his wife Jane were members of the Baptist church and that the said John was in the habit of praying and exorting in publick and that she well recollects of seeing them together, the said John & Jane as man and wife at publick meeting's immediately after the close of the Revolutionary war, and before this affiant was married. She also declares that she allways understood and beleaves that the said John Collins entered the service in the war of the revolution as a soldier and during his service the said Jane Collins was with her husband the said John Collins some time and washed for the officers. The declarant cannot state the officers under whom the said John Collins served, but heard and beleaves that he served several years in the war of the Revolution; That when he the said John Collins returned home from his service in the war of the Revolution he lived with his wife Jane in the immediate neighbourhood of this affiant for many years, and continued his religious exercises in publick. This affiant also states that she has frequently heard the said Jane Collins who was in the habit of visiting this affiant, frequently for many years, speak of circumstances that happened while her husband the said John Collins was in the service of the war of the revolution. She further states that she was not at the marriage nor can she assert with sertainity the year their marriage took place further than they were married some eight or ten years before this affiant was married. She also saith that she frequently heard the said John Collins relate the circumstances of his wife Jane being with him in the service in the revolutionary war, and that the said John Collins died some years since a consistant member of the Baptist church. This affiant further states that she was married in the year 1788 to Billy Hargrove who was a Baptist preacher and lived in the immediate neighbourhood of John Collins and his wife Jane for many years after she was married, and further she saith not.  
Jane herXmark Hargrove

NOTES:

Jane Collins may have been one of the camp followers who remained camped at Mask's Ferry on Pee Dee River during the Battle of Camden.

In his pension application, Mason Collins described himself as "an illiterate Mulatto."

Jane Collins is referred to in other documents in the file as "Jany Collins" and Jinny Collins." On 11 Nov 1844 Jane Collins stated that her husband died in 1821 or 1822. Other correspondence in the file indicates that he may have died as early as 1818.

The 97-page file contains many statements attempting to establish the service of John Collins and that Jane Collins was legally married to him. The file includes a pension certificate issued to "Jane Collins, widow of John Collins, who was a Dragoon, in the Va. Line." There is no claim in the file, however, that John Collins had been a dragoon.