

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Collins W6737                      Tempy Collins NC  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 Oct 2014.

State of North Carolina }  
Franklin County }ss.

On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the county aforesaid, now sitting James Collins Senior a resident of the said County of Franklin and State of North Carolina aged near seventy four years, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was born in the county of Isle of Wight in the State of Virginia on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1758 according to a record of his age which he now has in possession. That at the time he entered into the service of the United States he was living in that section of what was then the county of Bute, which now forms the County of Franklin, and State of North Carolina. that since the revolutionary war he has lived (with the exception of nearly one year during which he lived in Nansemond County Virginia) in the County of Franklin aforesaid, where he now lives. That he entered the service of the United States as a drafted Militia man, a private, under the command of Colonel Gee, Captain James Denton, Lieutenant John Macon (a brother of the Hon. Nathaniel Macon formerly Senator in Congress) and Ensign William Harrison, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 1776 and marched immediately from the said County of Bute where he was drafted through Tarborough [now Tarboro] on to Wilmington where or near which place he remained during the space of three months, the time for which he was drafted to serve. he was at Wilmington when the news of the Declaration of Independence was received there and recollects the rejoicing which that event occasioned. He believes, but is not certain, that the regiment to which he was attached was the third. in addition to the officers before mentioned, he recollects Colo. or Major Hogan [sic: Col. James Hogun], and Captain Benjamin Sewall [sic: Benjamin Seawell] who commanded another company from the same County of Bute. he was engaged in no battle during this term of service. he was discharged by Captain James Denton, but does not recollect whether the discharge was in writing, and if it was, he does not know what has become of it. He has no documentary evidence by which to prove the above mentioned facts but he believes they will be in all material respects substantiated by the testimony of William Leonard [pension application W26212] whose affidavit is hereunto subjoined.

This applicant further states that sometime after the expiration of his first tour of service, he volunteered for three months at Louisburg in Franklin County in a company commanded by Captain Elijah Denby who marched immediately on to Halifax, where the company was put under the command of Major John Williams, who carried this company with others, to Tarborough whence he believes (though he is not certain of that fact) that Colo. Reed [sic: James Read] took command with a Mr. Hogg as Major [possibly Thomas Hogg]. after remaining at this place a short time, they were marched on to the cross cross [?] on the Cape Fear River, thence down the river to a station some distance above Wilmington where they joined the troops under Colo. [Griffith] Rutherford who took command of the whole regiment which this applicant thinks was the third. the British had possession of the opposite side of the river, and the Americans were employed in watching their movement during the balance of this applicants time of service, at the expiration of which time he believes Captain Denby gave him a written discharge, but it is now lost. this applicant does not recollect distinctly the month in which he volunteered for this term of service, but he remembers several circumstances which show that it was the Fall of the year. He is also uncertain as to the date, but from the fact that Franklin County was formed at the time of his entering on this tour, he knows it must have been after the spring of 1779 when the act for erecting Franklin into a county was passed. He also recollects that it was before the battle of Guilford Court House [15 Mar 1781]. He was in no battle during this tour, though there were several alarms during the time the troops were stationed on the Cape Fear River. He has no documentary evidence by

which to prove the above stated facts, nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can establish them.

This applicant further declares that in the month of February 1781, he volunteered in Louisburg for three months in a company commanded by James Richards, and marched to Warrenton, thence to Harrisburg in Granville County, thence through Hillsborough to Guilford old Court House the Head Quarters of Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]. Major William Hill started from Louisburg with the company, but it is not recollected whether he continued with it, till or arrived at Head Quarters. This applicant was left behind with a few others for the purpose of making cartridges, and did not reach the main army with his company. as soon as he had performed the duty assigned him he proceeded on and rejoined his company while drawn up in line of battle, soon after which the battle of Guilford Court House commenced and ended in the defeat of the Americans. He was placed in the front line of the Americans about two hundred yards to the right of an open field, and when the British made their charge he saw the disgraceful retreat of that portion of the militia which was placed behind the fence of the field. He, with most of his company stood till they got four fires, when, finding the retreat pretty general, he also fell back, and retreated to the Iron Works (the name of which is not recollected) [Troublesome Iron Works] where the troops were directed to rally in case of defeat. He does not recollect what officers commanded his regiment or company during the battle, but he states that Col. Reed commanded the regiment after the battle. After remaining a short time at the Iron Works, the army marched to Ramsey's Mills [on Deep River], thence to Camden [South Carolina] where the Americans were again defeated by the British under Lord Rawdon [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, 25 Apr 1781]. This applicant was engaged in this battle and was commanded by Colo. Reed, a little French Officer (name not recollected) and Ensign Thompson Curry (the captain and Lieutenant both being absent) From this place he went with the main army over into the Country between the Wateree and Congaree where he remained until his term of service expired. He was discharged by Ensign Curry who gave him a written discharge but he does not know what has become of it. He has no documentary evidence to prove the facts mentioned as having occurred during this last tour, but he believes that the most material circumstances will be proved by the affidavit of the said William Leonard, hereunto subjoined.

This applicant 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.

James hisXmark Collins Sen'r.

NOTE: On 10 March 1847 Tempy Collins applied for a pension stating that she married James Collins 16 March 1784, and that he died 23 Dec 1838 in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year. With her application she submitted a family register certified by her son, James Collins, 44. The register is partly illegible but transcribed below with the aid of information given in her declaration. On 18 April 1849 George W. Collins applied for the benefits due as the only surviving heir of Tempy Collins, who died on 19 Dec 1848.

Durum Collins was born December the 25<sup>th</sup> day 1784

Willis Collins was born February the 18<sup>th</sup> day 1786

Wilson Collins was born June the 9<sup>th</sup> day 1787

Holland Collins was born October the 17<sup>th</sup> day 1788

John Collins was born July the 14<sup>th</sup> day 1790

David Collins was born october the 25 1791

Polley Collins was born January the 20<sup>th</sup> day 1793

Patsey Collins was born June the 8<sup>th</sup> day 1794

Henry Collins was born December the 18 day 1795

Jones Collins was born June 28<sup>th</sup> day 1797

Elizabeth Collins was born January 2<sup>nd</sup> day 1799

Sarah Collins was born October 28<sup>th</sup> day 1800

~~Polley Collins was Dec'd April 4 day 1801~~

James Collins younger was born January 24<sup>th</sup> 1803  
Tempy Collins was born July 19<sup>th</sup> 1805  
Elisha Collins was born May 2<sup>nd</sup> day 1807  
G. Washinton Collins was Bornd the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1809  
[other side of page]  
Whilston Richardson was born April the 16 day 1786  
Salley Richardson was born May the 6 day 1788  
Jesse Richardson was born April the 25 day 1791  
Negros ages – &c.  
Ben was Bornd the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1812  
Zelpha was Bornd 10 Feb'y 1814  
Olston Was born 10 July in the year of our lord 1815  
Peg Was Born about the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 1817  
Darkis Was born the 31 day of May 1820  
Liddy was Bornd march 31<sup>th</sup> 1822  
Mary was Bornd march 31 1822  
Jacob son of Elizabeth was Born the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 1825  
Norflet was Born the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1827  
Ephriam Silph son was born the 11 of October 1829  
Jerry Sollomon was born the 24 of April 1830  
Mager Son of Elizabeth was Born 22<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1832  
Demsey son of Zelpha was Born 20<sup>th</sup> Day of March 1832  
Salley an Daughter of Peggy was Born 23 Day of March 1832  
Frank Green son of Darkas was Born the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of August 1833  
William was Born in April the 20 1835  
Sa[?]ie was Bornd in March the 7 18[?]7  
[Illegible] was Bornd in may the 15 1837