

Pension Application for Benjamin Collins

S.18365

The State of Ohio
Delaware County SS.

Be it remembered that on the twenty first day of November it in the year eighteen hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the said County of Delaware in the State of Ohio, now in session, Benjamin Collins a resident of Lincoln Township in the said county aged eighty one 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, 1832.

I the s'd Benjamin Collins [???] state that I entered into the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit:-

I was born in Rhode Island, September 16th 1751 and am now 18 years of age. During the forepart of the revolutionary war I lived in New London County Connecticut. The next year after the taking of Burgoyne I moved to Saratoga, New York. During the years 1779, 1780 & 81 that part of the country was in a continued state of alarm from the attacks of the Indians and Tories. The militia were continually called out to go one expedition after another. At one time I as home only 3 days before I was called to go another. During the greater part of that time & was actually under arms and in the service in one expedition or another.

The first time I was called out was an expedition in 1779. I served this time under Capt. Peter VanVort and Lieut Stonn.

Where collected 2 or 3 companies under Col. VanRenselier [Van Rensselaer]. We marched to Ft. Edwards [Edward] which was then under the command of Col. Livingston, who I think, with his garison [garrison] were in the Continental service. We were called out on the account of an alarm occasioned by the raviges [ravages] of the Indians and tories, and the burning of Kingsburg. On occasion of these alarms, I was marched into almost every part of that country. It is impossible for me to recollect every place I was at in those expeditions, or tell the exact time when they were or how long I was out. We were almost constantly engaged in guarding the country from these attacks, and often compelled to go to the relief of distant places to the north and west of us and in scouting through the country. In these expeditions I often volunteered and went under Capt. Jobe Wright, who was a bold and expert partisan officer and very popular with the militia, who generally volunteered at his call.

In the year 1780 the Indians and tories attacked and burnt a settlement on Cayderosit [Kaydeross] Creek to the west of Saratoga lake. On this alarm the militia were called out. I went with them and was gone some time.

I think it was the same year I went upon such an occasion with the militia of the county towards the north, under Governor Clinton who had collected about 4000 militia. I went under his command to Ft. Edwards, we then crossed lake George to Ticonderoga. We there heard of a party of tories going form Johnstown to Canada. Gove Clinton called for volunteers, when 1500 volunteers to go to take them. I went with them, under Capt. John Wright. We went about 30 miles north of Crown Point when we found ourselves betrayed by our guides, and in consequence of it did not over take the tories. We then returned home. At another time we went on scout under Ensign Reuben Wright, for the purpose of taking a party of tories who belonged to a place called Newton and who were from home on some suspicious business. I went with a party after them and marched all night when in the morning we arrived at Ballstown, where we received some additions to our party, making in all 21 or 22. After travelling a few miles further we over took the tories & took them all prisoners; in all 21 in number.

During one of those 3 years I served the most of one season under Capt. Hezekiah Dunham and was stationed at a Fort in Palmertown, about 12 miles west of Fort Miller which was 10 miles south of Fort Edwards. The fort in Palmertown was then under the command of Major Austin.

In the years 1782 and 83, I was called out once in each of those years, and went to the stations to the north upon alarms from the Indians and tories. During the whole of these times I was actually engaged in the service more that [than] two years, mostly in the 3 first years 1779, 80 & 81.

About 30 years since I left Washington Co. on the North river, and removed to Seneca County, where I resided until 1815 when I removed to Delaware County, Ohio, where I now reside.

I have no documentary evidence and know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my services.

I hereby relinquish all claims 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. Sworn to the day & year aforesaid. (Signed with his mark) Benjamin Collins. T. Reynolds, clerk

Letter in folder dated February 11, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that form the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.18365 it appears that Benjamin Collins was born September 16, 1751 in Rhode Island.

In the early part of the Revolution he lived in New London County, Connecticut and in 1778 moved to Saratoga, New York where in 1779 he enlisted and served at various times until in 1783, over two years in all, as a private under Captains Peter VanVort, Jacob Wright, and Dunham and Colonel VanRensselaer in the New York Troops.

He was allowed pension on his application executed November 21, 1832, while a resident of Lincoln Township, Delaware County, Ohio. He died April 3, 1840.

A child is referred to but its name and the name of soldier's wife not stated.