



**Profile 21 of 39: John Collins (W6736)**, a resident of King William County, Virginia, enlisted in the Revolutionary War in September 1777. His wife, Jane Collins, accompanied him. He enlisted as a common soldier under Captain David Pennell and served in the Virginia Line for three years. His term of service lasted from September 1777 to September 1780.

During his service, John marched with Captain Pennell and Colonel Elias Edmunds from King William Courthouse (oldest in U.S. still in use, built 1725) to Yorktown. He completed his regular three-year term, after which he joined the militia. In August 1780, John participated in the Battle of Camden, which ended in the defeat of General Gates's forces. He continued his service in the militia after the conclusion of his regular term.

In April 1780, while still serving in the military, John Collins married Jane Collins in Williamsburg, Virginia. The ceremony was officiated by a minister named Parson Bracken (possibly referred to as Parson Kracken).

After their marriage, Jane accompanied John to Hillsborough, North Carolina. She was present during the Battle of Camden in August 1780. Following the defeat, Jane returned with her husband, traveling through Petersburg and Richmond, before settling in King William County, Virginia, where they lived for the rest of John's life.

John Collins passed away in 1822. His death was attributed to a rupture caused by excessive fatigue and the hard marching he endured during his military service. He had not been able to recover fully from the physical toll his service had taken on his body.

As a widow, Jane Collins sought pension benefits based on her late husband's service. She had not remarried after John's death and was therefore eligible to receive these benefits under the provisions set for widows of Revolutionary War soldiers.

Mason Collins, another Revolutionary War soldier provided an affidavit affirming that Jane and John had married in April 1780 and that they were both present at the Battle of Camden.

Jane Hargrove, a neighbor of the Collins family, also provided testimony in support of Jane's claim. She recalled how Jane had been present during the war and had accompanied John to the military camp.

On June 13, 1783, a certificate was issued confirming that John Collins had received £70.9.6 as back pay for his service in the artillery. This document was part of the supporting evidence for Jane's claim for the widow's pension.