

+ref. gene.

THE CALLAWAY FAMILY OF VIRGINIA,
AND SOME KENTUCKY DESCENDANTS,

gene.
COMPILED BY MRS. A. E. HART, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.,

(A DESCENDANT)

1928.

CALLAWAY ARMS: Norman, Fesse between three gold daggers on black shield. The Fesse, a band of color or metal that crosses the shield horizontally and is one of the nine honorable Ordinaries, Daggers or Conveys.

CREST: Helmet.

CALLAWAY MOTTO: St. Calway Ora Pro Me.

18484

ANCESTRY OF MARY A. COLLIER WILLIAMS. *

The father of Mrs. Jesse C. Williams was a Collier from Hanover county, Va., and the mother a Graves from Culpeper county, Va. Unfortunately, the court houses in both these counties were burned during the Revolutionary war. For this reason documentary evidence is lacking in both these lines, leaving a compiler with no plank but family tradition to support statements and claims.

As early as 1671 three men bearing the surname of Collier were living in Virginia. One of these was William, "citizen and weaver of London, England". Another, Isaac, believed to be a brother of William, landed in York county in 1671 and his will was proved there in 1688. In it he mentions a brother, John, of London. There was also a John Collier in Surry county about 1671, and his descendants were prominent there for many years. Isaac married a Miss Lockey and his son married a Miss Vines, which caused the names of Lockey Collier and Vines Collier to appear often in that line of the family. One Lockey Collier had a son, Charles Miles Collier, 1756-1825, who served in a Virginia regiment from 1777 to 1781, and he had a son, Col. Cowles Miles Collier, deceased in 1895. The Lockey Collier lines became strongly established in Tennessee and South Carolina.

The Isaac Collier line, though interesting, has no special claim on me, for my descent is from the William Collier family of 1670, whose members drifted from the coast to King and Queen county, Va., and thence to Hanover county, Va., where John Collier, grandfather of Mary A. Collier, was born and reared, a son of another John Collier, a prosperous planter with several sons, besides numerous daughters (according to family tradition.) One of the brothers, William, moved to Tennessee and was lost to all knowledge of the kindred.

John Collier, grandfather of Mary A. Collier Williams, was a loyal soldier of Virginia during the Revolution. Others of the name were also interested in the cause. William, Thomas, Charles and John Colyer, all of Henry county, Va., took the oath of allegiance in 1777 and furnished supplies for soldiers. Joseph W. Collier, born 1744, a son of John and Sarah Collier, of Hanover county, Va., was a Revolutionary soldier, who in 1783 at the close of the war moved to Edgefield district, S. C. In 1772 he had married Amy Moseley, born 1757. Cornelius Collier, Jr., who was killed in the Revolutionary service, was a son of Cornelius Collier, Sr., 1720-1810, who took part in the battle of Porto Bello November 20, 1739, under Admiral Vernon, and on returning to Virginia built for himself a hunting lodge in York county, Va., about eight miles from Williamsburg. This home he called Porto Bello in honor of the battle in which he had taken part. The house was built of brick brought from England. So strongly was it constructed that, although it has been standing since 1743, it is still occupied. The main part of the house is said to have been built in the shape of an inverted ship. Even the mahogany staircase was made spiral, to follow the idea of the staircase on a ship. About 1912 the interior of the house was destroyed by fire and the famous mahogany staircase was completely destroyed. Unfortunately when the house was rebuilt, the interior was modernized, but the exterior remains as it was nearly 200 years ago. The highway leading to the house is still called the Porto Bello road. Porto Bello was used as a hunting lodge by Lord Dunmore, the last colonial governor of Virginia.

THE COLLIER FAMILY OF VIRGINIA.

While the American Colliers were unwaveringly loyal, their English relative, Admiral Sir George Collier, was a leading naval officer for the British during the Revolution. However, he was of different mentality from some of his co-officers. It was his command that the British soldiers show humanity in their treatment of the rebel Americans. When his men burned four houses belonging to poor families in Northampton, Va., he expressed abhorrence of such acts. To make amends, he sent a sloop laden with salt for the use of the sufferers. The people of Northampton expressed their gratitude by sending him eight lambs. Doubtless he would have enjoyed them for the table of himself and his officers, but he sent them at once to the sick men in his command. His kindness is said to have been the first shown by British officers to the suffering Virginians.

The wills of the following were probated in Brunswick county, Va.; Thomas Collier, 1760; John Collier, 1769; Lewis Collier, 1790; Charles Collier, 1775; Henry Collier, 1775; Isaac Collier, 1771; Amos Collier, 1771; and Vines Collier, 1809.

Virginia lists of Revolutionary soldiers give:

Chas. Collier, lieutenant and captain
 Charles Collier, commissioner of Prince Edward county
 James Collier, served 1777 under Col. Bland, 4th Troop, 1st Reg't
 Thomas Collier, lieutenant and captain in Charlotte county militia
 Thomas Collier, of Brunswick county
 Vines and Charles Collier, Brunswick county, gave supplies
 Lockey, George and Lewis Collier, Brunswick county, gave supplies
 Wyatt Collier, killed at battle of Eutaw Springs
 Cornelius Collier, killed in battle
 John Collier, born 1755, in Va., served from the Carolinas in militia
 Joseph Collier, a resident of Charlotte county
 Stephen Collier, of Surry county, a lieutenant, 1777-79
 William Collier, captain, in 1776 had his company at Petersburg
 William Collier, a private, of Mecklenburg county
 William, Thomas and Charles Collier, of Henry county, took oath of allegiance in 1777; also John Colyer
 Thomas Collier, born 1740, was quartermaster sergeant of 2d Regt, and received 300 acres of Kentucky land from Patrick Henry
 Richard Collier of Henry county was paid in 1776 for bacon furnished to the American soldiers
 John Collier served eleven months 1776-77 under Capt. James Knox.
 John Collier (my ancestor) served as a private in Capt. Thomas Hill's Co., 5th Virginia (known also as the 5th and 11th Virginia Reg't) commanded by Col. William Russell; also in Capt. Thomas Hill's Co., 7th Virginia Reg't of foot, commanded by Col. A. McClanahan. He was at Valley Forge 1777-78 with the Seventh Virginia Reg't.

THE COLLIER FAMILY OF VIRGINIA.

John Collier was chosen, December 12, 1774, a member of the committee for King and Queen county, Va., the duties of the committee being to observe the conduct of all persons touching this association (the first continental congress convened at Philadelphia, Oct. 1774).

John Collier, bounty warrants, War. 4, 127 (a collection of MSS volumes bearing on the military establishments of the state during and after the Revolution) Auditor's Account Book Vol. 18, page 515.

Thomas Collier, of Halifax county, Va., had a son, John C. Collier, born in that county November 30, 1790, and died 1886 in Charlotte, Tenn. He was educated at William and Mary College, removed to Tennessee in 1814, settled in Dickson county, practiced law at Charlotte, married 1816 Mary Clark Clement, of Scotch parentage. They had sons, Henry C. (attorney) and William C. (a merchant of Charlotte).

Vines Collier, a lieutenant in the French and Indian war, married 1760 in Brunswick county, Va., Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin Williamson; moved 1780 to Wilkes county, Ga. They had 13 children, one of whom, Isaac Collier, born 1765, was a member of the Georgia Assembly 1830-31 and state senator 1832-33; another son, Thomas, ~~was~~ died in 1826; and John, a third son, born in Brunswick county, Va., was the first tax collector of Oglethorpe county, Ga.

James Collier owned a stage wagon (four wheels) and a chair (two wheels). These conveyances constituted taxable property, on which he was assessed in 1784 in Morgan Tomkin's district, Gloucester county, Va.

James Collier, 1757-1832, moved from Virginia to the south and died in Alabama. One of his sons, Hon. Henry Watkins Collier, was governor of Alabama. Another, William Edward, who married 1829 in Culpeper county, Va., had three children, one of whom, Dr. John Collier, was a noted surgeon in the brigade of General Lee, C. S. A. A daughter of James, Eliza W. Collier, born 1797 in Charlotte county, Va., married William Henry Blackwell, a second cousin of President Tyler. They were married in South Carolina and died in Alabama.

Pews were allotted to families in the new church, Stratton Major parish, King and Queen county, Va., December 11, 1767. In 1760 when it was decided to build, William Collier was one of the vestrymen. Among the pews assigned were those to Mrs. Ann Collier, a widow; the wives of James Collier, John Collier, Jr., Henry Collier, John Collier and George Collier; also to James Collier, John Collier, Jr., Henry Collier, John Collier and Charles Collier.

James Collier, of the Peninsular, who died 1797, had three sons, James, Thomas and John, the first of whom was the ancestor of the Colliers in and near Xenia, Ohio.

Thomas Collier, born 1714, eldest son of third marriage of John Collier, took up land 1738 in Wyanoke, Charles City county, Va., married and had three daughters, one of whom, Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison, was the ancestor of the Carter Harrison line. Thomas Collier was the ancestor of Thomas Hardeman, M. C., of Georgia.

JOHN COLLIER, REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER. †

John Collier, a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Hanover county, Va., about 1742, a son of another John Collier. When a mere boy he was sent back to England to be educated. There is a family tradition, fairly well established, that when he was attending school in the old country, he chanced to hear the music of the fife and drum accompanying a small procession of red coats passing the school. On inquiry he learned that the soldiers were beating up recruits to send to America to fight the French and Indians. Possibly he was homesick. At any rate he joined the army. After a time he was sent with his comrades on board a ship and sailed for America, but about the time the ship landed in port peace was declared and he was honorably discharged and sent home. My mother never saw her grandfather Collier. He died the year of her birth, but she often heard his widow tell Revolutionary tales, and she was firm in her statement that he was on the ocean at the time of Braddock's defeat. However, other descendants have different opinions. The descendants of my aunt, Mrs. Susan Sargeant, have in their possession an old sword which it is said that John Collier, a mere boy, carried in the battle of Braddock's defeat. Further than that, the descendants of Nancy Collier Close of Indiana have in their possession a basket which it is said he carried at that same defeat. It may be possible that my mother, endeavoring in her old age, to recall a statement made to her when she was a mere child, confused Braddock's defeat and his ocean voyage with some other important event.

There is every reason to believe that John Collier, Revolutionary ancestor, was a son of parents in excellent circumstances. I judge this by the fact that they sent him to England to be educated; also by the fact that on returning to Virginia he learned the trade of wheelwright from a skilled artisan whose services his father had bought, upon the landing of a ship, by paying for the passage of the man. It was not slavery, yet the man whose passage was paid was virtually a slave for a number of years until the time of the contract expired. My ancestor, David Williams, so served in order to pay for his passage to this country from Wales.

The gun said to have been carried by John Collier at Braddock's defeat was of the type brought over from France for use among the soldiers. It shot a steel bullet and had a bayonet attached to the end of the barrel. Mrs. Suzanne Hatch, granddaughter of Mrs. Susan Sargeant, states that when she was a child five years old, her mother, Mrs. Anna Lasley, was showing the old gun to her mother-in-law and other guests, when she accidentally pulled the trigger. It had not been discharged for many years, but shot just the same. The bullet went over the head of the five-year-old girl, cutting out a tiny piece of scalp, so that she has a scar for life, as a testimony to the fact that age did not render the gun useless. From that the bullet went on, through a heavy oak door, across a hall, through another door, through a barrel of soiled clothes, and imbedded itself in a brick wall. This heirloom from the Revolutionary ancestor was greatly prized by the Sargeants and for a long time was in the possession of Hugh Sargeant. I do not know its whereabouts since he died, but probably his daughters have it. That family also had some

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brass candlesticks, some genuine pewter ware belonging to John and his wife, also some butter firkins, and one of the firkins had a hole filled with lead, where another bullet had gone through it, the plug being a mute witness to the thrift of Grizelda, John's wife.

In 1772 or 1773 John Collier married Grizelda Taylor, daughter of James and Eleanor (Smith) Taylor. Grizelda is said to have been named for a grandmother, possibly Grizelda Smith, whose family name is unknown. Yet possibly it was for her grandmother Taylor. Usually she was known as Grizzly. It was a name she greatly disliked. In old age her grandchildren (and my mother was one of these little children) to spell her name. Her black eyes would snap with amusement as she would spell out G R I IZZARD IZZARD Y. It was her request that no descendant be named for her. She greatly desired the affection of her grandchildren, but she said they could never love her if the name of "Grizzly" was imposed upon them. The name Grizelda is very rare indeed in any period of America's history. One genealogist believes it to be a variant of Grace, but the Century Cyclopaedia states that it comes out of Italy, from some of the stories of Petrarch and Boccaccio (1313-1375). The name indicates that some of our Taylor ancestors (or maybe Smith ancestors) were given to reading out of the usual English path of the centuries sixteen and seventeen hundred.

Many letters have been written to descendants of Virginia Taylors. Much time has been given to study of old documents pertaining to Virginia Taylors, but the name of Grizelda seems unknown to all. A minister at Hampden-Sidney, Va., who is also a most thorough and careful genealogist, has studied the David Taylor family history, and found a record that in 1780 David and GRISSELL Taylor, husband and wife, sold land in Augusta county, Va.; also that in 1800 David Taylor patented land on Smith's creek in Rockingham county, Va. Also, I once found a letter written to a widowed Mrs. Taylor in Virginia, in which mention was made of her niece, GRIZ. I hope, however, ultimately to get more accurate data concerning this very energetic and capable ancestor, Grizelda Taylor Collier.

Although it appears that John Collier, the Revolutionary soldier, was of a prosperous family, yet during the Revolutionary war his family seemed almost to lack the very necessities of existence; he received no land grant for his services; his health was seriously impaired by injuries in battle, and life was indeed a struggle for him and his from 1775 until he died about fifty years later. Notwithstanding his frail health, he lived to be an very aged man (being about eighty-four when he died), and his widow survived him for more than fourteen years. Their lives had been more than ordinarily difficult, filled with innumerable hardships, and containing few comforts, yet they were spared to a good old age, and passed their last days surrounded by the loving ministrations of their children.

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In attempting to trace the lineage of John Collier, Revolutionary soldier, I learned that the family name has been variously spelled, Colyar, Colyer, Collyer, Collyar, Collier, Kollyer, Kolyar, etc., apparently according to individual inclination. On the gravestone of my grandfather, John Collier, Jr., son of the Revolutionary soldier, the name is spelled Colyer, while his discharge paper from the war of 1812 was spelled Colyar; and he had a brother, Charles, who always used the spelling Colyer. Virginia ancestors, however, seem to have adopted the spelling of Collier, which is also used in the twentieth century by most of the descendants in the male line.

Collier Bibliography:

Colonial Families of the Southern States (Stella Pickett Hardy)
 Early Settlers (Mrs. Stubbs)
 Goode's Virginia Cousins
 Tyler's Genealogical Magazine
 William & Mary Quarterly
 Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy
 Virginia County Records
 Life of Francis Morgan, an Early Virginia Burgess (1920)
 Ludwell MSS
 Meade's Old Church, etc. (Vol. 1)

The Harlean Society Publication (1912), Vol. 63, page 53, (to be found in the Library of Congress) states that the Collier family, although originally French, lived for many years in Staffordshire, England. The coat-of-arms of that line is identical with the coat-of-arms to be found in the Virginia lines. In this insignia the fact that the base of the cross, upon the shield, is sharpened to a point, indicates that at least one ancestor of the Colliers was a Knight Templar, who carried the Cross of Christ to plant in the Holy Land.

"The Great Plague in London in 1665" by Walter George Bell (New York, Dodd, Mead & Co., 1924) page 297, states that one John Collyer was churchwarden of St. Margaret's, New Fish street, London, in 1665, and stayed at his post through all of that dreadful time of suffering and distress.

As previously stated, it is thought that William Collier, citizen and weaver of London, was a brother of Isaac, who came to York county, Va., prior to 1670. It is said that they were sons of John Collier, whose father, Robert Collier, died 1590 in London, England. Isaac developed a farm in York county and married a Miss Lockey, while one of their sons, Isaac, Jr., married Annie Vines. Their son, Vines Collier, moved from Brunswick county, Va., to Wilkes county, Ga., about 1786, and died in Oglethorpe county, that state, in 1795. In 1760 he married Sarah Elizabeth Williamson, and they had thirteen children: One of these, Ann (Nancy), born in Brunswick county, Va., 1767, married John Hardeman in 1790, and was the grandmother of Hon. Thomas Hardeman of Georgia. Of this same line was Charles

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Collier, an officer in the Virginia State Regiment from 1771 to 1781. Another in the same line was Myhill Collier, said by descendants to have been a soldier of the Revolution, who married November 26, 1769, Tabitha Harrison, a sister of William Henry Harrison, sixth president of the United States.

William Collier, citizen and weaver of London, who founded the Virginia line from which I descend, settled in York county about 1670 and during the latter part of his life is listed as a resident of New Kent county. His wife was Mary. In 1675 he was lieutenant-colonel of his county. He was the father of Charles Collier, of King and Queen county, born in England in 1660, and died in Virginia 1735. Charles is listed in the rent rolls of King and Queen county in 1704 as the owner of four hundred and fifty acres of land.

John Collier (1) son of Charles and grandson of William, the immigrant, was born 1685 and died 1735. During the reign of Queen Anne in 1711, a land grant was made to Capt. John Collier (recorded Book 10, page 10, at Richmond, Va.) one hundred and three acres on Arraco Swamp, King and Queen county. This grant was witnessed by Lieutenant-Governor Alexander Spotswood, at Williamsburg, April 28, 1711. From Henning's Statutes we would infer that this John Collier served as a captain in the infantry of King and Queen county. He lived on a plantation near the York river not far from Yorktown, but there are indications of a temporary residence elsewhere. He was a church vestryman, and the church records give 1735 as the year of his death.

The preservation of these church records is due to the thoughtfulness of Bishop Meade. He placed the parish records of Stratton Major parish in the theological seminary near Alexandria, Va., about seventy-five years ago. This vestry book, with many others, is still stored there for safe keeping. Pages 6 and 7 of the vestry book show that John Collier was a vestryman at Stratton Major Parish, King and Queen county, and was present at vestry meetings held there October 13, 1729, October of 1730, May 10, 1731, and October 10, 1733. His death was reported at a meeting of the vestry and his successor was named April 8, 1735. (See page 8).

John Collier (1) married three times. There is some difference of opinion as to the names of the wives, but they are usually given

- (1) Elizabeth Ballard; no children.
- (2) Catherine Gaines of Virginia; one son, John (2), born 1707.
- (3) Ann (or Nancy) Eppes, daughter of Col. Francis Eppes; eight children

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- (1) Thomas Collier, of Charles City county; born 1714
 - (2) Cornelius, who in 1739 fought at Porto Belle not far from Colon and what is now the Panama Canal.
 - (3) William, of Surry county, who married Mary Carter.
 - (4) James, of the Peninsular, who died in Lunenburg Co., 1797.
 - (5) Benjamin, who married Sarah Cox.
 - (6) Mary, who married Robert Carter, brother of Mary Carter
 - (7) Frances, born about 1731, married Capt. James Scott
 - (8) Judith, who married Capt. James Hicks of Brunswick county, Va.

The above list of children was compiled about 1900 by Miss Lizzie R. Benagh, a granddaughter of Henry Watkins Collier, once governor of Alabama.

A Family Bible owned by Mrs. Annie Hill Snyder, of Texas, a Collier descendant, gives dates of birth of the children of Frances Collier Scott, wife of James Scott. There were ten children in this family, the youngest being Gen. John Scott, 1773-1839, who married Eliza Coleman of Augusta, Ga. He had the contract to build the state capitol of Georgia and was one of the founders of Montgomery, that state. His son, Alfred Vernon Scott, born 1803, married a daughter of Governor William Bibb of Alabama; another son, William B. Scott, born 1823, married a daughter of Governor John Murphy of Alabama.

John Collier (2), the eldest child of John Collier (1), was born 1707. The Ludwell MSS gives the title of a suit in the general court in 1722 between John Collier (an infant or minor), by John Collier, his father; and other parties, including William Barnet and Eliza, his wife, late Eliza (or Elizabeth) Ironmonger, executrix of Francis Ironmonger.

John Collier (2) made his will September 28, 1749, and gave Hanover county, Va., as his place of residence. The date of his death is unknown. In his will he mentions six children, but he had at least one more (Mary, Mrs. Goode) and possibly he may have had several other children not mentioned in the will. He married Elizabeth Meredith, of a Welsh family established in Virginia in the 17th century. The seven children of whom we have knowledge are:

- (1) Thomas, born 1840, an officer in Revolution
- (2) John, born 1742, a soldier in the Revolution
- Elizabeth I.,
- (4) Frances
- (5) Sally
- (6) Joseph, born 1749, served from Charlotte Co., Va., in Revolution, and in 1783 moved to Edgefield district, S. C. Married 1772 Amy Moseley, born 1757. Among their children was a son, Hillary Moseley, 1783-1849, who married Frances Quarles.
- (7) Mary, who in 1770 married Samuel Goode, of Charlotte county, Va., born 1742. Their son, Philip Goode, lived in Prince Edward county, Va., and his son, Francis Collier Goode, was born in 1811. A descendant of Mary Goode was Dr. G. Brown Goode, deceased, born in Indiana in 1851, an assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institute and author of "Virginia Cousins." He stated that his ancestor, John Collier, served under Braddock and was also in the Revolution.

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October 5, 1730, John Collier, Jr. (2) of Stratton Major Parish in King and Queen county, deeded to Robert Stubblefield, of St. George's Parish, Spottsylvania county, for and in consideration of two tracts of land in King and Queen county, and the said Collier deeds to Stubblefield 800 acres in St. George's Parish, deed bearing date August 22, 1726, granted by patents to John Collier, Jr., June 30, 1726. Witnessed by Thomas Collier. Ann, wife of John Collier, acknowledged her dower. In 1744 John Collier (2) sold 166 acres in Spottsylvania county.

In 1901 the original will of John Collier (2) bearing date of September 26, 1749, was in the possession of a descendant of his eldest son, Thomas, who had married Mary Dabney and settled in Mason county, Ky., on land given him for his services in the Revolution.

- In 1782 a John Collier lived in Surry county, Va.
- In 1782 Joseph Collier lived in Charlotte county
- In 1782 Thomas Collier lived in Charlotte county
- In 1783 John Collier lived in Greenville county, Va.
- In 1783 Myhill Collier is listed
- In 1783 Thomas Collier is listed, also in Greenville county
- In 1785 John Collier is listed in Pittsylvania county
- In 1785 Charles Collier is listed in Prince Edward county.

All of the above were heads of families.

As to Kentucky, the census of 1790 and that of 1800 had been placed in Washington, D. C., for safe keeping, but both were destroyed by the British when they captured the city. A few tax lists and the recording of land grants are all we have, to aid with that early period of Kentucky history. In 1922 a Madison county tax list was found in the basement of the old capitol at Frankfort. In it John Collier is listed as head of a family, with two head of stock, while James Collier was also listed as head of a family, with one head of stock. Women were not listed in that tax list, giving the impression they were of less importance than stock!

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The exact date of the marriage of John Collier, Revolutionary soldier, and Grizelda Taylor, is not known, but it was in 1772 or 1773, presumably the latter year. It occurred in a church at Belle Haven, which my mother believed to be the city of Alexandria, Va. According to the old custom of the Church of England, to which the Taylors belonged, the wedding was solemnized in the early morning, and so the couple and their attendants were on horseback at a very early hour, ready for the ride of twenty miles to the church. The bridesmaid carried on the pommel of her saddle a wicker work basket containing the ruffles and fichu which the bride was to put on, at the end of the long ride. On the road the horse of the maid, alarmed by some wild animal, bolted the road, fortunately without injury to anyone, but the basket was thrown to the ground. In after years Grizelda reproached herself with having more concern for the fate of her wedding finery than for the safety of her bridesmaid. Everything, however, ended happily, the wedding fichu was worn in all its original neatness, the journey home was followed by the customary supper and dance, and then the bride and groom set up housekeeping at a place near by. Later they moved to another part of the county (Culpeper). As previously stated, Grizelda was a daughter of James and Eleanor (Smith) Taylor. She had a brother, David, who my mother said was a soldier of the Revolution; also another brother, Zachary, who was killed in early life by a falling tree; also at least one sister, a Mrs. Adams, who moved from Virginia to Missouri with her family. Probably there were other children. The name Zachary has caused us to believe there might be some connection between this family and that of the one-time president of the United States.

INFORMATION DESIRED CONCERNING GRIZELDA TAYLOR COLLIER and her ancestors. Write to the compiler, Mrs. A. E. Hart (temporary address) 405 1/2 Toledo Street, Los Angeles, Calif., or her brother, Judge O. W. Williams (permanent address) Fort Stockton, Texas.

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War Department, Washington.
The Adjutant General's Office.
July 29, 1926

"The records of this office show that John Collier served as a private in Capt. Thomas Hill's Company, Fifth Virginia, (known also as the Fifth and Eleventh Virginia) Regiment, commanded by Col. William Russell; and also

"in Capt. Thomas Hill's Company, Seventh Virginia Regiment of foot, commanded by Colonel McClenahan, Revolutionary war.

"He enlisted February 13, 1777, to serve for three years or until the end of the war. His name is borne on the rolls to November, 1779, which later contain no further information relative to his service."

Signed, by Brigadier General Wahl, Acting Adj.-General.

Major Thomas Hill served for more than three years, part of the time as captain, and later as major. For this service he was in 1783 given a land grant in Ohio of more than five thousand acres. The King and Queen county court of 1812 shows that three land warrants were sent to the heirs of Thomas Hill, but were not received, so that duplicates were ordered to be made and forwarded. The fact that John Collier enlisted under a captain who evidently lived in King and Queen county indicates that he lived in that part of Virginia, and substantiates the family belief that he came from Hanover county, Va., (in the same part of Virginia as King and Queen county). This seems the more definite, because of a family tradition that in early life he said he lived near the Patrick Henry family and knew Henry himself quite well. There is, against this, somewhat of a seeming discrepancy in the fact that he was married at Belle Haven and lived for a time thereafter in Culpeper county (according to family tradition).

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The part of the Revolutionary war about which John Collier spoke most frequently to his children and grandchildren was the terrible winter at Valley Forge, where he was a private in the Seventh Virginia Regiment, under Col. A. McClanachan and Major John Wet, with Thomas Hill as captain.

The following is quoted along the line of this matter, from "Valley Forge" (1910), by Rev. James W. Riddle, of Philadelphia.

"The troops arrived at Valley Forge, twenty-one miles from Philadelphia, December 19, 1777. With nothing but tents to withstand the rigors of a very severe winter, the soldiers were at once put to work to build log huts, 14x16 feet. Each hut accommodated twelve privates. Officers were not so crowded. The huts were laid out in streets. Straw supported by poles was used for roofs. Straw also was used for bedding for the soldiers' bunks.

"At first 11089 men were encamped at Valley Forge. Camp fever broke out. Small-pox became epidemic. Sickness and death and ~~starvation and~~ desertion reduced the number to 5012.

"June 18, 1778, the men heard the British were evacuating Philadelphia. Washington broke camp and pushed toward Philadelphia, arriving there as the last of the British were crossing the Delaware. June 28, 1778, Washington and his men attacked Clinton at Monmouth in New Jersey."

Whenever John Collier noticed that his children or grandchildren showed the least indication of wastefulness, he at once would reprimand them, telling them of the suffering at Valley Forge, how he had seen soldiers fight for a kernel of corn; how he and others lacked shoes and socks to keep their feet warm, and as they walked in the snow, would leave the marks of blood from their tender, frost-bitten feet; how some of the soldiers had so little clothing that, when they stepped out of their huts, they had to throw their bedding around them. He well remembered Baron Von Steuben, whose striking personality made an indelible impression upon all the privates. Von Steuben spoke English only brokenly, but he spoke it or some other language very forcibly. No one could misunderstand his meaning, for his adjectives were strong and pointed. He saw the men hungry, ill clothed, suffering every privation, yet most of them were unwilling to leave and give up the cause of independence so dear to them. Near by in Philadelphia, where the British and their American Tory friends were stationed, there was plenty of food, plenty of clothing, there was dancing and music and happy times for all, while in this cold and isolated spot a few men were trying to achieve independence for a forlorn cause. While Von Steuben regarded them with admiration and said no cause could fail with such men as that, he yet saw the imperative need of better drilled soldiers and better guns, and he did his part to that end; so well indeed did he aid that Congress recognized his efforts and gave him vast land grants in his old age.

JOHN COLLIER, REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER. †

Although the service of John Collier in the war, as shown on old Revolutionary rolls, appears to be limited to two years and nine months, unquestionably it covered a period much longer than that, extending indeed to the very close of the struggle. Several times he was wounded. Some of the bullets he carried in his body to the grave. Other bullets were placed in the coffin when he was buried. He was present at the battle of the Brandywine and also at Monmouth, N. J., besides various other battles, the names of which are not now known. One of the stories he told his grandchildren was that, when two warring armies were lying on opposite sides of a river (presumably the Delaware) he and some other soldiers floated down the river on driftwood in such a manner as to draw near the opposite shore, where they took possession of a boatload of provisions belonging to the enemy. Using great caution, they managed to work the boat over to the American side, where their comrades were in great need of supplies. Once in battle he was struck by a bullet that he at first thought had finished him. When he recovered from the shock and hunted out the damage, he found that the bullet had struck squarely on the front of the large silver coin that he wore as a top button on the fly of his trousers. There was no damage beyond the heavy blow. He told his children that he was present at the dissolution of the army. He recalled how the veterans showed very deep emotion. Their tears run freely down over unshaved faces to lodge on ragged, dirty shirts.

During his long absence at the war, John Collier's wife and children had suffered keenly. The treatment by Hessians of women and children in Virginia was so cruel that many families were forced to abandon their homes and seek safety in the mountains to the west and southwest. Among these families were the Colliers. Grizelda and her children fled hastily to what is now East Tennessee and sought a temporary refuge in Powell's valley. Here, freed from the Hessians, they found themselves at the mercy of the Indians. They had no money and no means of support. In his visits home John Collier brought such money as the government paid him, but it was too meager to aid greatly, so Grizelda, who was a famous spinner, began to earn a livelihood for her children by such tasks. In her Virginia home she had live stock and stored provisions, but these were left behind under a hasty departure. In her hour of need she turned to the preparing and selling of homespun garments. It was a difficult and illy-paid task. She also raised a few sheep and traded finished garments for wool or cotton or flax. She sowed flax and harvested it, but to break and pull it was very difficult, at times too heavy a job for a woman. Here again she traded finished garments for labor. Once she hired two Irishmen to pull flax. In order to insure that they did good work, she worked with them so as to set the pace. But the work was so back-breaking that she was glad (so she said) of an excuse to quit when word was brought to her that one of the children had been slightly burnt and she was needed in the cabin.

These little incidents are mentioned for a reason: Occasionally some \$10,000 a year desk-sitter claims that there was little or no

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sacrifice by the men and women of Revolutionary times. It is well to read accounts of that struggle and hear the family traditions that have been carried down, which (without the least exaggeration) show that in all our history there was never a time of such stress and hardship as the years of 1776-1783.

The people for whom Grizelda spun the fabrics did not live close together in a little town, but each family had its own separate "clearing." It required time and labor to bring to her door the wool or flax, and to carry back the coat or dress. At one time a neighbor came to her home and asked her to spin some garments, intending to aid in the fashioning, but a disagreement arose, and the woman left in anger, saying that unless Mrs. Collier finished the work by the following day she would not be paid for it. This was a serious matter, so Grizelda sat up all night in order to finish the spinning. Her son, John, Jr., had to sit up all night also to keep going the light of the pine knots, so that she could see to work. He dropped off to sleep, fell into the fire, and burned his arms, but not seriously. The next morning he was sent with the spinning to the home of the woman. He was instructed to go around the mountain, rather than the shorter route over it. But John, weary from the night's vigil and sore from the pain in the arm, disobeyed, and went over the mountain, threw the spinning in at the neighbor's door, and ran back.

Because of the quickness of John's trip and because he brought back no word from the neighbor, the mother decided to go to the home herself. As the quickest route, she too went over the mountain, only to find that the woman had started around the mountain to see her about the matter. So then she returned home around the mountain, only to find that the neighbor had gone back over the mountain hoping to meet her. But that was not the only feature of the incident. On her way back around the mountain she carried a sack of potatoes, which she greatly needed as food for her children. This sack of potatoes was her pay for the job. Soon she found that a great black bear was following her. To drive him away, she threw a potato at him. The bear grabbed and ate the potato, then ran after her anew. So she then began to throw potatoes, for the bear to run after, while she gained some headway toward home. So potato by potato, she felt her load growing lighter. Finally the bear took to the brush, leaving her with a pitifully small number of potatoes as pay for her work. This incident shows not only the hardships of those days, but also the element of humor glossing over grim trials. Had not Grizelda seen the humor of the incident beneath its tragedy, she would not have repeated the story so often to her children and grandchildren.

JOHN COLLIER, REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.

Throughout life Grizelda had a reputation as an excessively neat housekeeper. It was said of her that she not only kept her house spotlessly clean, but that every few days she could be seen treating the stumps of trees in her yard to a heavy dose of soap and water. Her explanation of this was that the stumps were used as chopping blocks on which game was cut up for the kitchen and she felt it was sanitary that they should be cleaned. Also, she scrubbed the stiles so that her skirts would not be soiled in stepping over them (in those days the skirts were long).

After his discharge from the army at the close of the Revolutionary war, John Collier attempted to find his wife and children. He joined a group of discharged soldiers who made their way over the Alleghenies and then down the Ohio river by boat to Kentucky. There he fell ill and for some time he was in a serious condition at Bryant's Station (near the present site of Lexington). On his recovery he started back along the Boone trail, to join his family in Powell's valley. Meanwhile some traveler from Kentucky had returned to Virginia and en route had stopped to tell Grizelda that her husband was nigh unto death at Bryant's Station. Hastily she put her children out among neighbors and joined a group of armed emigrants going into Kentucky by a different road. When she finally reached Bryant's Station, it was only to be told that her husband had recovered and started for Powell's Valley. She was obliged to remain at Bryant's Station nearly three months before she found an opportunity to join an armed party going back over the dangerous road to her starting point. The husband and wife were finally reunited. For some years after the war they lived in Virginia, where their son, Charles, was born in 1786. Shortly after this they moved to Kentucky and settled in what is now Roceastle county. From there he went north in 1791 as a volunteer in Indian warfare.

It was a proof of the patriotism of John Collier that, when almost fifty years of age, he left his Kentucky home to again aid his country as a soldier. In 1791 he served as a sergeant in Capt. Jacob Tipton's Company, Col. William Darke's First Regiment of U. S. Levies, in General St. Clair's army, and took part in the battle of St. Clair's defeat.

William Darke (born 1736 Philadelphia, died 1801 Jefferson county, Va. -) had been taken prisoner in the battle of Germantown, was held some time, and on being exchanged in 1780 raised a company in Hampshire and Berkeley counties, Va., then was colonel of militia at Yorktown. He was a soldier of splendid qualities, and he it was who commanded the First Regiment in Ohio in 1791, when John Collier fought under him.

JOHN COLLIER, REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.

At the time of the Indian uprising, General Arthur St. Clair (1735-1818) was sent by the government of the United States to reduce the Indians to submission and stop their depredations. The army assembled at Cincinnati under St. Clair. The regular force amounted to 2300. The militia numbered 600. With this army St. Clair started for the Indian towns on the Maumee. Two forts, Harrison and Jefferson, were started on the road forty miles from each other.. Soon after leaving Fort Jefferson some of the militia deserted in a body. The first regiment was ordered to pursue them and also to secure the advancing convoys of provisions. Thus weakened by desertion, St. Clair neared the Indian villages.

November 3, 1791, near the line of what is now Darke and Mercer counties, he halted intending to await the return of the absent regiments. On the following morning, one-half hour before sunrise, the American army was attacked by Indians. Upwards of 600 men were killed. Many were seriously injured, among the latter being John Collier.

The Indians were led by Blue Jacket, Little Turtle and the famous renegade, Simon Girty, and from the onset the odds were against the whites. During the battle British officers in full uniform were seen on the field. It is supposed they had come from Detroit to encourage their savage friends. Such of the army as was not killed or injured began a retreat, which soon degenerated into a rout. After pursuing for a short distance, the Indians returned to scalp the dead. Several of the whites they burned at the stake. In June of 1793 a large detachment was sent out by the government to bury the bleaching bones at the scene of St. Clair's defeat. At this time and place Fort Recovery was built.

At St. Clair's defeat, John Collier was a sergeant in Capt. Jacob Tipton's Co., Col. William Darke's First Regiment of U. S. Levies. Col. Darke commanded the left wing of the army when Indians were making a desperate onset and the whites were falling in heaps. St. Clair ordered Drake to charge with bayonets. He drove the enemy back, but being short of riflemen could not continue the pursuit and the Indians soon again penetrated to the camp. He started to make a second charge with some success, but a concentrated effort could not be made and many officers fell, among them being his own son, Capt. Joseph ~~xxxx~~ Darke, mortally wounded. The retreat soon commenced. Darke arrived that evening at Fort Jefferson, thirty miles away, with his wounded son whom he had brought on horseback from the battlefield. He urged an immediate attack on the Indians, declaring that, in the flush of their victory, they could easily be beaten by the whites, but his advice was overruled. This was the last battle in which the old Revolutionary soldier, John Collier, ever took part, and it left an indelible impression upon his mind, by reason of his own serious wounds as well as the absolute defeat of the whites.

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Department of Interior,
Bureau of Pensions,
Washington, D. C.
September 24, 1925.

"I have to advise you that from the papers in the pension claim W 8624 it appears that John Colyer (Collier), while residing in Virginia, served as a soldier of the Virginia line, war of the Revolution, date of service and names of officers not stated.

"Also, he served as sergeant in Capt. Jacob Tipton's Company, Col. William Darke's First Regiment of U. S. Levies in 1791 in Gen. St. Clair's army, was at the battle of St. Clair's defeat. He was allowed pension from September 4, 1791, on account of disability in this service, the nature of which is not stated.

"In 1821 he was living in Lincoln county, Kentucky. He died March 31, 1826, in Rockcastle county, Ky.

"He married 1772 or 1773 in Virginia Grizzy, her maiden name not given. She was allowed pension on account of his services in the Revolution, on her application executed November 4, 1843, while living in Rockcastle county, Ky., aged about 90 years.

"They had several children, no names stated except that of William, the eldest. The name of the soldier's father is not given."

(Signed by) Winfield Scott, Commissioner.

In personal appearance John Collier was a tall, bony man of fair complexion, blue eyes and black hair. In temperament he was impetuous, too much so for his own good. As a result of having too much sympathy for the losing side, he was often in personal trouble. On one occasion, passing down a road, he came on a fight between a robust young man and a frail, elderly man. Immediately he took the field against the young man, whom he worsted. When summoned before a magistrate, he was unable to state the origin of the fight, nor could he give any reason for his own action, beyond the difference in strength between the two combatants.

March 31, 1826, the Revolutionary soldier, having fought his last battle and having been defeated by the great enemy, Death, passed from earth. He was buried in the Renfro burying ground, now called the McClary cemetery, five miles northwest of Mount Vernon, Rockcastle county, Ky. The burying ground is a large deserted spot and a search for any grave therein is most difficult. Over the last resting place of John and Grizelda Collier, it is said that there was originally a large stone, with their names inscribed thereon, but no such stone can now be found. They were, however, buried in the same lot where afterward their son, John, was buried, and the stone that still stands over his grave offers testimony for the belief that all remaining of their bodies lies near by. The pension granted him after his injuries at St. Clair's defeat was only a total of \$60, not a monthly grant. But in 1843 his widow received a grant of \$8 a month, but the following year she died and the pension

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never reached a total of \$100. Her death was caused by a fall down the stairs. This had caused the death of her mother, Eleanor Smith Collier, and the same kind of an accident proved fatal to her granddaughter, Mrs. Susan Sargeant.

When Grizelda applied for a pension her son, Charles, and other members of her family stoutly opposed the plan, calling it "blood money," but she herself saw no harm in it. Small as the sum was and brief as was the period in which she received it, I for one am thankful that she had it, and I hope it brought her a few well earned comforts in the last months of her life. Strange to say, though reared in the faith of the Church of England, she had no Family Bible. It is said that she kept the birthdays of every member of her family.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND GRIZELDA (TAYLOR) COLLIER.

There were nine children in the family of John and Grizelda Collier and all but one of these (a twin of Dorcas) lived to maturity and married.

(1) WILLIAM COLLIER, the eldest, born 1774 in Virginia, served in the war of 1812. Married 1807 Martha Adams, his first cousin, her mother being a sister of Grizelda Taylor Collier. This aunt, moving from Virginia to Missouri, remained one summer with her sister in Rockcastle county, Ky., and the marriage was a result of that visit. Some years after they married William and Martha moved to a farm near Cynthiana, Harrison county, Ky., where his nephew, William Graves Collier, visited him in 1848. He was still living then, but his name does not appear in the census of 1850 for Harrison county. I find, however, an Abram Collier, (perhaps his son) listed as born in Kentucky in 1812, (age 38 years), wife Emily age 36, farmers; their children, William Collier, born 1843; James Collier, born 1845, and Mary Collier, born 1848.

It would be a gratification to get trace of the descendants of this William Collier, and Martha Adams, his wife.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND GRIZELDA TAYLOR COLLIER.

(2) ELIZABETH (EBETSY) COLLIER, born 1776, married a Jackson and settled near Fort Madison, Indiana. Nothing is known concerning her or her descendants. Information would be welcomed.

(3) JAMES COLLIER, born in Virginia about 1780, married a Miss Hyatt. They had a son, John H., born in 1812. James was a private in the war of 1812. About 1825 he and his second wife, Amanda, were living in Frankfort, Ky., since which all trace of them has been lost.

The son of the first marriage, John H. Colyer, according to the 1860 census, was a teacher in the schools of Mount Vernon, Ky. He was then 48 years old. He and his wife, Mary J. (44 years old) had the following children.

Elizabeth Colyer, 25 years old in 1860
 Charles Colyer, 22
 Willis Colyer, 18
 Mary Colyer, 15
 Isabella Colyer, 12
 Louis Colyer, 9
 Samuel Colyer, 7
 Martha Colyer, 5 years old.

(4) JOHN COLLIER, Jr., my grandfather, born in Virginia, July 4, 1782.

(5) ELIJAH COLLIER, date and place of birth unknown. He married Lucy Graves, a sister of Susan Graves, wife of his brother John. Elijah Collier and wife settled at Fort Madison, Indiana. After three children had been born to them, his wife, Lucy, died. About 1830 he married a Miss Howe. Since then all trace of the family has been lost, nor am I even positive as to the exact location of the Old Fort Madison, which like them has disappeared from history.