

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Leonard Clayborne R1956

f8SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/11/10: rev'd 11/6/21 fo

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

South Carolina Greenville District

On this 4th day of November 1818 before me the Subscriber one of the associate Justices of the court of common pleas & general Sessions of the said State personally appeared Leonard Claiborn aged fifty-six years resident in Greenville district in the State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law did on his oath declare (in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war"), that he the said Leonard Claiborn enlisted in Rutherford County in the State of North Carolina in the summer (he thinks) of the year 1777 in the company commanded by Captain John Bowie of South Carolina Infantry (an independent company on the Continental establishment); that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the 11th day of June 1780 when he was regularly & honorably discharged at White Hall in South Carolina; that he was in no principle engagement, except the siege of Savannah, being generally stationed at fort independence on the frontier of this State, and that he served were frequently in the Indian nation, & was in several skirmishes with the Indians; And that he is infirm, in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support –

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me

S/ Richard Gantt

S/ Leonard Clayborn



I do hereby certify that about three years before the 11th day of June 1780 I enlisted Leonard Clayborne a private Soldier in Captain John Bowie's Independent Company of South Carolina Infantry on the Continental Establishment, that on the said 11th day of June 1780 he was regularly discharged having faithfully served from the time of his Enlistment until that day. Given under my hand this 3rd day of November 1818.

S/ Samuel Earle¹

¹ [Samuel Earle S21174](#)

I do hereby certify that about three
Year before the Eleventh day of June
Seventeen Hundred and Eighty
I enlisted Leonard Clayborne
a private Soldier in Capt. John
Bowie's Independent Company
of S^c Carolina Infantry on the
Continental establishment that
on the said eleventh day of June
1780 he was regularly discharged
having faithfully served from
the time of his enlistment un-
til that day given under my
hand this 3^d day of November
1788
James Earle

[Note: in the file of John Brownlow [[John Brownlow R1358](#)], the following letter is found relating to Clayborne and his service. I could not find any explanation for why this letter was placed in the Brownlow file and not in this file.]

[p 13]

My Dear Sir Beaverdam 29th July 1820 [could be 29th Jany 1820]

Tutt's [Benjamin Tutt's] & Bowie's [John Bowie] Companies originally belonged to the 5th South Carolina Provincial Regiment Commanded by Colonel Isaac Huger & as well as I recollect about the 5th of February 1777 the Regiment was placed on the Continental Establishment when these two companies were detached from the Regiment & a new one raised commanded by Captain John Moore they were called Independent Companies & were to consist of 100 men each they were detached from the line at a particular Instance of Mr. John Rutledge who was then Governor & by whom the Officers were commissioned and under whose immediate command and the Succeeding Governors of the State we continued to act until the end of the war & such General Officers as we were occasionally ordered to obey, when we were taken from the line we were promised and did Actually receive the same Bounty of Money & Land, Rations, pay and Cloathing as the Continental man & Officers received subject to the same Articles of War and liable to march to any part of the Continent where we might be ordered by the Commander in Chief which was the case at the Siege of Savannah & on different Occasions after the Indians on the frontier of Georgia. We considered ourselves to all Intents and purposes on the Continental establishment but by being taken from the line. We lost our ranks in it and

were in rank in the Companies only, and as an incontestable proof that we were considered so by the Continental Officers, Captain Bowie's Company was on duty once in Charleston, one of the men transgressed, he ordered a Ct Martial but there being only the other Lieutenant and myself he applied to the Captain of the 3rd South Carolina Continental Regiment who sent a Lt Called West of that Regiment to make up a court, upon the whole were my circumstances such as to warrant an application for a pension I should consider myself much better Entitled to it than many who got it. As to this particular man Clayborne I know nothing of his circumstances but this I know I enlisted him when I did so I promised him all that the Continental Soldiers received agreeable to my recruiting orders, these things he did receive until the end of the war, this I also know that for the three years he served there was not in the American Army a more obedient soldier. I believe I can safely say he was never once under Guard, at the expiration of the three years he was with myself and a number of others including Colonel Pickens' Regiment of 400 men surrendered by General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] the commanding General to General Cunningham & Captain Pearis at White Hall in Abbeville District. This statement which I am sure is a correct one you are at liberty to make use of as you please which with best wishes for a continuation of your health concludes me, yours very truly,

S/ Samuel Earle