

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Clark (Clarke) R1965
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Catharine Clark VA

State of Georgia }
County of Gilmer } On this 3rd day of June A.D. One thousand Eight Hundred and fifty three
Before me [Moses Greer] Ordinary within and for the County and State aforesaid in open Court
personally appeared Catharine Clark aged 80 years a resident of the County of Gilmer and State of
Georgia who makes oath and says that she is the widow of John Clark deceased who was a Revolutionary
Soldier of the State of Virginia, and that he was at the Battle of Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780], and several
other battles not recollected, and continued in actual service about seven years. That the said John Clark
died in the County of Henderson and state of North Carolina on the 31st day of October, A.D. 1845. She
further states that she was married to the said John Clark in the County of Wilkes and State of Georgia on
the 15th day of march Seventeen Hundred and Ninety seven by one (name not recollected) a Justice of the
Peace and that her name before her said marriage was Catharine Ransom, and that there are Eight
Children of the said John Clark now living whose names are as follows Lucy, John, Sarah, George,
William, Martha Ann, Rebecca and Thomas J Clark. The only surviving children of the said John Clark
deceased. That her husband never drew a Pension, and that she is still a widow She further more by
these Presents constitutes and appoints irrevocably William R. Query of the County of Union and State of
Georgia her true and lawful Attorney [rest of the power of attorney not transcribed]

Catharine herXmark Clark

Richmond Dec'r. 1st 1853

I hereby certify that it appears from a List on file in this department, of Soldiers of the Virginia
Line on Continental Establishment who have received certificates for the balance of their full pay
agreeably to an act of Assembly passed November session 1781 that John Clarke a Sergeant of Infantry
received on the tenth of Dec'r. 1783 £16.18.5 and that he subsequently recieved a warrant for four
hundred acres of land.

George W. Munford/ Sec'y of the Com'ttee.

State of North Carolina }
Henderson County } On this 29 day of July AD. One Thousand Eight Hundred and
fifty four, before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid,
personally appeared James Hamblen, a resident of Henderson County in the State of North Carolina and
who is reputable and every way entitled to credit who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth
and saith on oath, that he has been personally acquainted with John Clark, Sen'r. for the space of Forty
five years or more during which period the said John Cark was always considered and reputed by all his
acquaintances as a Soldier who had served in the Revolutionary War from the State of Virginia. And
deponent further states that he has frequently heard David Burk and Reuben Johnson two Revolutionary
Soldiers often say that they were personally acquainted with the said John Clarke in the Revolutionary
War, and that they saw him in the service of the united States, and in the Battle at Kings Mountain, and
that he subsequently served a three months tour against the Indians in said War, and deponent further
states, that during the period above named he was well acquainted with Catharine Clarke (who is the
Widow of the said John Clarke) who now claims a pension and that the said John Clarke and Catharine
Clarke always lived together as husband and wife, and the fact of their being married never was called in
question by their acquaintances, and that they resided and raised their family in about three miles of the
place where deponent now lives, and deponent further states that he is in no wise interested in the
prosecution of said claim to a pension, and that he always heard it said that they were married and never

heard it contradicted.

[signed] James Hamblen

State of North Carolina }
 County of Henderson } On this 12st day of August A.D. One thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty four before me James Hamblen a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared, Rebecca King aged 65 years a resident of the County of Henderson in the State of North Carolina who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that she saw John Clarke married to Catharine Ransom (now Catharine Clarke) the identical John Clarke in whose right said Catharine Clarke now claims a pension. That he is the same John Clarke who moved from the County of Wilks in the State of Georgia (in which County he was married to the said Catharine Ransom) to the County of Buncombe (now Henderson) in the State of North Carolina about the year 1799 and that he resided in the place where he first settled until his family was raised up, and died within two miles of the old place and was buried on the same.. Deponent further states that said John Clarke was married to the said Catharine Ransom on the 9th day of March, in the year seventeen Hundred and ninety Eight in the County of Wilks in the State of Georgia at the House of said John Clark by one — Calton a Justice of peace and that they lived together as husband and wife, until his death and that said Catharine Clarke moved in company with her Son in Law Coonrod Low to the State of Georgia and that she always heard it said that said John Clarke was a Revolutionary Soldier from the State of Virginia. And that she is disinterested

Rebecca herRmark King

Carticay Ga/ March 23rd 1855

Dear Sir [L. P. Waldo, Commissioner of Pensions]/ I would Respectfully enquire of you Respecting my Mother Catharine Clarks claim to Penson in Right of my fathers services John Clark in the Revolutionary War. My Mother made out her claim and filed it Through the agency of Mess Query & Walker in 1853 and as I thought made all the necessary proofs among which was the Testimony of Respectable Witnesses who knew my father a half Century ago, and Identified him to be a Revolutionary Soldier Besides this was furnished the Testomony of Mrs King of North Carolina who was present at the Marrarraige of my Parents; also was forwarded a Certificat from the Camtroler Genral of Virginia proving that he Drew Bounty Land in that State for his sevice in said war, and it does seem to me that the Claim should be allowed under such proofs

And farther than this I would say that there is frequently letters comeing to her from Persons in different sections of the Country offering their services as agents stateing that they have Receive letters from Washington City that the claim was estalished proofs all sufficient and the Money Ready and if she would forward a Power of Attorney to some agent at Washington City he could Draw the Money and send it to her at once. Under such a statement of facts I am induced to think very strange, and believe that the Claim is held back for some speculative of swindling Purpose, to You as Commissioner or to my Mother as claimant, and Respectfully ask you to examine the case and inform me what is the Hindering cause and why it is that the Claim is not allowed an Answer from You at your earliset Convenience Touching the Matter in full will very much oblige me This I have Don at the Request of My Mother

I am Dear Sir Very Respectfully Your obt Ser't./ Thomas J. Clarke

State of Georgia }
 County of Gilmer } On this 15th day of May A.D. One Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty five, Personally appeared before me Ebinezer Fain a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Reuben Holloway aged 94 years a Resident of Gilmer County in the State of Georgia, who being duly Sworn according to law Deposeth and Saith that he was in the Military Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, that Deponent went in the Service as a Waiting Boy Cook &c when he was about 13 years of age, and then a Resident of Spartenburg [sic: Spartanburg] District in the State of

South Carolina. And was well acquainted with John Clark deceased who was a Seargant in the American Army in Said War that Deponent was a Cook &c in the same Mess, with the said John Clark and was at the Battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] and that Deponent was in Company with said Clark at other places the names of which is not now Recollected that Deponent first became acquainted with the said Clark in the edge of the State of Virginia, before he was in the Army and that he has knew the said John Clarks Residence ever since the close fo the said War, up to the time of his death and that this same Identicle John Clark was the Husband of Catharine Clark who is an applicant to pension a Resident of Gilmer County in the State of Georgia, and they the said John Clark and Catharine Clark were always Considered lawfully man and wife and were always Reputed so to be, and that Deponent never heard anything to the contrary, and Deponent further states that the above named John Clark was after the said War allowed four Hundred Acres of Bounty Land while a Resident of the State of Virginia and that Deponent is not interested in the Claim of Catharine Clark to pension,

[signed] Reubin Holloway

NOTES:

The records of five soldiers named John Clark and of three named John Clarke appear in the [online Revolutionary bounty-warrant files in the Library of Virginia](#), but none of them could be identified as the Sgt. John Clark or Clarke in the above application, nor could I find the record for the Sgt. John Clarke said to have received a warrant for 400 acres. Bounty land was granted by Virginia only to soldiers in the Continental or State service. Americans at the Battle of Kings Mountain were militiamen. In addition, it would have been extraordinary for Reubin Holloway from South Carolina to have been a messmate with a soldier from another state. No pension application could be found for Holloway or the others who claimed to have been Revolutionary soldiers.

On 24 May 1855 Catharine Clark stated that she married John Clark “on or about the 9th day of March A.D. 1798 as stated in her former Declaration.”