

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Clark R2003

VA [PA]

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Illinois

Greene County Ss

On this 22nd day of January 1833 personally appeared before the judges of the county commissioners court a court of record in the said county of Green John Clark a resident of the Carrollton election precinct in the county of Greene and State of Illinois aged sixty eight years on the 12th day of August next who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

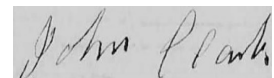
That he entered the service of the united states as a volunteer he thinks it was in the year 1778 or 1779 which he cannot recollect but he is confident it was one of these years. That from this time till 1782 he was frequently out in the public service as a volunteer to repel and guard against the incursions of the Wiandotts & Shawnese [sic: Wyandotte and Shawnee] indians who frequently invaded that part of the country in which this deponent lived which was then called Ohio county in the North Western part of Pennsylvania now Virginia ten miles West of the town of Washington in Pennsylvania. [See endnote.] That this deponent was too young to be enrolled in any Company of Militia but when he went into actual service as a volunteer he mostly went with Captain Timothy Downings Company of Col. Williamsons [David Williamson's] Regiment. That the people of the Country who volunteered for service were distributed about in small parties who reconitered the Country to ascertain the movement of the Indians, to hunt their trails & follow, & to give notice to the inhabitants of their movements. This deponent says that this kind of service was frequent with him as a volunteer. That he was in Teeters' fort on the waters of Buffaloe Creek in Ohio County then supposed to be in Pennsylvania, but since ascertained to be in Virginia [sic: see endnote], for upward of six months during the years of 1778 & 1779. That the danger from the Indians became so threatening from the frequent massacre of the Indians, that the people of the Country found it necessary to take refuge in the forts and military stations of the country. That during this time he was under the command of Captain Samuel Teeters [sic: Samuel Teeter] of the Riflemen. That this deponent with his associates made frequent expeditions out from the fort into the adjacent Country. This deponent thinks that he assisted to defend a military post formed by the Militia called Dadridges fort [probably John Doddridge's Blockhouse; see endnote] in said Ohio County during the years of 1779 & 1780. That he was in this fort for several months he cannot recollect the exact time under the command of Captain Samuel Teeters. In the year 1781 this deponent was with Captain Timothy Downing at a military post in the same county about twelve miles from the ohio river [see endnote], where they remained for several months & from which they often went out in scouting parties.

That on the 26th day of May 1782 he thinks it was, that he & others with Captain Downing at their head rendezvoused on the Mingoe bottom [sic: Mingo Bottom] about eighteen miles above the present scite of Wheeling in Virginia, on the north west side of the Ohio river, where we joined others amounting to about 489 rank & file, under the command of Col. [William] Crawford. We marched across the present state of Ohio to the Sandusky Plains. That on the fifth day of June the Indian forces were about five hundred consisting principally of the Wyandotts and Shawnese & made their attack about two oClock P.M. Colonel Williamson was the second in Command and was very anxious to obtain Col. Crawford permission to charge the enemy on horseback; but it was denied him. We occupied a strip of timber on the west side of a small prairie & the indians occupied the timber land on the East side of said Prairie about fifty yards from us the engagement with occasional cessations was kept up to the second day in the night; we were broken by the rush of the Indians upon us. It was supposed that the indians had

discovered our preparation to retreat & as they were reinforced & much more numerous than we were, perhaps about three to our one, we broke & fled, Col. Crawford was taken prisoner & put to death by the Indians in a cruel manner. This deponent retreated with Col. Williamson with about one hundred & fifty men who kept in a body; the next day about eleven O'Clock this deponent, James Allen & Robert McBride of his neighborhood were in advance of the main body & passed through a piece of timber for a about a quarter of a mile. we had proceeded through the timber without suspecting danger but when the main body got into the timber they were attacked; but they kept up a regular & orderly retreat without much loss & were not pursued beyond the timber. During the skirmish Capt. Downing above named killed The half Moon a principle chief of the Shawnese he thinks. This deponent & his two associates were prevented from joining the main body by the Indians between us. We continued our retreat upon ascertaining that we could not join our main body. In the course of the afternoon met with capt [John] Hoagland who he thinks lived in the neighborhood of Redstone now Brownsville in Pennsylvania. The next day we four marched together till in the night on the trail of an Indian march; as we afterward learned. They had taken some of our shod horses & rode them which led us to suppose it to be the trail of our own party. Finding that in crossing a creek before dark that the stones were wet on the bank from the splashing of the water we concluded that we were within a short distance of them, & continued our pursuit for an hour after dark, when we discovered in the wood a few rods of us a fire. Captain Hoagland showed a determination to go to the fire. I requested & entreated not to go. He hailed them & enquired "who is there." The answer was, friend, with the indian pronounciation as this deponent thought, & he so expressed himself to Captain Hoagland; & he proceeded toward their fire & observing no one near the fire, He hesitated in his advance, when some one from the Indian company in good English exclaimed, Captain Hoagland is that you, he answered yes & proceeded to the fire when he was instantly shot, and there was a general discharge of 60 or 100 guns in our direction but without any harm to either of the party we soon got together & abandoning our horses kept on our way toward home. on the seventh day after our retreat we reached the mingoe bottom on the Ohio the place where we started. this expedition occupied several weeks but how many this deponent can't recollect. That soon after his return he went as a volunteer under Col. Williamson with a body of seventy or eight men for a few days down the Ohio River in pursuit of a body of Indians who were said to have crossed the river below. This deponent can safely say that the time he was in actual service during the time of the American Revolution was more than one year

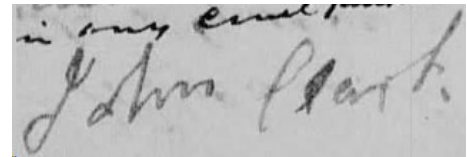
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. This deponent also says that his service ended only with the war of the revolution. He removed from the place of his residence in Virginia in 1784 into Kentucky near Danville where he resided for about a year & then removed into Fayette County near Lexington where he remained about seven years & then went into Bourbon County, where he stayed near three years & thence went into Fleming County where he remained about three years & then went into Champaign County in Ohio where he resided with his family eleven or twelve years & then removed to the State of Illinois into Madison County This he thinks was about the year 1809 where he resided nine or ten years & then went into Morgan County in which he thinks he resided about ten years & three years next spring he removed into Green County where he now resides.

This deponent says that he has no documentary evidence to support his claim. He never received any discharge from any officer under whom he served in writing his discharges all having been verbal. He never served with the regular troops & has no witness in this country to prove his services. He has no written record of his birth or age. He was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania and removed in his infancy into Ohio County Virginia He was born as he has always understood 12th August 1765. He can refer to Franklin Perry James Turney [two illegible words] as men who are acquainted with me & can testify to my good character & my reputation as a soldier of the revolution



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John Clark the applicant for a pension above named being duly sworn doth depose and say that according to his best recollection & belief he served the United States during the revolutionary war two years as a private soldier and that said service was performed under militia officers of the State of Pennsylvania regularly Commissioned & that when he entered the service it was under such officers who were regularly called into the service as he understood by public authority; but of this fact he has no proof nor does he know how to obtain it & short of a journey into the country in which he served. He has not the income to pay the expense of this inquiry; nor does he know that such proof could be obtained and this deponent also says that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory & from his youth when some of his services were performed he cannot state particuly or precisely the time & length of his service; nor can he undertake from the causes aforesaid to specify the manner of his service more particularly than he has done in the foregoing declaration except as to the whole time he undertakes to say [illegible word] that he knows at least two years in all and from the causes aforesaid can he add to the preceding declaration as to the names of the officers he served under or any other material particular & that during his military service he was not engaged in any civil pursuit
Subscribed & sworn in open court the 3^d. day of June 1833

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "John Clark". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

NOTES:

The area where Clark lived and performed much of his service was claimed by Virginia at the time, but was later found to be in southwest Pennsylvania. His residence 12 mi W of Washington in present PA would have been near present Acheson in Washington County PA. Capt. Samuel Teeter's Fort on the waters of Buffalo Creek was just over 2 mi W of present West Middletown PA. John Doddridge's Blockhouse was about 3 mi W of West Middletown. (<http://www.northamericanforts.com/East/pa-west.html>). The third fort mentioned must also have been in PA, since no part of Ohio County [present WV] is 12 mi from the Ohio River.

John Clark's pension for two years service was dated 22 Aug 1833 and last collected on 4 Sep 1840. On 18 Jan 1855 Absalom Clark assigned power of attorney to obtain the uncollected amount and any increase in the pension that had been awarded to his father, John Clark. This claim was rejected, probably because of insufficient proof of the marriage of his parents. It was certified that John Clark died on 13 Sep 1844, leaving a widow, Polly (Mary) Clark, and the following children: Absalom Clark, Nancy Askins, Rebecca Wallingsford, and Myranda or Miranda Bryan. It was also certified that his widow, Mary Clark, died in Scott County IL on 2 April 1846, that Nancy Askins resided in Paris TX, that Rebecca Wallingsford resided in Muscatine County IA, and that Miranda Bryan resided in Warren County IA.

In the file is what appears to be one page of a private letter that was apparently submitted as evidence of marriage, transcribed as follows:

"... thare office[page torn]n Jacksonvil and perhaps you may be abel to find them at Smith offis and he had the manag of hardones bisnuse benajmin took the Bibel with the famley record John Clarke was borne august the 12 day 1765. Mary Clarke was borne June the 9 day 1763 father dide September the 13 day 1844 mary Clark Died Aprile the 2 day 1846 now you can act as you please if thare is noalteation in the Cause it will be a hard case if hardon and Smith could not git it it distres mother to think she could not draw it She thaut She was a burdon to us and I had to try every way to comfort her maney times with tares in my eyes to se hur try to tak and tell me war aboutes she was maried but hur toung could not tell you can act for mirandey and dow the best you can I could doy nothing benjmin was present with ous at Jacksonvill the time she aplied of it I now turne to some thing else Cropes was verey good in this

country wheat both fall and Spring wheat was good oates good and corne is first rat in this part of the country I have corne that will make 80 Busheles to the acor and sod[?] corne that will mak 50 Busheles to the acore corne is worth 25 to 30 pr B wheat Spring 80 cts to 90 cts fall 1 dollar porke will be worth from 4\$ to 5\$ per hundred the emigration is virrey large this fall and land is raising verrey fast land I could have bout last summer at 4000 thousand dollars hase sold for six thousand I have nothin strang to rite to you at preasant but shall remain youre brother and sister till death Rite to me when ever you can from

Jacob Bryan to Abslom Clark
Miranday Bryan and famley