

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Clay R2029 Melison Clay VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Tennessee }
Rutherford County } County Court August term 1832

On this 23rd day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Henry Trott, James C Mitchell and V. D Cowen Esqrs Justices of said Court John Clay a resident of said County aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. That he in August 1777 in Petersburg State of Virginia entered the service of the U States under Capt Joseph Jones, and Leut Burchet. He entered the service as follows – The company to which he belonged of the Militia of Dinwiddie County, was classed from one to ten, and he was in the first class, and the first call for troops, No 1, 2 & 3 which included this declarant. He rendezvoused at Petersburg and was marched to Williamsburg, where he joined Genl [Thomas] Nelson, Col. Nelson and Maj. Mathews. At this place a detachment of one hundred and twenty men, under the command of Capt Joseph Jones, and Rich'd Jones [Richard Jones], was detached from the corps that lay at Williamsburg, and was marched from Williamsburg to York, and Hampton, and then to Portsmouth – when he was discharged, after a service of three months. He got no written discharge. The 14th February 1778 he was drafted and rendezvoused at Petersburg under Lt. John Scott, and was marched to Williamsburg, and there joined the 1st and 2nd Virginia State Regiments. He recollects that there was in this command two Capts by the name of Dudley. He was marched with these troops, from Williamsburg, to Fredericksburg – and then to Tawney Town [sic: Taneytown MD] – then to Logtown, then to Lancaster, then to little york [York PA], and then to Valley forge, and there joined the main army under the command of Genl Washington. He was attached on his arrival at Valley forge to Capt Peter Jones Company, Leut David Walker and Ensign Bernal Green [sic: Burwell Green]. and this company belonged to the 14th Virginia Regiment under the Command of Col. William Davis [sic: William Davies], and Maj [Samuel Jordan] Cabell. The whole Army was marched to Monmoth in Jersie [sic: Monmouth NJ] – and he was in the battle fought at that place 28 June 1778. From this he was marched with the Army to West Point. Here he was detailed to attend the sick at the Hospitel at West Point by Doct Thacker. He remained in this service one or two months and the Army was marched to Middlebrook, where they went into Winter Quarters, and he accompanyd the sick with Doct Thacker to Windsor, and Madders Town. He remained here until in January 1779, and the sick having recovered, they were ordered to join the Army at Middlebrook, and he was in company with Thacker and the convallecents, some [illegible word], and on the 14th February this declarant was discharged by Capt Winston. He returned home, through Phledelphia [sic: Philadelphia], and to the head of Elk [now Elkton MD], and then to Williamsburg and then to Petersburg. Towards the last of March 1779, the whole force was called from Dinwiddie, and he joined the company commanded by Capt Henry Spain and rendezvoused at Petersburg and then marched with the corps to City Point, and cannonaded the British fleet at that place, and the Enemy falling lower down the river, the Corps was marched back to Petersburg and was discharged after a service of four weeks. Again 1^s Januay 1780, his No was again called out, and he joined the company commaded by Capt Samal Davis [Samuel Davis] and Leut. Frank Epps [probably Francis Eppes], and rendezvoused at Petersburg, and after remaing Two weeks at Petersburg the Corps was marched to Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County], and there joined the command of Genl Mulonburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], and Genl Robert Lawson. The Baron Stuban [sic: Gen. Baron von Steuben] was there with a corps of Lyte Horse [sic: Light Horse]. The Army remained [illegible word] at this place five or six weeks and then marched to Suffolk and then to Smithfield, and

here declarant was discharged. He was in sevice in this Tour three months. In 1781 he was again called out under Capt Holt and Charles Roper Leut and rendezvoused at Petersburg and a detachment of Two hundred and fifty men was ordered to Berils [Burwell's?] three miles below Petersburg to retard the progress of the British. The British marched to Petersburg, the detachment retreating before the enemy – up to Chesterfield Courthouse. From this he was marched by Maj De Clomen [sic: Christian Charles de Klauman] up James River to Tuckahoe [illegible word] Randolph, and there crossed James River and through the Manecan [sic: Manakin] Towns to Richmond. There he was stationed under the command of Maj De Clomen five or six weeks and then the corps was marched to Bottoms Bridges he thinks of Chickahomany [sic: Chickahominy River] and then Gen Lafayette took the command and then was marched to Marbin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill, 15 mi SE of Richmond] and then he was discharged and returned home. He served a three months tour in this Campayn. He has no records or documents in his possession by whom he can prove his services, and he knows of but one man now living, by whom he can prove them

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares, that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] John Clay

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer, I was born in Dinwiddie County – In the year 1755

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer – I have in the State of Virginia, but where in what famly I do not know, which hast the possession of it.

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionry war, and where do you now live.

Answer, Dinwiddie County State of Virginia, and lived in Hallifax [sic: Halifax] County Virginia forty years, and Ten years in the State of Tennessee where I now live.

Question 4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

answer – I volunteer, was drafted – and volunteered.

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the Troops where you served, such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstans of your service?

Answer I recollect Col Davis, Maj Cabell, Maj De Clomen, Barran Stuben – Lord Starling [sic: William Alexander, Lord Stirling], Capt Winston – Genl Washington, Genl Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], Gel Lawson, Marquis Layfayette, Capt Holt – and I recollect 1st and 2nd and 14, and 6th State Troops of Virginia. I marched to my first Tour to Portsmouth and to Hampton to York, Williamsburg and Petersburg – and I went to my next Tour to the North, and was at the battle of Monmoth – and was discharged at Middlebrook 14th Feby 1779 – came home. I was at Smithfield, Suffolk, Cabin Point and Petersburg, Morbin Hills, Bottoms Bridges, Richmond, Chesterfield Courthouse and Petersburg

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer – I did at Middlebrook, but I have traded it off

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Answer – Tho H Cannon, John Cannon Jr, Martin Cannon, [illegible] Samuel Tucker, James Akaber, John McPeek, William Jones, John McGregor, Radford McGregor.

NOTE: On 24 July 1837 Milison Clay, about 86 or 87, of Rutherford County TN, applied for a pension stating that she married John Clay in the fall of 1779 or 1780, and he died about 12 May 1835. James Old certified that John Clay and Millerson Eppes were married in Dinwiddie County in 1780 or 1782. John C.

Ferriss stated that he thought that John Clay had died about 11 May 1835 of cholera, and that his son, Joshua Clay was 55 or 56.