

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Clements S12511

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } S.S.

County of Goochland }

On this 17th day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the peace of the court of Goochland County, now sitting John Clements a resident of Goochland County, and State of Virginia, aged seventy five 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 June 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

I was drafted as a militia man in the county of Goochland and marched under Captain Josiah Leake of Goochland county, under the command of Col. [Holt] Richardson, below Richmond, when Major Armistead was arrested between Williamsburg & Richmond in the County of Albemarle guarding the British prisoners at that place [prisoners captured at Saratoga and kept at Albemarle Barracks Jan 1779 - Feb 1781]. – I was then drafted and served a tour of duty under Capt'n. Smith, and marched with him to Shirley Hundred below Richmond; and from there to Cabbin point [sic: Cabin Point on James River in Surry Cuntly]. At another time I was drafted for another tour of duty under Capt'n. William H. Miller of Goochland County, and marched with him below Richmond and was stationed on Gilly's creek [probably Gillie Creek in Henrico County], and served there as minute man for a long time, when the enemy appeared in our waters, we were called to arms: when they disappeared we were suffered to go home, and as soon as the enemy appeared again, we were again called out & marched back: thus we served a long time. – At another time, I served a tour at Morbin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond], and was on duty when my company fired on a British Vessel in the River, when my neighbor Poor was wounded. – My memory is so defective that I cannot state with any degree of precission the length of either tour, nor can I recollect the names fo the field officers at the various places where I served. I have distinct recollection that at one time Col. Charles Fleming commanded the troops, but at which place I cannot recollect. I have not the least recollection of dates. – I am certain that in all the tours united I was two or more years in actual service. – I was born in the County of Cumberland. I have no record of my age. I have resided in the County of Goochland ever since the revolutionary war & still continue to reside in the County of Goochland. I am well known in my present neighbourhood, to William A. Ford one of the justices of the peace in Goochland County, to Capt'n. Josiah Leake, Thomas Herndon, the Reverend James Fife, Major Archelaus Perkins and many others who can testify as to my character &c. I have no documentary evidence, having never received an written discharge that I recollect. I believe that I can procure the testimony of Rachel Cardin and Robert Pace who can testify that I was in service. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid John hisXmark Clements

State of Virginia }

Goochland County } SS

On this 19th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Court of the county aforesaid now sitting John Clements a resident of the said county and State aged seventy five years, and being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Amended Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832

That in the fall of the first year that the prisoners of War were at the Albemarle Barracks [1779],

he was drafted from the Militia of the said County of Goochland and marched as private in the company from that County under Capt Josiah Leake, to that place. Served to the best of his belief two months in guarding the prisoners and was discharged. That in the following year he was again drafted from the same county and marched as private under the same officer to the same place. Served two months again, in the same capacity and was discharged on Christmas eve. Colo. [Francis] Taylor commanded at the Barrack and he saw Colo [William] Fontaine there. There were some regulars and other militia Companies at the Barracks. And he recollects that the regulars were frequently whipped for stealing and other offences. That his memory is very imperfect in relation to the rest of his services except the last tour, and all the intermediate events seem to him like a dream. That he was always drafted, except when he was under Miller when he thinks he engaged as a minute man. That he served one tour he thinks under Captain Elisha Leake and not Josiah Leake as formerly stated, from the same county and was a private – it was he thinks in the early part of the year. Marched a great deal backwards and forwards on the York, Pamunky [sic: Pamunkey] and James Rivers. Was at Charles City Court house when marks of Slaughter were visible on the walls and flour of the house [possibly from engagement 8 Jan 1781]. Was under Colo Richardson and Major Armistead, and recollects that major Armistead was arrested by the Colo. There were many militia but not regulars that he recollects. That he was another time in service from the militia of the same county as a private under Capt Smith and Colo. Fleming. Marched about a good deal on James River. Crossed the River at Shirley hundred. Again at Sandy point when the troops were carried across in the night – thence to Cabin point and was there discharged – Recollects no regular troops nor Militia in particular. Thinks Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] was General. And that they sometimes brought in some prisoners. That he was again in service as private under Capt Wm H Miller, when he thinks he engaged as a minute man to be ready to march on every occasion when called for. That he was at Richmond when the Marquiss [Marquis de Lafayette, 29 Apr 1781] arrived there from the North. That he was generally stationed at Gilley's Creek, and marched into any part of the country where thier services were required. That he was at Turkey island one night with a small party and had just drawn provisions and was cooking when the enemy came upon them and was very near surrounding them. They escaped, marched upon a hill and were ordered to charge their guns and meet the enemy if they advanced. That he was present again on James River when the British fired on and blew up a magazine ship, in the river. he was on a pacquett guard and saw the ship blow up. That this service was performed, during and after Arnold's invasion he supposes [Gen. Benedict Arnold, Jan 1781]. That from old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot state with precission the length of this service but that to the best of his recollection he served in those three tours at least six months as private. That in the beginning of September in the year of the surrender of York [on 19 Oct 1781] and very soon after the army passed through Goochland he was again drafted and marched as private in the company of militia from that county under Captain [Edward] Duke – Joined the army at WmsBurg [Williamsburg], marched with the army to York and was attached to the Regiment of Colo [William] Dark. Soon after reaching York Capt Duke resigned and Lieut [Thomas F.] Bates was made capt. He worked in the trenches, and was often exposed to the fire of the enemy. Once a fascine that he and another were carrying was cut in two by a ball. That he saw many Continental and militia troops, and also the French – was present at the capitulation and having been put to cut down the entrenchments he saw the whole British army march out of thier works. He was then detached to guard the prisoners of war to Winchester. Major Welsh [Nathaniel Welch] commanded. Marched quite to Winchester and was discharged. That he reached home just before Christmas and that in this tour he served three and a half months. And these are the only tours he can now specify, although he is certain that he performed others. That he never had a written discharge and has no documentary evidence. That he has already procured the testimony of Rachel Carden and Robert Pace and can now procure the testimony of John Salmon [pension application W5980], and that he knows of no other witness, And that he refers to the Rev'd Lewis Chaudoin and Wm. A. Ford Esq'r for his character and the reputation of his neighbourhood as to his being a soldier of the revolution.

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

To Question 1st he replies [he was born] in Cumberland, Virginia, 10th June 1758.

To Question 2^d I have no record of my age.

To Question 3th when called into service I lived in Goochland County where I now live

To Question 4th I was always drafted, (except when under Miller) when I think I was a minute man.

To Question 5th. Answered to the satisfaction of the Court

To Question 6th I never received a written discharge

To Question 7th Rev'd Lewis Chaudoin & William A. Ford

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

John hisXmark Clements

I John Salmon a resident of the said county of Goochland hereby Certify, that I was several times in the service with John Clements who has made the preceding declaration, that said Clements served two tours of duty with me at the Albemarle barracks, and that he was in service with me several times in the eastern part of the state. That I recollect him particularly at Cabin point, and at the blowing up of the magazine ship and at several other times; that we were often in the same mess, And that I believe he was always a faithful Soldier.

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

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that the widow of John Clements received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 26 July 1839.