

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Clark S1898

f33NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/18/10: rev'd 9/2/19

[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' 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.]

State of Tennessee Washington County: September Term 1832

On this 13th of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powel one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity now sitting in and for said County John Clark a resident of the County of Washington within said State, aged seventy-four years, who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit that at the time & previous thereto he resided in the County of Washington, then North Carolina, now Tennessee, the same being a frontier & separated from the settlements of said state by a chain of mountains & uninhabited Country, & having moved to the same about the first of March 1775, the Revolutionary war shortly thereafter broke out & the Cherokee Indians on the borders & adjacent to said settlements on Nolichucky [River] & Watauga [River] took part against the Colonies & shortly after his removal aforesaid began to kill & depredate upon the settlements when, as well as recollected, on the first of March of the ensuing year (1776) he was drafted to go on an expedition against the Chickamauga was (part of the Cherokee tribe of Indians) under Colonel Charles Robison [Charles Robertson] who commanded the North Carolina troops & enrolled under Captain Russell [George Russell] of the County of Washington aforesaid, and rendezvoused at the head of the long Island on Holston River & there met Colonel Shelby's men of the Virginia militia, & there encamped for several weeks, & took water & descended the Holston River & Tennessee & landed near the mouth of Chickamauga Creek in the Country (now called the Hiwassee District) & there burnt the towns, horses [could be houses], stock & destroyed their provisions, but most of the Indians fled, and evacuated the Country after which they marched back by land through the woods, by the way of the grassy valley & near where Knoxville now stands there being no settlements or roads for near 200 miles on their travel, and on his return and was discharged (verbally) by his said Captain Russell after serving between three and four months, That after being called upon without being regularly officered did to go on short & a regular tours of duty against the Indians, he volunteered to go under Colonel Robeson to the South, and the Captain of his company was Samuel Williams in whose company he acted as Lieutenant, and rendezvoused at Indian Creek, & there met the troops from the upper Country now Carter & Sullivan Counties, & marched sometime in May or June, and well recollects that when he crossed over the yellow mountains & marched into the southern settlements (the oats crop was partly cut, & standing in the stack & part uncut) and encamped some ten days or more at Gilbert town (now Rutherford Courthouse)

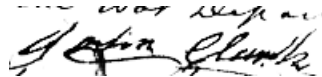
and from thence to the Cherokee Ford on Broad River, and there remained some time & there a part of the (which consisted of three or four thousand men under McDowell [Joseph McDowell], Shelby [Isaac Shelby] & Clark [Elijah Clark]) men under sundry officers, he thinks Sevier [John Sevier] & Shelby were along, were detailed to go about 18 miles to a Fort in possession of an old Fort where were assembled a number of Tories under one Patrick Moore, with two hundred or more stand of arms and a British officer to discipline them, & upon the attack made upon said Fort the Tories surrendered [Thicketty Fort, July 26, 1780]¹ & let them loose upon their parole of honor & oath not to take up arms against the colonies, from which time the Army scouted about, from place to place hearing of the main radiation Army being in their vicinity and too powerful for an engagement with it, and returned home often being in service as a Lieutenant in the company during said Tour, and in actual service something over three months immediately after which the men from his neighborhood, went on to the Kings Mountain engagement [October 7, 1780], but in which expedition he did not go (being about to marry) that in the winter of the year 1781 after the Kings Mountain Battle, the Overhill Indians (or Cherokees, so-called from their location) were in hostility & Colonel Sevier called out the militia to go on an expedition against said Indians, when this declarant who was adjutant in Captain Williams's² Company volunteered, & said Captain Williams declining to go, this declarant acted as Captain & commanded the company under Colonel Sevier in said expedition, & set on Indian Creek through the Grassy Cove, across the bald mountain to what is now Haywood County, and the Indians principally retreated, but in detached parties fired upon the Army & killed Captain Davis [probably a reference to Nathaniel Davis] & Lieutenant under declarant (named Bond) & some Indians were also killed but the principal service performed was in destroying the property of said Indians burning their towns & causing them to retreat from the settlements. They then returned home, being absent on the tour something near three months & he verbally discharged the men under his command. That he served in several little terms of service on forced marches, & hasty arrangements as before stated in repressing the Indians when they broke in upon the Settlements, but was not as aforesaid regularly officered, but served some two or three months in that way & served as a Lieutenant three months, as a Captain three more, and as a private three months & over regular service as also about two or three months irregular services amounting in the whole to about 12 months. That he has no documentary evidence having no discharges, & that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his said Services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State, nor is there any resident Minister of the Gospel in his vicinity by whom he can establish the facts set forth in the instructions of the Were Department.

Sworn to & subscribed the date above.

Test: S/ Jas. V. Anderson, Clk

S/ John Clark



[Leroy Taylor and Charles Robison gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thicketty_fort.html

² There were 3 captains from Washington County, NC, to wit: John Williams, Nathaniel Williams and Samuel Williams. See https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_captains.html My guess is that it was most likely Samuel Williams under whom this veteran served as he is known to have served late in the war under Col. John Sevier.

State of Tennessee Washington County

Be it remembered that on this eleventh day of May 1833 before me the Subscriber an acting Justice of the Peace in and for Washington County aforesaid personally appeared John Clark the declarant & made oath, in order to increase his pension or annuity granted him under the act of Congress of 7th of June 1832. That at the time he made his original declaration upon which he has been allowed \$96.66 as a private and Lieutenant in the Revolutionary war, his recollection of events so long gone by together with his ignorance of the grounds upon which the allowance was (in amount) made to depend, prevented him from presenting before the war Department the full extent of his revolutionary services, as to grade, as well as extent, and the remedy which and now present the facts more fully than his recollection would then enable him to do he makes this additional & explanatory statement to wit, that he during the Revolutionary War, in the year 1778 volunteered in the company of Captain Williams of the then North Carolina militia (he said declarant at the time being Lieutenant of said company) to go against the Cherokee Indians, said service was under Colonel John Sevier, that his Captain Williams declined going of said tour & this declarant commanded said Company being the highest officer in command of said expedition in said Company & marched under Colonel Sevier to the Indian nation on the Tennessee River and expelled said Indians and returned after being two months, on said expedition. Again in the fall of 1779, he again as Lieutenant of the same company volunteered under Colonel Brown [perhaps an erroneous attempt to refer to Major Jacob Brown of Washington County NC] to go against said Cherokee Indians who had again depredated & being as before the highest officer with the Company who volunteered commanded the company under Colonel Brown to the Cherokee nation & there had an engagement with the Indians in which sixteen of the Indians were killed, & much of their property destroyed & after serving two months returned home. Again he was a spy under Luke Boyer for one month to keep down the Tories which three tours amounted in the whole to five months the two first being four months as Lieutenant & the last month as a private. That he at the time of making out his original declaration only set forth the three months as Lieutenant which he served to the middle settlements against the Indians, when in fact he was too short tours in addition which are before stated as Lieutenant and for which he has received no compensation, owing to his not having at the time a distinct recollection thereof & being determined in abundant caution only to state what he distinctly recollect it & could specify.

That he claims an increase of his pension for four months as Lieutenant and one month as private for which none has been allowed him.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the undersigned

S/ Levi Bowers, JP

S/ John Clark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$96.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for six months service as a private and five months service as a Lieutenant in the North Carolina militia.]