

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Clark (Clarke) S32181

f25SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/26/11 & 8/31/19

[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 Illinois, White County

On this 4th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. William Wilson Judge of the White Circuit Court being a court of record now sitting James Clark a resident of Wayne County in said State aged 77 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 in the militia under the following named officers and served as herein stated, -- General Andrew Williamson, Captain John Gowens about the first of August 1776. That he belonged to a company of horse attached to Gen. Williamson's brigade & enlisted in what was called the State service. That he resided in the Ninety Six District near Princes Fort. That the Army marched from Princes Fort to the old Seneca town upon Seneca River, destroyed the town, from that, the Army marched to whole Keewee [sic, Keowee] towns & destroyed the towns there, from that the Army marched to what was called the Valley towns and destroyed all the towns upon the waters course called Highwassee [sic, Hiwassee], that we had an engagement there with the Indians, killed 250 and we lost 33 wounded & killed, that he was wounded in that engagement in the right thigh & that the Indians were defeated, that we then returned back to Princes Fort about the last of September or first of October. General Martin¹ from North Carolina was commander in chief in that expedition. That he remained in Princes Fort as part of the Garrison & ranging at times in the vicinity until the following March or April 1777.

That immediately after that time he again enlisted in the State service under Captain John Earle for four (4) months & that he marched to Seneca River where the Seneca Fort was built at that time. During that period he was detailed as a spy, and that four spies were allowed to each company as he now thinks. That Major Benjamin Tutt of the regulars was commander in chief at the Fort, he however thinks that Tutt might have at this time been only a Captain. That he returned to Princes Fort in September or October & was discharged.

That in October 1777 soon after he returned from the above expedition, he enlisted under Captain William Wood & 1st Lieutenant Elijah Thompson & 2nd lieutenant Joseph Jones for six months. That he marched from Princes Fort about 10 miles to the boundary line between the Indians & Whites where they built Thompson's Fort, that he was again detailed as a spy – that he continued to range there and in the vicinity until his time expired when under the same officers he volunteered for three months longer and did the same duty & that he returned to Princes Fort and was discharged in July 1778.

¹ Applicant is mistaken in attributing command to Martin. Griffith Rutherford commanded the NC militia in the Cherokee Expedition in the summer and early fall of 1776.

That in July 1780 under General Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], Colonel John Thomas, Lt. Col. Benjamin Roebuck, Major John Collins, Captain John Nesbet. That he acted as 1st Lieutenant; 2nd Lieutenant William Goodlet,² that he volunteered, that we marched from Princes Fort to the Congarees about 200 miles from there, that he then returned to Shyres Ferry [sic, Shirer's Ferry]³ & attacked the Fort, that Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] with his Dragoons chased us to Black Stocks [sic, Blackstock's plantation November 20, 1780], there we had an engagement with them & killed 25 of their men and they wounded General Sumter in the shoulder. That General Sumter then returned to Charlotte, North Carolina and Colonel Thomas with his Regiment went to Princes Fort and ranged in that vicinity until the following June 1781. That in October previous Captain John Whittaker attacked some Tories, collected at Joseph Thompson's & killed five of them & they [killed] three of our men & we then retreated. That Colonel Thomas' Regiment was disbanded in June 1781. That he then volunteered under Captain Samuel Earle, 1st Lieutenant Henry Wood, 2nd Lieutenant James McEllhenny [sic, James McIlhenny⁴] that he ranged three months to keep in check Indians &c. That Henry Wood then took command of the Company, James McIlhenny 1st Lieutenant & he was 2nd Lieutenant and ranged three months. That McIlhenny then took command – that he was 1st lieutenant, 2nd Lieutenant William Goodlet that he ranged under those officers three months. That he then took command of the company & William Goodlet was 1st Lieutenant and ranged three months while under his command and the company finally disbanded in the latter part of June 1782. That in August same year he volunteered under Captain Major Parsons [sic, Major Parson] and ranged one month. That from the time he left General Sumter he ranged the whole time between the waters of the Pacolet [River] and the Reedy River.

That he has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his services unless Benjamin Jones⁵ who did live in Tennessee on the Mississippi River who did know of part of his services and had a general knowledge of his services.

That he was born in Rowan County North Carolina on the 18th of April 1755, has no record of his age; lived [when] called into service in the 96 District South Carolina on Laggart [?] River⁶ near Prince's Fort & resided there until the year 1801 when I came to the state of Kentucky and resided in that state until 1818 & then came to Wayne County Illinois and resided there since.

That until July 1778, he enlisted in the State service that after that period he was [a] volunteer. That Major Tutt was the only regular with whom he served. That he never received an excuse from or a written discharge as he now remembers.

That William Simpson & L.B. Elledge are persons in my present neighborhood & who will testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a Soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or a nobody except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ James Clark

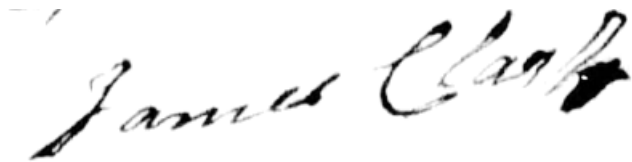
2 [William Goodlett W8857](#)

3 John Robertson advises that Shirer's (also known as Brierly's Ferry) was located slightly north of Ruff's Ferry on the Broad River between Henry's Mill and the mouth of Heller's Creek as shown in Robert Mills' 1825 map of Newberry County. [Robert Mills], *Mills' Atlas : Atlas of the State of South Carolina: 1825* (1825, reprint, Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1980). <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/shirersfy.htm>

4 [James McIlhenny S31242](#)

5 [Benjamin Jones S31172](#)

6 Prince's Fort is located near the Tyger River. It is not clear to what river applicant is referring in this statement.



S/ Jas. Ratcliff, Clk

[William Simpson & L. B. Elledge gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Illinois Wayne County: SS

This day personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid James Clark aged 78 years who being duly sworn according to law Doth on His Oath Declare and Say he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services as a Captain & Lieutenant in the Army of the Revolution and that he cannot furnish any additional facts, to those already before the department to substantiate his claim for pay as a Captain and Lieutenant.

Sworn and subscribed this 30th day of August 1833 before me

S/ Samuel Leech, JP

S/ James Clark

[facts in file: On June 27 1833 in Wayne County Illinois, the veteran filed another claim which is almost word for word the same as his first claim. It is not clear why the veteran filed this 2nd claim. The 2nd claim contains the following:

"And the said deponent further declares and says that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: For 3 months I served as a Captain. For one-year 5 months I served as a Lieutenant & for 2 years and 15 days I served as a private; and for such service I claim a pension."

Archibald Roberts, a clergyman, and William F Turney gave the standard supporting affidavit for the 2nd claim. Veteran died August 25, 1834]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]