

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Clark (Clarke) S8207

f16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/10/14

[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 North Carolina Chatham County: Superior Court of Law Fall Term A.D. 1832

On this 18th day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the said Court now sitting James Clark a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged Seventy-two years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of [an act of] Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers – that he substituted in the County of Orange and State of North Carolina in the place of Barney Grimes and joined the company of North Carolina Militia under the command of Capt. Cage [William Cage] he joined the company at Col. Dickerson's on Haw River and was marched by Capt. Cage and Col. Dickerson [John Dickerson] to the Pedee [River] and crossed the same at Haley's Ferry he does not recollect that they were joined by any Troops until they had crossed when they joined a squadron of Horse under the command of Col. Dugalo [?]¹ he has no very distinct recollection of the particulars incidents of this service except that an action took place at the hanging rock² in which the Americans were defeated the Troops with which he acted were near enough to hear the firing and upon hearing the issue retreated across Pedee he was then marched to Fayetteville in North Carolina and halted a few days he was then marched in a Southwardly direction about 50 miles when orders were given to return home he was marched back to Haw River in Orange County and was discharged after having served 5 months his discharge was signed by General Butler [John Butler] but is now lost –

He further states that shortly after his discharge as aforesaid he was Drafted in the County of Orange for the Term of 5 months that he mustered under Capt. Ray [William Ray] – when it was reported he does not upon what authority that of a militia man would equip himself with a Horse &c and serve three months in the dragoons it should be equivalent to five months service in the militia that he did so equipped himself and presented himself to Col. Philip Taylor of Granville County and was received by him and placed in the company commanded by Capt. Walker he does not recollect the names of any of the other Officers except Major Bullock and Capt. Coffee, he was marched by the above named Officers through Hillsborough, Salisbury and on to Charlotte near which place they joined a very large Body of Troops which he thinks were under the command of General Greene [Nathanael Greene] at this time the British Troops lay in Charlotte [the forces under Lord Cornwallis occupy Charlotte North Carolina from late September 1782 early October 1780] he acted with the Troops in the Vicinity until his Term of service expired nothing remarkable occurred in this service to



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² My best guess is that the veteran is describing the action known as the Battle of Waxhaws, May 29, 1780. A number of veterans described this engagement as having occurred at the 'hanging rock.'

which he was a witness except a skirmish in which he was engaged with some of the enemy's horse he was in the Advanced Guard 25 Strong when they were attacked and 15 of their number were killed or taken when his service expired he was marched back to Granville and discharged – [several words blurred out and illegible] he received a written discharge which is now lost

He further states that sometime after his discharge as aforesaid he substituted in the County of Orange in the place of Jesse Curry and joined a company of Mounted Militia and marched to Ramsey's Mill on the Deep River where they joined General Butler's Army and was placed under the immediate command of Col. Robert Mebane of the Regulars he recollects the names of none of the other officers in the Army except Major Nall's and Capt. Goldston [perhaps Capt. Charles Gholson] from Ramsey's Mills he was marched to haul River towards Hillsborough and crossed at Crow's Ford and camped one night, during which intelligence was brought by John Taylor that the Tories had taken Hillsborough [September 12, 1781] and made the Inhabitants prisoners and among them the Gov. [Thomas Burke] of the State whereupon the Army recrossed the River and marched up the same to Cane Creek where we met the Tories under the command of Col. Fanning [David Fanning] and McNeill [Hector McNeill] and engaged them near Lindley's Mills the action [September 13, 1781] commenced about Breakfast time in thick woods, the American foot retreated in disorder early in the engagement but the horse 77 strong under the command of Col. Mebane maintained their ground until they had given the enemy eleven fires when their ammunition failed and they were forced to retreat – he was then marched back to Hillsborough and discharged after he had served 5 months he cannot remember how or in what way he was discharged but is certain that it was in an honorable way.

He further states that in consequence of the Great lapse of time he is unable to state the day, month or Year in which he entered or left the Service in any of the above mentioned Tours and is certain that he served at least one other Tour besides those already set forth which from the Treachery of his Memory he is unable to delineate. He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

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 or Territory in the Union.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and Year aforesaid

S/ James Clark, X his mark

[Thomas Dowdy and Eli Emerson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45.83 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry & cavalry in the North Carolina militia.]

Another version

Pension Application of James Clark (Clarke), Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll __, Application #S8207

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

Chatham County, NC Fall term of court, 1832:

“On this 18th day of September 1832, personally appeared James Clark, aged 72 years: That he substituted in the County of Orange and state of NC in the place of Barney Grimes and joined the company of NC militia under the command of Captain Cage [or Gage]. He joined the company at Col. Dickerson’s on Haw River and was marched by Captain Cage and Col. Dickerson to the Pee Dee [Pedee] River and crossed the same at Haley’s Ferry. He does not recollect that they were joined by any troops until they had crossed, when they were joined by a squadron of horse, under the command of Colonel Dugald [Dugalo?]. He has no distinct recollection of the particular incidents of this service except that an action took place at the Hanging Rock in which the Americans were defeated. The troops with which he acted were near enough to hear to hear the firing, and upon learning the issue, retreated

across Pee Dee. He was then marched to Fayetteville in North Carolina and halted a few days he was then marched in a southwardly direction about 50 miles when orders were given to return home. He was marched back to Haw River in NC and was discharged after having served 5 months. His discharge was signed by Gen. Butler, but is now lost.”

“He further states that shortly after his discharge as aforesaid, he was drafted in the County of Orange for the term of 5 months. He was mustered under Captain Ray. When it was reported he does not [recall?] upon what authority. That if a militia man would equip himself with a horse, etc, and would serve three months in the dragoons, it should be equivalent to 5 months service in the militia. That he did so equip himself, and presented himself to Colonel Philip Taylor of Granville County and was received by him, and placed in the company commanded by Captain Walker. He does not recollect the names of any of the other officers except Major Bullock and Captain Coffee. He was marched by the above named officers through Hillsborough, Salisbury and Charlotte, near which place they joined a very large body of troops, which he thinks were under the command of General Greene. At this time the British troops lay in Charlotte. He acted with the troops in this vicinity until his term of service expired. Nothing very remarkable occurred in this service to which he was a witness except a skirmish in which he was engaged with some of the enemy horse. He was in the advanced guard, 25 strong, when they were attacked and 15 of their number were killed or taken. When his service expired he was marched back to Granville and discharged. He received a written discharge which is now lost.

He further states that sometime after his discharge as aforesaid, he substituted in the County of Orange in the place of Jesse Curry and joined a company of mounted militia and marched to Ramsey’s Mills on Deep River, where they joined General Butler’s army, and was placed under the immediate command of Col. Robert Mebane of the regulars. He recollects the names of none of the other officers in the army except Major Nalls and Captain Goldston. From Ramsey’s Mills he was marched to Haw River towards Hillsborough and crossed at Crow’s Ford and camped one night, during which intelligence was brought by John Taylor that the Tories had taken Hillsboro and made the Inhabitants prisoners and among them the Governor of the State whereupon the army recrossed the river and marched up the same to Cane Break where we met the Tories under the command of Colonels Fanning and McNeill and engaged them near Lindley’s Mills. The action commenced about breakfast time in thick woods. The American foot retreated in disorder early in the engagement, but the horse, 77 strong under the command of Colonel Mebane, maintained their ground until they had given them eleven fires when their ammunition failed and they were forced to retreat. He was then marched back to Hillsborough and discharged after he had served five months. He cannot remember how or in what way he was discharged, but is certain that it was in an honorable way. He further states that in consequence of the great lapse in time, he is unable to state the day, month or year in which he entered or left the service in any of the above mentioned tours and is certain that he served at least another tour besides those already set forth, which from the treachery of his memory, he is unable to delineate...”

[Thomas Dowry and Eli Emerson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]