

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Clark S8208

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Virginia Orange County to wit

On the 20th day of February 1851 appeared before me a justice of the Peace for the said County Wm D Clark who on Oath makes the following statement. That he is the son of Joseph Clark decease of the aforesaid County and State. That He is upwards of fifty six years of age and that He always resided with his father Joseph Clark That the family Register shewed that the aforesaid Joseph Clark was Born on the 12th day of April 1752 and that He departed this life on the 5th day of February 1839 in his Eighty seventh year of age. That He Wm D Clark was left by his father his executor. That the said Joseph Clark Raised eleven Children. – By the following names (Viz) Larkin Clark; Martha E Clark who intermarried with Reuben Clark of Madison County Va; James Clark of Elbert County Georgia; Mary Clark who intermarried with colonel Herd of Morgan county Georgia; Ann P Clark who intermarried with Adgt General John C Easter of Elbert County Georgia; Elizabeth Clark who intermarried with colonel Thomas White of Jones County Georgia; Sally T Clark who intermarried with Lewis Shirler of Louisa County Va; Bathsheba S Clark of orange County Va. Wm D Clark (d[itt]o); Tabitha Clark who intermarried with Cuthbert Reese of Jones County Georgia; And Eunice H Clark who intermarried with Solomon H McIntire of Madison County Va. Larkin Clark of Morgan County Georgia (the same one mentioned above), James Clark & Mary Herd died Prior to said Joseph Clark, and Ann P Easter since his death. When last Heard from there were seven of the above heirs alive

I have often Heard said Joseph Clark speak of the military services he rendered to his country among the seven years war of the Revolution with Great Britain the many tours of duty. He served. Was in sevice when the Traitor Arnold invaded Virginia [Benedict Arnold, 30 Dec 1780] was called to guard the Prisoners at the Barrack in Albermarle County Va [Burgoyne's army captured at Saratoga 17 Oct 1777 and kept at Albemarle Barracks from Jan 1779 till Feb 1781] also when Lord Corn Wallace invaded Va [sic: Cornwallis, May 1781]. He Furthermore states that He had often Heard his Father Joseph Clark in conversation with Major Welch [probably Nathaniel Welch, pension application R18894], General William Madison [W9944], Dr George Morris [W27804], Capt C Gibbs [Churchill Gibbs, S46002] of Madison County Va, Capt Rucker [Angus Rucker S19068] and Wm Twyman [William Twyman S7771] speaking of the Hardships they had to encounter while in the service in the Revolutionary war. He further states that he had often heard the above named Gentlemen urge the said J Clark to apply for his commutation, That he was justly entitled too. He always in my Presence scomed the Idia of Begging the Government for Payment for any service that He rendered in fighting for the liberties of the Country. I am led to believe from all that I have heard from said J Clark that once on a tour of duty He served in the capacity of a Quarter Master Sergent. He further states that he does not believe he ever was a Commissioned officer. As to the number of tours of duty, he the said Joseph Clark served or under what officer cannot at this distant day say only heard him speak of being then or under the command of a Colonel [Sampson] Mathews & in the Brigade of General Lawson or Lauron [Robert Lawson]

Given under my hand as dated above

W D Clark

[The following document is much faded:]

Rec'd of Mr. Joseph Clark Three thousand Seven Hundred Pounds for a Man Named Rich'd. Bond [Richard Bond] whome I Hired to serve as a Contanental Soldier agreeabe to Act of Assent[?] in My [illegible word] for the Division the said Clark Recruited for as witness my Hand this 2nd[?] day of Sep'r 1780

[signed] Edward Marsh

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of the said Officers and Soldiers from the 1st January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 3rd day of June 1783 in the name of Joseph Clarke as a Soldier of Artillery of Artillery and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him for £70.8.4 delivered to James Roan but as the original settlements or copies thereof are not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 4th day of December 1849.
Jas E. Heath/ Aud [see endnote]

The deposition of George Morris [pension application W27804] of lawful age taken at the residence of said Morris in the county of Orange in the state of Virginia on the 26th day of December 1849 to be read as evidence in behalf of William D Clarke Exo'r. of Joseph Clarke Dec'd. who claims compensation for services rendered by his intestate as a soldier in the war of the revolution.

This deponent being first duly sworn deposeseth and saith – That he was a soldier in the revolutionary war and that he then in the army first became acquainted with Joseph Clarke late of the county of Orange during the campaign of the Marques Lafayette [Marquis de Lafayette] preceeding the capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and that the said Joseph Clarke was also a soldier in the army at that time but does not now recollect how long he served nor in what capacity. Deponent further states that he was intimately acquainted with said Clarke from the close of the war till his death. Deponent is in his eighty sixth year and deposes to the best of his recollection and belief. And further this deponent saith not.

[signed] George Morris

I Joseph Edwards of the County of Orange and state of Virginia do hereby certify. That I am in my seventy fifth year of age & I Have always lived in the aforsaid County and State. I have resided and lived between three & four miles of Mr Joseph Clark and have known said Joseph Clark from my boyhood up to his death which occured in February 1839. My Father Wm Edwards [William Edwards] often stated to me that he had served three tours of Duty in the revolutionary war, and that Joseph Clark was in service with him I Furthermore sate that I have often heard my Father and said Joseph Clark speak of the tours of duty that they served in the war that they were at Charlottsville [sic: Charlottesville] in albermarle County when the Barrax were kept there with the Hessian or British Prisoners & a tour of Duty when the British Troops under Lord Corn Wallis invaded Virginia I am sattisfied that the said Joseph Clark was more or less engaged in the service of his country during the seven years war [sic] or throughout the Revolution. as to the number of months or Tours of duty or service he rendered or the capacity he served In afforsaid War at this distant day cannot state

I Furthermore state that the said Joseph Clark was a man of sterling integrity and had the esteem of all of his nighbours and lived to be a very old man – given under my hand this 27th day of January 1851

[signed] Joseph Edwards

NOTES:

Clark's pension certificate shows that his surviving children recieved \$100 per years from 4 March 1831 until his death for two years service in the artillery. The only evidence that Joseph Clark was in the artillery was the certificate showing that someone named Joseph Clarke received pay for service in the artillery. Statements by the witnesses suggest that Joseph Clark served several tours, probably of three months each, and probably as a militiaman. There was no Continental artillery at Albemarle Barracks or with Lafayette before the siege of Yorktown.

On 27 Dec 1850 Philip S. Fry stated that "Robert Clark, commonly called Robbin Clark, now residing in the said [Orange] county, aged ninety odd years, a brother of the befor-named Joseph Clark, with whom he is acquainted by character, was always understood, and generally believed, to have been a soldier in the revolutionary war."

The file includes several statements of Joseph Clark's character and reputation as a soldier. On 21 Jan 1851 Albert Kennedy of Orange County stated that Joseph Clark lived about two miles from Orange Courthouse and died there, and that he first became acquainted with Clark when he stayed at his house on the first night he came into the county as a carpenter's apprentice, and that "on all Occasions he treated me and all about him so far as I could see In an Hospitable & Gentlemanly manner."

A 10 June 1851 letter to the Pension Office by James W. Walker stated that Joseph Clark's second wife, Catherine Clark, whom he married about 1812 or 1813, had no children of her own and survived him by a few years. He inquired as executor of her will whether her estate was entitled to a pension as the widow of Joseph Clark.