

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Clark (Clarke) S8210

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

County of Orange

On this 25th day of January [1848] personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the county of Orange in the state of Virginia Robert Clarke a resident of said county in said state aged 98 years who being too infirm to appear and make his declaration in open court was first duly sworn according to law before me and deposed – that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot state distinctly the precise length of his respective periods of service or the [illegible word] of his tours but to the best of his belief he served more than two years – that he served in the Virginia line and militia whenever called upon and is sure that the whole length of his service would exceed 2 yrs having been repeatedly among those drafted for the service of his country. he can only recollect the names of a few of the officers under whom he served – viz Colonel Matthews [possibly Sampson Mathews of the Virginia Militia] – Capt. [James] Hawkins, Capt. [John] Scott and Capt. George Waugh. he first left the county of Orange to serve in the war under Capt. Hawkins who was superseded by Capt George Waugh. He served in different parts of this state, in the neighborhood of Richmond and Yorktown and other parts of the lower country. He also accompanied General Lafayette in his retreat through the state [25 May - 1 Jun 1781] and recollects him well. He never served in any other capacity than that of private or non commissioned officer but has never received a cent either from the State or the general goverment for such services and would not ask it now were he not encumbered by debt. That he has made the foregoing declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 or any other act which might apply to his case and that he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension inconsistent with above act and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed by me the 25th day of January 1848.

Robert hisXmark Clarke

State of Virginia

Louisa County to wit;

Before me William Stout a Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid county and state on this tenth day of June 1846 appeared John Morrison [pension application R7424] of Louisa County who deposeth and saith that he was a soldier in the revolutionary war and is now a pensioner for his services in such war. That he knows Robert Clark of Orange County Virginia intimately well and whom he understands to be now an applicant for a pension for his revolutionary services. That on the last of March 1781 he left Orange County with the aforesaid Robert Clark as a militiaman under Captain George Waugh – that they went from Orange to Richmond, from thence to Williamsburgh and from Williamsburgh they retreated under Lafayette as far as lower part of Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County Virginia and then having joined Gen'l Wayne's troops [Anthony Wayne's, 10 Jun 1781] pursued the British slowly from place to place until seige of Yorktown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] concluded the war. And that he firmly believes that he served during the whole of aforementioned time lasting from latter part of March 1781 until latter part of October of same year.

Given under his hand the day and year aforesaid

[signed] John Morrison

[5 Jan 1848] The deposition of James Chiles [S8200] now of Louisa County in the State of Virginia and late of Orange County same state taken before William A. Gillespie a Justice of the Peace for the county of Louisa State of Virginia.

I myself served many years in the revolutionary war and am now receiving a pension for my

services in said war. I know Robert Clarke the above applicant for pension to have been a soldier in the revolution. We served together one time in a company raised in Orange County Va. (Virginia militia) our Captain's name was Waugh, the Colonel's of the regiment "Matthews. We were discharged together I think at Gloster [sic: Gloucester] Court House. I recollect perfectly serving in the same company with Robert Clarke one tour and think that we served in the same regiment two tours. I recollect Clarke well from his habits of strict honesty – always refusing to share in the fruits of his companions' pillaging and being known among his fellows as honest Robin Clarke.

[On 26 Feb 1848 Clarke made a declaration similar to his previous one to which he added the following: "on leaving the army his situation in life did not call for pecuniary relief – that until within a short time back his means have been ample – that he served his country from no mercenary motives and as long as he could refrain in justice to his family from applying to the general government for assistance that he had done so."]

State of Virginia

Greene County to wit

Personally appeared before me John B White a Justice of the peace for the said County and State on this the 22nd day of July 1848, Richard White [S6371], of Greene County, and depose and saith that he knows Robert Clark of Orange County, and served with him in the early part of the Revolutionary War, Patrick Henry being then Governor [sic: 5 Jul 1776 - 1 Jun 1779], for one term of ten months, under Captain John Scott, that they marched from Orange to Williamsburg, from there to Yorktown, and thence returned to Williamsburg, where they were discharged together and returned home

[signed] Richd White

I Joseph Edwards of the county of Orange & state of Virginia do hereby certify that I am now in my seventy fifth year of age and have always lived in the aforsaid county & state & have resided in and about one mile of Mr Robert Clarks. I have frequently been in company with Robert Clark & other old men that were in the Revolutionary war & heard them speak of the toils & hardships while in the revolution. I heard him speak of the tour of duty under Marius De la Fayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] & other Tours of Duty that he served at other times in the service of his Country. I Further more state that I believe that the said Robert Clark was more or less engaged in the service of his country as a soldier throughout the seven years war. I furthermore state that I have no knowledge of his services in any other capacity but that of a soldier nor the length of time that he served. My Father William Edwards [S3322] was in the revolution war & I have Heard him say that he served three Tours of duty as service. And I have often Heard my Father speak of the service renderd by Robert Clark in the war I further state that Robert Clark was & unusal old man was a long time confined to his Room from old age lost his eye sight & hearing for many years & was considered the oldest living man in the County He departed this life the 7th day of last January 1851 & as I have since heard was in his 98th year at his death he left and only Daughter by the name of Johanna who married a Mr Wm P Berry – only one grand Daughter By the name of Martha Owings who married a Mr Thomas J Adams I further more state that the circumstances of the family are limited and that in Point of Truthfulness & Honesty He was surpassed by no man and supported a highly Respectful & Honourable character throughout his long live given under my hand this [blank] day of January 1851

[signed] Joseph Edwards

[A pension certificate for two years service dated 4 June 1852 was issued posthumously to Robert Clark, who died on 7 Jan 1851. On 5 Oct 1852 Joseyphin Berry, as she signed, assigned power of attorney to J. Francis Clements of Washington to obtain an additional pension for service by her grandfather, Robert Clark, as explained in the following. The application generated a long but unsuccessful exchange of mail.]

Orange County } Towit
State of Virginia }

Be it known that on this 3rd day of may in the year of Our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and fifty two Personally appeared before me the subscribing Justice of the Peace In and for the County Aforesaid Wm D Clark the former Committee of Robert Clark deceased of the County aforesaid who Being duly sworn according to law deposeseth and saith He being the Committe in Company with David Hunn[?] now of Alexandria of aforsaid state finding the discharge of said Robert Clark shewed the same to aforsaid David Hunn being also a Committee to said Robert Clark. That on the fourteenth day of March in the year eighteen Hundred and fifty He mailed at the Madison Mills Post office in the County of Madison state aforsaid a letter containing the Original discharge of Robert Clark sighn by General George Washington to Bennett Clements of George Town in the district of Columbia aforsaid which letter he is informed and verily believes was never received by the said Bennett Clements.

And this affiant further saith that the said discharge stated that the said Robert Clark had Honourably served four years & some months (the exact number of months which he does not now recollect) in the Virginia Continel line and three years & some month (The exact number of month which he does he does not now recollect) in the Virginia state line [see endnote] But is led to believe as far as his recollection serves him the whole time in service was seven years & seven months & some day.

And this affiant Further states that it is the edentity same Robert Clark whose heirs & distributees, who are now claiming the pension from the pension office an additional Pension, for services rendered in the war of the Revolution by the said Robert Clark & who have already been allowed a Pension for seven months service so rendered as aforsaid by the said Robert Clark in the virginia malitia

And this deponent further saith that he knows that the said Robert Clark who served as aforsaid in the virginia malitia & whose heir has received a Pension for service so rendered to be the Identical Robert Clark whose heirs now claim from the Pension office of the united states an additional Pension for three years service in the virginia state or continental line in the war aforsaid and who has Presented to the Pension office a certificate of such service from the auditor of the state of Virginia and he furthermore states that he is not in any wise interested in the subject of this claim

NOTES:

On 27 Nov 1851 Robert A. Banks of Madison County VA stated that John Jones of the same county had known that Robert Clark had served in the Continental army "at least three or four years."

It would have been extraordinary for George Washington to sign a discharge from service except from the Continental Army, or to have mentioned service in the Virginia State line.

The file contains a document certifying that Robert Clark died on 7 Jan 1851 leaving no widow and only two heirs: a daughter named Josephine Berry, wife of William P. Berry; and a granddaughter named Martha Adams, wife of Thomas J. Adams (the daughter of Frances, deceased daughter of Robert Clark). In other documents the maiden name of his granddaughter was said to have been Martha Owens.