

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Clay S9319

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

Virginia Halifax County

On this 28th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of the County Court of Halifax now sitting, Thomas Clay a resident of the State and County aforesaid aged 73 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 was drafted and entered the service of the United States on the 1st day of February 1779, he was promoted to 1st Sergeant directly he entered the service, and in which capacity he started from Blue Church in the County of Nottoway in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. William Gerald and which belonged to a Regiment commanded by Col. David Mason -- he marched to Brunswick Court house, thence to the town of Halifax in the State of North Carolina, at which place he remained about two months, from thence he marched to Hillsborough, thence to Salisbury, at which place he remained some length of time, from thence he was marched to Camden, thence to a place called Moncks Corner in the State of South Carolina, thence to Bacon's Bridge, thence to Stono River, where the troops had made their head quarters, that he remained until sometime towards the following July, he then marched with his company to Camden at which place he received his discharge on the 11th of August 1779 from Capt. William Jerald, the precise length of time which he served this tour was six months and eleven days.

He remained at home but a few days when he was again drafted, and received the same appointment of Sergeant, and entered the service on the 2nd of the following September, he marched from Amelia Court house in a company commanded by Capt. Anson and which belonged to a Brigade commanded by General Lawson [Robert Lawson] -- he marched directly to Richmond, after remaining there some time he marched to Hanover Court house, thence to Surry old Court house, from thence to Portsmouth, thence to Norfolk, thence to Smithfield, thence to Petersburg, thence to a place called Point of Fork: after remaining at most of the said places some length of time, he got a discharge at the last mentioned place on the first of the ensuing month from whom he does not now recollect. The length of time he served this tour was five months and eleven days.

The 10th of the following [year] (1780) he marched as a substitute for Burwell Coleman from Rocky run Church in the County of Amelia in a company commanded by Capt. William Finny [William Finney], in a Regiment commanded by Col. Dicky, he marched to Richmond at which place he was put under the command of General Lafayette, he then marched to Newcastle on Pamunkey River fifteen miles from Richmond, thence to the Rocky Mills in Hanover County,

thence to the burnt ordinary, thence to Allen's ordinary, at which place we met the British and had to retreat back to the burnt ordinary, from thence we returned to Richmond, thence to Fluvanna, thence to Williamsburg, there he received a discharge from Capt. Thomas Jones on the 20th of October. The time he was on this tour will as a private was four months and ten days.

On the first of June of the next year (1781) he marched as a substitute for Charles Wilson in a company commanded by the said Capt. Finny, from Amelia Court house about the time he marched his company had to appoint a Sergeant, and which appointment was given to him. He marched from Amelia Court house as aforesaid, passing through Chesterfield County &c on to Little York and remained there and about there until Cornwallis was besieged there in the month of October 1781, he remained there until the siege commenced but was discharged a few days previous to the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] -- he received his discharge on the 13th of October 1781, the time of this tour was four months and thirteen days. Thus the time that he served in the war as a Sergeant was Sixteen months and five days, and the time he served as a private was four months and ten days.

Answers to questions prescribed by the war department.

I regularly received discharges at the termination of each tour of service as above mentioned, but not believing that they could ever be of any service to me I did not preserve them -- they are therefore lost and cannot be found.

I was born in the County of Amelia in the month of November 1760. I have no record of my age, but have all my life been informed that I was born at the time stated.

I lived in the County of Amelia and I entered the service of the United States and until the end of the war, and also until I removed to the County of Halifax where I now reside which was about 25 years ago.

I was drafted and entered the service twice and entered it one as the substitute for Burwell Coleman and one as a substitute for Charles Wilson. I served three tours as a Sergeant, and one as a private.

I was with General Lafayette, General Lawson, and Col. Mason, and saw General Washington and General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg] while in the service of the United States. The circumstances of my services are particularly detailed in my declaration.

I received four discharges. One at Camden from Capt. Jerald, one at Williamsburg from Capt. Thomas Jones, one from Capt. William Finny near Little York and I do not recollect from whom I received the other discharge.

I know of no person now living by whom I can prove my services and have no documentary [evidence] of the same. Joel Tucker and Joel Cole can testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

S/ Thomas Clay¹

[Joel Tucker, a clergyman, and Joel Cole gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Virginia Halifax County

On this 13th day of November 1833 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Clay aged 73 years who being first duly sworn

¹ The signature of the veteran appears to me to be in the identical handwriting as the body of the application. Consequently, I do not believe this is the actual signature of the veteran.

according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832. That the length of time which he served in the revolutionary war as stated in his declaration dated the 28th day of August 1833, and numbered at the pension office in the United States "27, 405" and which has been returned by the Commissioner of pensions, is to the best of his knowledge and belief true, but that either through the mistake of him in detailing his services to the gentleman who drafted his declaration, or mistake in the gentleman who drafted it, -- the word "drafted" was used when it should have been volunteered: He therefore corrects it now by saying that he volunteered on his own accord in the two first tours of duty mentioned in said declaration, and that he was a substitute for those who had volunteered and engaged to go in the last two mentioned tours, and got him this applicant to take their places. Given under my hand this 13th day of November 1833

S/ John S. Lewellin

[p 9: On May 7th, 1845 in Halifax County Virginia, the veteran gave an affidavit that he has lost his original pension certificate and cannot find it. He signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$95.27 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & sergeant in the Virginia Troops; 4 months and 10 days as a private and 16 months and 5 days as a sergeant.]