

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Benjamin Clements W1230

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Stokes County N.C. December 5th 1824

Dear sir after my respects to you it is with regret that I trouble you with this letter not having the opportunity of informing you my business before you started down. Viz- I want you to enquire what office the surtificates were drawn from of the continental soldiers in the revolutionary war and there examine for my discharge and bring it to me & I will take it as a singular favour from you besides making you full Satisfaction for your troubles I served under Edmond Read [Edmund Read] Capt. Jno Nelson Maj. of the Light dragoon core [Virginia State Cavalry] the discharge being filed in the treasury when the surtificate was drawn by Mr. Moton and I want you to send it me by the first male after you get it and if you cant command it to write me to write me the cause & direct your letter to Webbs PO no more Only sir I am yours &c,
To Maj. Penn [Clark Penn, Richmond VA] Benjamin Clements
[The following note is on the back of the letter:]

Aud Off: Feb 14 1825

It appears by the Register of Certificates in this office issued to Officers and of the State line on continental establishment that a certificate issued on the 1783 to Benjamin Clemen a soldier of Dragoons for £42.10.5 and the same was delivered to Wm. Fitzpatrick [illegible signature]

State of North Carolina } SS.
Stokes County }

On this eleventh day of September 1832 personally appeared before the justices of the County Court of Stokes County now sitting being a Court of record having by Law a Seal and Clerk, Benjamin Clements a resident of Stokes County and State of North Carolina, aged sixty seven years next December agreeably to a record of his age kept by his father in Virginia who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States or Virginia State line and he is now ignorant which in the year 1779, under Captain Edmond Reed and served in Major John Nelson's Corps of Dragoons [Virginia State Cavalry] under the following named officers: Major John Nelson, who was the highest in command: the Corps was composed of three Companies, that he belonged to the first Company, of which Edmond Reed was Captain and a man by the name of Brunt or Brent [probably George P. Brent] was Lieutenant for a while, and after some time Brunt or Brent resigned and went away and was succeeded by a man by the name of Spencer: — Fear [sic: Charles Fierer] was first Captain of the second Company of said Corps, and left there and was succeeded by a man by the name of Armstrong — of the third Company of Nelson's Corps a man by the name of Armong [sic: Martin Armand Vogluson] was the Captain: that he left the service in the year 1781 having served two years, the whole term of the term for which he enlisted; that he served under no other term of enlistment. He swears that when he entered the service he resided in Charlotte County in the State of Virginia - that he was not actually engaged in any battle or battles - that shortly after he enlisted in Charlotte County Va. he was marched from there to old Williamsburg in Virginia, where he remained for some months, and from there was marched to Albemarle Barracks to guard Burgoyne's prisoners [Burgoyne's troops captured at Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777], where he remained until it was understood that Wallace's [sic: Cornwallis's] army was passing through the County [Country?], when he with eleven others was sent to the South and placed along the road for the purpose of carrying expresses, that he was thus engaged until shortly before Gates' [Gen. Horatio Gates's] defeat, at Camden in South Carolina [16 Aug 1780], when he was sent back to the Albemarle Barracks; that before he returned to the Barracks he for a while composed one of the life guard of Decalb [sic: Baron De Kalb, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Camden] — that shortly after his return to the Barracks in Albemarle, they were informed of Gates' defeat, and that Wallace was proceeding with his army through the Country, whereupon they carried the prisoners whom they were

guarding to Winchester in Virginia [Feb 1781], where they remained about one week, when they returned to the Albemarle Barracks, and found that Tarlton and his Corps had been there and burnt the Barracks [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton and his Legion, early June 1781], that they then pursued the enemy to Richmond a part of which Town they had burnt - from there he was marched to Goode's Bridge [between Chesterfield and Amelia counties] near which place he was discharged, in the year 1781, about the commencement of the Siege of York [28 Sep] — that he received a written discharge which has heretofore been transmitted to the Auditor's office at Richmond, upon which the enclosed certificate or memorandum issued.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

[signed] Benjamin Clements

NOTE: On 13 Mar 1853 Mildred Clements, 58, applied for a pension stating that she married Benjamin Clements on 13 Sep 1831, and he died 23 Mar 1835. On 13 Apr 1855 she applied for bounty land, stating that she was 59, and that as Mildred Griffin she married Benjamin Clements in Stokes County in May 1831.