

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Murdoch (Murdock) W14488 Jane Conttee Clagett MD
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

District of Columbia } SS.
Washington County }

On this twenty ninth day of November one thousand eight [hundred] and thirty seven personally appeared before the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, sitting in Washington County, Jane Conttee Clagett, a resident of Washington County District of Columbia, aged seventy one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836, and the act explanatory of said act passed March 3^d 1837: That her maiden name was Jane Conttee Harrison, that she was married to William Murdoch who was a Cornet in Armands Corps of the Revolutionary Army [Charles Armand's Legion], that according to the best of her recollection and the information she can obtain in the matter, he entered the service as early, if not earlier than the first part of the year seventeen hundred and eighty and continued in service till the latter part of the year seventeen hundred and eighty three: that soon after their marriage she recollects his leaving home and remaining absent, as the deponent believes on service in the army, for a period of two months, she believes at Little York, Pennsylvania, though she is not certain that it was at that place: that at the time of entering the service the said William Murdoch resided at George Town [Georgetown] in the County of Montgomery in the State of Maryland: that the deponent has no documentary evidence in support of the claim whatever. She further declares that she was married to the said William Murdoch in the month of May and as she verily believes on or about the twenty seventh of said month in the year seventeen hundred and eighty three; that her husband, the aforesaid William Murdoch died on the [blank] day of February in the year seventeen hundred and ninety two: that she was afterward married to Zadock Clagett who died on the [blank] day of June in the year seventeen hundred and ninety six, and that she was a widow on the 4th day of July 1836 and still continues a widow, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed
[signed] Jane Conttee Clagett

Frederick Town Maryland/ Sept. 9th 1837

Dear Madam Agreeably to your request I will state to you the circumstances by which I became acquainted with Mr Murdoch but being more than half a century past it may be presumed I have forgotten most of the facts necessary for your use.

In the spring of 1781 I moved to George Town for the purpose of studying medicine and on my arrival there I found Mr Murdoch in a military dress, said to be a Lieutenant in Col Armonds Legion and recruiting for the corps of the Legion. Col. Armonds Legion was organized in 1780 and joined the Southern army under Gen'l. Gates, which was totally defeated [Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] and the Troops dispersed & the legion having suffered loss, the officers were detached to the northern states to recruit, from which I presume Leiut. M— was with the Legion in Gates' Army; but I have no knowledge of the fact; neither do I know whether the Legion again joined the army; but presume it did with the numerous detachments from Maryland & other states then marching to join the army in pursuit of Cornwallis, who surrendered at York Town in Oct. 1781 [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781].

From all the circumstances within my recollection I think Leiut M— joined the Army in 1780 & continued untill the end of the war which terminated soon after the surrender of Cornwallis.

Whether Mr M— entered another Corps before or after the defeat of Gates or whether he ever was promoted to Captain I have no knowledge, but the records of the War Office will or ought to shew those facts & all the circumstances necessary for your use.

Leiut. Joseph Smith [Joseph Sim Smith BLWt2126-150] was an officer in Armonds Legion & was at Gates' defeat as Surgeon, but resigned or exchanged for a Lieutenancy in the line & was with Mr

M— in Geo. Town at the time of my removal to that place; from which I am induced to believe Mr M— was also in the army at Gates' defeat. Doctor Smith above refer'd to is dead and I think it probable you can get some information from Col. Walter Smith & Mr Clement Smith Pres't. of the T. & M. Bank.

I hope you may be successful in your pursuit in this affair but you must not be too sanguine.

repectfully &c &c/ J. Tyler

NOTES:

The file jacket is inscribed "BLWt263-150" and "Bounty land claim missing in 1912. Register shows 'Cornet, Armand's Legion. Warrant issued to Addison Murdock, Apl 25, 1806, and delivered to same.'"

The file includes a copy of the record of marriage of William Murdock and Jane Contee Harrison on 27 May 1783 in Frederick County MD.