

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Blake W17318

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } S.S Court of pleas & q'r Sessions
Orange County } November Term, 1841.

On this the 26 day of November, 1841, personally appeared before the Court of pleas and quarter sessions, for said County, now sitting, John Blake a resident of said County, aged 51 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 provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

That his Dec'd. father James Blake enlisted in the Army of the United States, in the year of 1780, with one Captain Moore, as he has understood, and in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Wells of the Virginia Continental Line. that he does not remember the name of any other Captain under whom it is said his Dec'd. father served, except that of Captain Moore. Major Decloman [sic: Christian Charles de Klauman] was also of the Regiment to which his father was attached.

This Declarant has also further understood that his father was under Marquis Lafayette and Gen'l. Washington.

That his Dec'd. father served only under one term of enlistment, as he understands.

That his Dec'd. father was living in Southampton County Virginia, when he enlisted – and enlisted at “Longs old fields” in said County.

That he was in the engagement at Green Springs under Lafayette in May 1781 [sic: Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], and in the fall following was at the Siege of Little York. Altho this Declarant cannot procure any testimony that his Dec'd. father served longer than the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis, in October [19th] 1781. He his nevertheless persuaded that, his father remained longer in the Service, but failing to procure the requisite evidence, he thinks it would be just and equitable, to claim Nineteen Months Service, for his Dec'd. father, to wit, from the 20th of March 1780 to the 20th of October, 1781.

In proof of his fathers Revolutionary Services, and Identity, this Declarant has Caused to be procured the evidence of Thomas Blake [pension application S6662] of Montgomery County, N.C brother of his Dec'd. father.

Said affiant states that his Dec'd. father James Blake aforesaid, was in the United States Service in the war of the Revolution Twelve months and upwards & was married he thinks, in 1778 or 1779.

In further proof of his Dec'd. father's Revolutionary Services, he has Caused to be procured, the affidavit of Brittain Bowers, a resident of said County of Orange formerly of Southampton Va who states, that his Dec'd. father, enlisted in the month of February or March 1780 – and proves further that the s'd. deceased was in the Service in the Spring following, and at the Siege of Little York, in the fall following, (1781.)

From which evidence it appears that his Dec'd. father was in the Service as a private of Infantry upwards of Nineteen months, and for which Service, this Declarant Claims a pension.

This Declarant further sets forth upon his said oath that, from the evidence furnished he believes that the marriage of his father and mother took place either in the year of 1778, or 1779.

That his father had married before his enlistment. that in the year of 1789, his father, as he understands moved from Southampton County, Virginia to Wake County in this State, and died a few months after settling in Wake County.

That in the year of 1804 or 1805 his mother moved to the Village of Chapel Hill, in this County (Orange) and resided there till her death, which occurred on the 26 day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty Nine – that when she died she left but two children surviving, to wit, the Declarant and Mary

Blake, both of Lawful age.

That after the death of his father, his mother did not afterwards marry, but remained a widow till her death.

That his mother had a family Bible, in which were entries showing the date of his father's death, and the ages of the several Children, but he does not now know what has become of said family Bible.

The Declarant hereto annexes the affidavit of Thomas Blake of Montgomery County, N.C. and which he believes to be genuine and true. Said affidavit is marked 'A'.

He also annexes the affidavit of Brittain Bowers of the aforesaid County, which this Declarant believes to be genuine and true – said affidavit is marked 'B'.

This Declarant also annexed the letters and official certificate [not transcribed here] of James Heath, Auditor, Richmond, Virginia and which evidence, the Declarant also believes to be genuine and true.

The said John Blake further Declares that, his Dec'd. mother never applied for a pension, as he ever understood, and is under the impression that she never was apprised of the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress of the 4th July, 1836, nor did he himself obtain any correct knowledge of said Act, 'till since the death of his mother.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] John Blake

'A'

State of North Carolina }

Montgomery County }

On this the 18th day of November 1841, personally appeared before the undersigned one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Thomas Blake, a pensioner residing in the said county aged 98 years.

Who being first duly qualified according to law deposeth and saeth as follows: to wit:

Question by Magistrate. Were you acquainted with James Blake of Southampton in Virginia?

Answer. I was: He was a brother of mine.

Q. Did your brother the aforesaid James Blake serve any as a soldier in the United States service in the war of the Revolution?

Answer. as a private of Infantry he did serve the United States in the war of the Revolution; the precise length of time, I do not remember; but would say it was twelve months and upwards.

Q. Under what officers did s'd. James Blake serve?

Answer. Under Colonel Wills & Maj. Decloman.

Q. In what year did your brother James Blake enlist in the United States Service?

Answer. I do not remember the year, but think it was in 1780 or thereabout.

Q. Was your brother James Blake in the United States service as a private of Infantry after he was married?

Answer. he was.

Question. In what year was he married and to whom was he married?

Answer. I do not rember the year, but think it was in 1778 or '79 to Sally Clifton.

Q. Did you see them married?

Answer. I did.

Question. Did you not always understand that they was lawfully married.

Answer. I dd.

Question. How long since your brother James Blake died?

Answer. I do not correctly know, but understand it was soon after he left Virginia, for N. Ca. say about 50 years ago.

Q. Where do you understand that Sarah Blake the widow of your brother James now lives?

Answer. in Orange County, N. Ca.

Q. Did you ever understand that the aforesaid Sarah Blake, was married after the death of her husband, the aforesaid James Blake?

Answer. I never did.

And further this Deponent Saith not.

Thomas hisXmark Blake

'B'

State of North Carolina }

Orange County } SS

On this the 25 day of November, 1841, personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County, Brittain Bowers, a resident of the aforesaid County, aged 79 years.

Who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith as follows, to wit:
that he was born and raised in Southampton County State of Virginia.

Question by Magistrate. Was you acquainted with the late James Blake, formerly of that County, & subsequently of Wake County, North Carolina?

Answer. I was: my father lived only about one mile and a half from said James Blake.

Question. Do you remember anything of said James Blake serving the United States, in the war of the Revolution, and if so, how long did he serve and under whom?

Answer. I saw said James Blake enlist in the United States Service at a General Muster, at Longs old fields, in the month of February or March, 1780 in said County of Southampton.

Question. How long did James Blake enlist for?

Answer. I do not precisely remember, the length of time, but would say that it was either for 18 months or two years – but rather think it was for two years.

Question. Where did you last see said James Blake, in the service?

Answer At Greensprings in the State of Virginia, and and the Siege of Little York. and that he served as a private of Infantry.

Question. Was said James Blake married when in the United States Service?

Answer. He was.

Question. Whom did James Blake marry?

Answer. Sally Clifton.

Question. When did James Blake move to North Carolina?

Answer. Soon after the Close of the Revolutionary War, James Blake and his brother-in-law Josiah Clifton moved to Wake County, N.C. where I have I have understood said James Blake died about 50 years ago.

Question. Have you been acquainted with said widow Sarah Blake, since the death of her husband?

Answer. I have. I came to Chapel Hill in this County about the year of 1803, and soon after my settling at Chapel Hill, said Sarah Blake moved to that village. & I after saw her and was intimately acquainted with her till her death.

Question. When did she die?

Answer in July, I think, Two years ago.

Question. Did you know her to be the widow of the Identical James Blake, above mentioned?

Answer. I do.

Question. Did said widow ever marry after the death of the aforesaid soldier, James Blake?

Answer. She never did. But remained the widow of the aforesaid James Blake till her death.

Question. How long did said Blake serve, to the best of your recollection and belief in the War of the Revolution?

Answer. I saw him enlist in the month of February or March 1780, and the last I saw of him in the Service was at the Taking of Little York, in the October of the next year. And whether said James Blake served

longer than the taking of Little York, I do not now remember.

And further this deponent saith not.

Brittain hisXmark Bowers

State of North Carolina } SS

Montgomery County } On this the 6th day of October 1842 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Blake a resident of said County of Montgomery, aged 98 years, and a United States pensioner who being duly sworn according to law deposeth & saith as follows to wit:

That he was born and raised in the County of Southampton, in Virginia, That he had a brother by the name of James who was a soldier in the United States service, in said War of the Revolution, and served as well as this affiant can now recollect as follows:

Some time in the fall of 1776 as well as this deponent can now recollect, his said brother served in the Virginia Line under Col [Hugh] Mercer of the 3 Regiment, was in the Brandywine Battle [11 Sep 1777], and in a weeks thereafter, his time of service was out and he returned home.

In the spring of the year when Cornwallace was in Virginia [1781], his said brother James again joined the service as a mounted soldier & was under the same Col. Mercer & Lafayette was in the engagement at Governer Berkleys [sic: William Berkeley's] old place on James River and also at the taking of Little York, and in a week or two afterwards was discharged & returned home, having served as a mounted private part of the time In all six months he thinks.

My deceased brother also was with me in several militia 3 or 4 tours under Col Wells In all about 6 months. I did not serve any myself in the Virginia line but my brother did. There was service that he performed in 1780 but I do not recollect the length of it.

There were six brothers of us and we were all Independent boys some of us served longer some shorter. James may have served other times & no doubt did that has escaped my recollection

Q. was James Blake your brother in the service after he was married? answer He was.

What regiment was he in at the Battle of Brandywine?

Answer. the third Virginia Regiment, I think, under Col Mercer.

Q. Where did he serve besides in the spring & fall of 1781?

Answer. He was under Col. Mercer again, as a mounted rifleman the early part of the Campaign under Lafayette, and at the latter part of the Campaign a private of Infantry and as such was at the taking of Cornwallace.

Q. When was your brother James married?

A. some time in August 1778 To Sarah Clifton.

Q. Where was your brother James Blake living when he died?

A In Wake County in this State.

Q. Where was his widow living [several illegible words] did you understand when she died?

A. In the Village of Chapel Hill, in Orange County, in this State.

Q. How long do you understand it has been since the death of your said Sisterinlaw – Sarah Blake?

A. About 3 years.

Q. Where did you understand that your brother James Blak died?

A Soon after he moved to Wake County. Say upwards of 50 years ago.

Q. Did your sister [sic] Sarah Blake marry after the death of your brother James?

A I never understood that she did.

And further this deponent saith not.

Thomas hisXmark Blake

State of North Carolina }

Cumberland County } On this 31st day of January in the year 1842 personally appeared before the undersigned, one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County Mary M Blake, aged 82

years widow of Isham Blake deceased who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and sayeth as follows:

That she was acquainted with the late James Blake of Wake County formerly of Southampton, in Virginia, that said James Blake married this affiants sister Sarah Clifton. That they were married in the month of August 1776 or 1777 – that they were married by one parson [George] Gurley in Southampton County aforesaid – That this affiants brother-in-Law the said James Blake was a soldier in the united states service in the war of the revolution as a private of infantry but how long said James Blake served in said War, this affiant does not now remember.

My Brother in Law, the said James Blake moved to Wake County in this State about Fifty years ago and I understood died soon after – and that my Sister Sarah removed about 40 years ago to the village of Chapel Hill in Orange County – where she died a short time since and that her surviving children John & Mary, I understand are Endeavouring to get a Pension, for the Revolutionary services of their deceased Father James Blake as aforesaid.

This affiant further states that the said James Blake was in the united states Service after his marriage
And further this affiant sayeth not. Mary M herXmark Blake

State of North Carolina }
Orange County }

On this the 28th day of September, 1842, came John Boudy [pension application W5858] a pensioner residing in said County before me, and after being duly sworn according to Law, maketh Oath that, in the war of the Revolution he was a private of Infantry in the Maryland line, in the army of the Revolution and was acquainted with James Blake in the army who was a private of Infantry in the Virginia Line, 3rd Reg't. and under Col. Mercer he thinks, the aforesaid James Blake was of Southampton County Virginia that said Blake was in the army when this affiant joined.

Remembers of said Blake being in the battles of Trenton [26 Dec 1776] and Princeton [3 Jan 1777] and at Brandy wine and at Morristown and Middlebrook encampments. Said James Blake this affiant thinks was a twelve months soldier and left the army in the fall or winter after the battle of Brandywine.

The said John Boudy further sets forth upon his said Oath, that, during the Siege of Little York in the summer and fall of 1781, he again saw said James Blake of Southampton, Virginia, in the United States Service as a Rifle militia man and was again under Col. Mercer and Genl. Lafayette and that said Blake he thinks was either in the militia or state troops and heard him speak of being under Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne in the preceeding spring, in the battle of Green Springs.

This affiant does not remember of seeing the said Blake in the service after the Taking of Little York. in the winter following this affiant was marched to the South, as a recruit to the Southern army under General Green, and remained in the South 'till the close of the war.

And further this affiant saith not. John hisXmark Boudy

State of North Carolina }
Orange County }

This day came personally before me Thomas Jones, one of the Justices of the Courts of pleas and quarter Sessions of said County, John Boudy, a pensioner in said County of Orange, and after being first duly sworn according to Law, deposeth and saith as follows, to wit:

That when in the Northern army in 1776, he became acquainted with James Blake of the 3rd Virginia Regiment, who served in said Regiment and was in the Battle of Brandywine under Colonel [Thomas] Marshall, he thinks.

In 1781, this deponent was marched to the South with the Northern army under General Washington, and was at the Siege of Little York: that they arived in the vicinity of Yorktown, the last of September, to the best of this deponent's remembrance;) where he saw the aforesaid James Blake in the

United States Service as private of militia. That said Blake was in the Southern division that he was in Captain Forrow's Company, and in Weedins [sic: George Weedon's] brigade of militia.

Heard said Blake say that, he was in the previous Spring, in a tour under General Lafayette, and in the Battle at Greenspring, and was there under Lieut Colonel Mercer. that he remembered of seeing said Mercer in the Northern army, in the 3rd Virginia Regiment, that said Mercer was attached to the third Regiment, but had not the command of it.

Question. How long did said James Blake serve in the fall of 1781, to your knowledge?

Answer. I arrived at Yorktown, on the last day of September, I think it was, and saw said Blake on the 30th day of September, or the 1st day of October, in the United States Service, as private of Militia, in Captain Forrow's Company: that he remained in the service to this deponents knowledge 'till the surrender of Lord Cornwallise. his tour ended and he returned home.

Question. How long did you understand said Blake served in the militia, in 1781?

Answer. Two tours, making six months.

And further this deponent saith not.

Sworn and subscribed, on the 9th day of February, in the year, of 1843 John hisXmark Boudy

NOTE:

On 2 Dec 1842 John Blake submitted "Additional and Explanatory evidence" in the form of Boudy's affidavits above and another affidavit by Thomas Blake dated 7 March 1842. The latter adds only the following information: "I had four brothers in the service, besides James Blake Towit Samuel, John, Etheldred and Benjamin." In addition, John Blake stated "that he has recently found their Common Prayer Book, which contains their "family record," and that the entries therein made this Affiant has understood from his Dec'd. mother was, in part in the hand writing of his deceased father James Blake." This family register is transcribed below.

Richard Blake was Born September th 10 1783[?]

Nansey Blake was born th 4 day March 1786

Jones Blake was born Mar th 13 day 1788 March

[Illegible entry]

Thom's Clifton

James Blake was marid the 11 of August 1777

[Illegible entry]

Salley

Lydia Clifton her Book [illegible word] 24[?] April[?] the 24th 1764 and given by her to her Daughter Salley Clifton

Dorothy Clifton was Born th23 April 1856

Lydia Blake was born 21th of Novem the year 1778

Polly Blake Was Born July the 10 1781

Salley Clifton wass born April 6th 1756

Sam'l Clifton wass born Nov'r 18 175 [last digit illegible]

W[?] Casey Mary[?] Clifton Wass Born 22 of May 1760

Josiah Clifton wass born July [page torn]7 1762

Matthew Clifton wass[?] born [illegible] January 1765