

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Spencer Clark (Clarke) W2529
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia and County of Middlesex.

November the 27th 1821. Personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the aforesaid County Spencer Clarke aged fifty seven years, resident in the said County of Middlesex, who being first duly sworn, according to law doth on his oath declare that he served eighteen months in the revolutionary war as follows that he enlisted the 30th day of June seventeen hundred and eighty and was discharged the seventeenth day of January seventeen hundred and eighty two. that he served in the second Virginia detachment in Capt Andersons [John Anderson's] Company under the command of Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]. And doth further swear that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. Schedule

One iron pot.....	75
Dutch oven.....	57
One ax.....	75
Two Augurs.....	50
One hand saw.	1 00
Pair Iron Wedges.....	1.75
Pair flat irons.....	27
Two pair oyster tongs..	<u>2 00</u>
	8.59

[signed] Spencer Clark

State of Virginia

Middlesex County to wit

This day John Clark [John Clark, pension application S17884, brother of Spencer Clark] personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that Spencer Clarke enlisted himself as a soldier in the Revolutionary war the 30th day of June seventeen hundred and Eighty and served as a soldier in the 2nd Virginia Detachment & untill the last day of December Seventeen hundred and Eighty One it being the term he was engaged for and was discharged the seventeenth day of January seventeen hundred and Eighty two at Sailburry [sic: Salisbury] Towit North Carolina By John Anderson Capt S. Snead my Comm't. [Maj. Smith Snead, Commandant]
Given under my hand this 20th day of August 1821 Lewis B. Montague

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Spencer Clark/ age 16/ height 5' 9"/ farmer/ born and residing in Essex County/ black hair/ gray eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 11 Sep 1780 for 18 months.

In support of the pension application of his brother, Robert Clark (S1752), Spencer Clark deposed that he and John Clark had served in Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion in 1781.

On 19 June 1843 Elizabeth Clark, age 72 on 16 June of that year, applied for a pension, stating that

she married Spencer Clark on 19 Nov 1808, and he died 12 Nov 1834. Her application was not successful, because the pension acts then provided only for widows who married veterans before 1794.

On 27 May 1850 an application under the same pension act was made in the name of "Nancy Elizabeth Clark," signed with an X, stating that she married Spencer Clark on 12 Nov 1787. The initial "N." was evidently added before "Elizabeth Clark" in the body of the declaration, and "Nancy" is in a different handwriting in the signature. In a similar application prepared by Andrew Stiff, JP on 4 July 1850, the name of the applicant is written as "Nancy E. Clarke." A letter dated 13 Aug 1853 explained as follows: "Elizabeth Clark was under the impression that she was signing and swearing to it as Elizabeth Clark, and not as Nancy Elizabeth Clark. She states further that she knew nothing of her being made to say therein that she was married to her husband in the year 1787 – that that marriage of her husband was to a different woman who was Nancy Elizabeth Cloud, and that she Mrs Clark would not have attempted to personate that individual. I have not doubt, that it was a preconceived plan on the part of her agent to impose both upon Mrs Clark and the Government." On 11 Aug 1853 Elizabeth Clark deposed that the name of the agent was Henry Perkins. The file includes a copy of two marriage bonds for Spencer Clark. The first was signed on 23 Apr 1787 by Spencer Clark and Richard Montague for the marriage of Clark to Nancy Coudas[?]. The second was signed on 2 Nov 1807 by Spencer Clarke and Christopher Owen for the marriage of Clark to "Mrs. Eliza. Mercer."

On 18 Feb 1853 at age 81 Elizabeth Clark applied successfully under a later act, stating that her maiden name was Elizabeth Tool, and that she was the widow of John Mercer when she married Spencer Clark on 12 Nov 1807. Lewis Clark deposed that his father, Spencer Clark, had been a pensioner. In an application for bounty land dated 21 Mar 1855, Elizabeth Clark's age is said to be 84.