

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of to Michael Clifford (Cliffords) W25416 Elizabeth fn51NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 11/21/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Illinois, County of Sangamon

On this ninth day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Commissioners Court of the County of Sangamon, now sitting Michael Clifford a resident in the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois aged Seventy three, who first being 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 7, 1832.

I was born in New Jersey in 1759 -- & removed when about three years of age to Maryland. In 1775 I removed to Rowan County North Carolina where I lived when called into service. In 1784 I removed to Woodford County Kentucky -- & in 1804 to Davis County, Kentucky. In 1827 I removed to Sangamon County Illinois where I have since resided. I know of no record of my age.

From the year 1775 until the close of the revolutionary war I served as a minute man & was frequently out during each year – but my memory is so far impaired by age that I do not recollect with accuracy the dates of the commencement & termination of my different terms of Service. Our operations were against the Tories who were frequently embodying in large parties. No Continental regiments ever served with us nor any regular officers.

I was first attached to a company of mounted Troops commanded by Captain John Johnson & Lieutenant James Chapman. My first Expedition was against a party of Scotch Tories on Cross Creek – Raleigh Co. [sic] our party consisted of about 300 under the command of Colonel Lock [sic, Francis Locke] & General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] we arrived the day after the battle of Cross Creek & we were afterwards employed in guarding the prisoners taken in that action I was absent from home on this occasion about a month. I received no discharge.

I was afterwards, (the date of this term of service I do not remember) – engaged in an expedition against a party of Tories at Vandiver's mill on Dutchman's Creek & in another at Bryant's Hill – I was out at the time of Tarlton's [sic, Banastre Tarleton's] Defeat [Battle of Cowpens]-- & assisted in bringing away the soldiers wounded in that engagement. I was afterwards engaged in a battle with a party of Tories on Pedee River – on all these occasions I served under the same officers mentioned in the first expedition – I received no discharge.

Sometime before Gates' [Horatio Gates'] defeat – I went under the same commanders against the Cherokees in Tennessee their towns were on Tennessee River these we destroyed we then marched to what was called the Valley Towns – These were destroyed with their provisions -- & some Indians were killed – after an absence of more than three months we returned home. I received no discharge.

After my return from this Expedition – I seldom visited my home, but was continually

employed against the Tories, until the termination of the war. I have no documentary evidence of my service, or do I know of any person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service.

I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Michael Clifford, X his mark

[fn p. 45: William Sims, a clergyman, and Absolom Burnet gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 46]

State of Illinois Sangamon County: SS

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Michael Clifford who made the within declaration in order to obtain a pension who being duly sworn deposes and says that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than 19 months as a private.

S/ Michael Clifford, X his mark

[fn p. 9: On July 16, 1853 in Sangamon County Illinois, Elizabeth Clifford, 72, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Michael Clifford, a pensioner at the rate of \$63.33 per annum for his services in the revolution; that she married him on the \_\_day of \_\_ 1811 in Kentucky; that her husband died July 30th, 1835 in Sangamon County Illinois.]

[fn p. 13: On April 28, 1855 in Sangamon County Illinois, Elizabeth Clifford, 71, a resident of Spring Creek in Sangamon County Illinois filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Michael Clifford.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$63.33 per annum, commencing March 4th, 1831, for one year and seven months service as a private in the North Carolina militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the same rate commencing February 3, 1853.]