

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Christopher Clarke W25426
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Elizabeth Clarke VA

State of Virginia

Fluvanna County Sc

On the 25th day of November 1844 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Fluvanna, now sitting – being a Court of Record, Christopher Clarke, a resident of Fluvanna County and State of Virginia, aged 81 years, on the 5th day of April last, who being first 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 7th 1832

That he was born in the County of Louisa, and State of Virginia, on the 5th day of April 1763, and when about ten years of age he removed with his parents to what is now the county of Fluvanna – then a portion of the County of Albemarle, and State of Virginia, where he has resided ever since – though for the last forty-three years, in a different part of the county from that to which he first removed – except occasional short absences, such as his several tours of service during the Revolutionary War, and one trip to the State of Kentucky in 1800, of short duration. He has no record of his age the family Bible which contained it having been carried to the State of Tennessee, by a certain Benjamin Lee, who had borrowed it

He entered the service of the State of Virginia, as a private in the Militia, during the Revolutionary War, as a substitute for his brother John Clarke, who was drafted in a company raised in Louisa county, for the purpose of guarding the British prisoners at the Albemarle Barracks [Burgoyne's Army captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and kept at Albemarle Barracks Jan 1779 to Feb 1781] – the officers names he cannot now recollect, as they were all strangers to him at the time, and he has never seen any of them since, and he was then only fourteen or fifteen years old. He cannot say positively as to the year in which this service was rendered, but he believes it was in the year 1777 – possibly 1778 [sic]. It was in the early part of the winter, and when he returned home there was snow upon the ground. Nor is he certain as to the length of the term, but believes it was for one month; or it may have been for three weeks, he is not positive which. He was marched to the Albemarle Barracks, where he remained the whole time he was in service, when he was discharged and returned home He does not recollect the names of any of the Field Officers in command at the Barracks

That in the Fall of the year 1780 he again entered the Service of the State of Virginia, as a private in the place of Alexander Toney, who was drafted in a company of Militia raised in Fluvanna County, commanded by Captain Leonard Thompson, Ensign Wm Bybee [William Bybee] – he believes there was no Lieutenants in the Company. He was marched to Richmond, where he arr[ived] a few days after the British had left that city [probably Gen. Benedict Arnold, about 7 Jan 1781] – from thence to Petersburg, and from thence to a place below Petersburg called Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County], where he remained for nearly two months when he was marched back to Petersburg and discharged. After the Company arrived at Cabin Point, Captain Thompson resigned his Commission, in consequence of ill health, and returned home, and Ensign Bybee took command. He believes there was no officer in command at Cabin Point of a higher grade than Captain. Captain Henderson of the Albemarle Militia had the Chief command of the troops at Cabin Point. He returned home, and in the month of January 1781, he was drafted in a company of Virginia Militia as a private, in a company raised in Fluvanna County under the Command of Captain Samuel Richardson – Lieutenants names not recollected, for a tour of two months; He was marched by Richmond to Williamsburg and from thence to York-town, and then to the Half House, between York and Hampton, where he remained about a month – was then marched to York, where he remained several weeks, from thence to Williamsburg where he remained until the end of three

months from the time he was drafted, having been kept in service, by order of General [Thomas] Nelson, one month longer than the term for which he was drafted, when he was discharged. There were during this term of service frequently several companies together, but he believes there was no officer in command of a higher grade than Captain. General Nelson who resided in York, and who he believes was the Governor of the State, had the Chief command or direction of the troops in that vicinity, including the company to which he belonged. He returned home, and in July following, viz 1781 he again entered the Militia of the State, as a private, in the place of his Cousin William Clarke, who was drafted in a company raised in Louisa County commanded by Captain Wash – other officers names not recollected, for a term of two months. He was marched to the Bowling Green, in Caroline County, Virginia, where his company joined a Regiment under the command of Colonel Taylor, and Major Campbell, first names not recollected – the latter officer he believes, belonged to the regular service, as he wore a different uniform. From Bowling Green he was marched to a place called Hubbards Old field, in Gloucester or King & Queen county, where he remained until the end of the term for which his principal was drafted, viz two months, when he was discharged, and returned home, a few weeks before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis Army at York-town [19 Oct 1781]. He was engaged whilst at Hubbards Old Field, frequently in scouting parties, intercepting the foraging parties of the enemy, who were then at York and Gloucester towns. That he has no documentary evidence, nor any written discharge – never having received any written discharge at the end of any of his terms of service.

He has heretofore made no application for a pension in consequence of his not being certain that he was entitled to the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – or if entitled to it, that he could establish his claim by the requisite proof. He did apply to two of his county-men several years since, who were Magistrates in the County, and who promised him to attend to the matter for him – but he believes they took no steps towards establishing the Claim. He knows of no living witness by whom he could prove his services, except John Haislip [pension application W11232], who served with him in the Company commanded by Captain Leonard Thompson. He refers to Rev Robert Lilly, Giles Hope, John Hassleps, Colonel James Magruder, and Major Richard Noel, persons residing in his neighbourhood and county, for his character.

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

[signed] Christopher Clarke

Thereupon the Court propounded to the applicant the following interrogatories

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In the County of Louisa, in 1763

2. Have you any Record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer. There was a Record, but it has been carried to the State of Tennessee, by Benjamin Lee

3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer, In Fluvanna County, State of Virginia

4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. The first term, I substituted for John Clarke, the second term I substituted for Alexander Toney; the third term, I was drafted, the fourth term I was substituted in place of William Clarke

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served – such Continental and Militia Regiments, as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer, In my first term I do not recollect the name of any general officer; And in the 2^d and 3^d term I believe there was no officer of a higher grade than Captain, in command – and in the 4th term Colonel Taylor and Major Campbell commanded. The Company to which I belonged in the 2^d term was

commanded by Captain Leonard Thompson, in the 3^d by Captain Sam'l Richardson, & in the 4th by Captain Wash

6th Did you ever receive a written discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I never received any written discharge at the end of any of my terms of service

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services, as a Soldier of the Revolution?

Answer. The Rev. Robert Lilly, Giles Hope, John Haislip Col James Magruder, Major Richard Noel

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Fluvanna, and State of Virginia, Christopher Clarke, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear postively as to the precise length of his service during the Revolutionary War but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades

First tour, I served for one month, as a private in the Militia

2^d " I served " two months as a private " "

3 " I served " three months " " " "

4 " I served " two " " " " "

And for such service I claim a pension [signed 25 Nov 1844] Christopher Clarke

NOTE: On 24 April 1854 Elizabeth Clarke, 76, applied for a pension stating that she married Christopher Clarke on 10 July 1810, and he died 1 Feb 1851. The application was witnessed by W. G. Clarke, who, together with Thomas J. Clarke, also certified the death of Christopher Clarke. On 16 June 1854 Giles Hope stated that he had been present at the marriage of Christopher Clarke and Elizabeth Hope solemnized by Rev. John Saltz. On 20 Oct 1869 Elizabeth Clarke, 92, petitioned for the restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, during which time she had "depended upon others for a support."