

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Clarke W2920 Jane Clarke VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 Dec 2018.

[The following five items are from [pension records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Alexandria March 5, 1787 –

This is to certify that I have this day seen Mr Thomas Clark & examine a wound of his arm, which he tells me he received when a Serjeant in the Virginia Continental Troops at the Battle of Brandywine; (which from sundry circumstances by him related, I firmly believe to be true); and that in consequence of said wound he hath lost the use of his left arm entirely, and that from the injury done thereby to the bone, the wound is still open, & likely to be so for some time & to give him much pain, as I have on the occasion of now examining it, extracted two pieces of carious Bone and there are more still to come out – Given under my hand, date &c as above mentioned.

W Brown [William Brown] late
Physician Gen'l. in the Army of the U. States



Thos. Clark a pensioner
to be cont'd. with allowance of £18 Commencing 3rd Jan'y 1786 – lives in Fairfax – aged 26. March 17
'87. a Blair

[The top part of the following is missing.]
some months after receiving said wound.

I do farther certifie that said Clarke while in the service always conducted himself in such a manner as to gain the applause of the Officers of the Reg't in general in so much that he was appointed one of the first Serg'ts and I verily believe had he not met with accident before recited that a Comission wou'd been given him. Given under my hand this above date/ Thos. West [Thomas West]

Loudoun Jan'y 16th 1788.

Dear Sir,

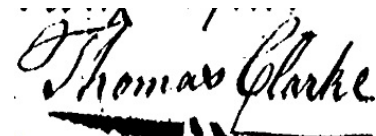
The bearer Thomas Clark goes down to Richmond to obtain a duplicate of his pension warrant which Capt. Stanhope lost last spring.

Mr Stanhope thinks he left the Warrant with you in order to find out whether he stood upon the pension list, should it be among your papers he can get it from you, if not he brings down a certificate of its being lost in which case your assisting him in procuring a duplicate will confer a great favor on him & considered as such done Sir, yr. ob't Serv't./ Levin Powell

August the 12th 1788

Then Received of Mr. Richard Simpson Thirty six Pounds Specie in full of the within order on the Sheriff say Received pr me.

Witness/ Edw'd. Ford



[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Lexington Nov'r 17th 1818

Dear Sir; Gen'l James Taylor is friendly enough to use his exertion to procure the military Land I think I am entiteld to and he wishes the aid of some Person of Note to Certify I am the Person designated in the Certificate signed by Edm'd Randolph as Governor of the state of Virg'a I have seen you frequently in Burbon [sic: Bourbon] County for some years past. I am son of Richard Clarke who formerly lived on a place of your Fathers in Stafford County Virg'a. I was a seargeant in Capt. Tho Wests Company and was wounded at the Battle of Brandywine in the Spring 1778 I Returned from the hospital to the Army then lying at the Valley forge where I obtained my discharge (I merely write these things to bring to your memory, that I am the same Tho Clarke as named in the Certificate – anything you can do to serve me will be gratefully acknowledged by yours &c



I enlisted under Capt. Tho west at Alexandria in the beginning of 1777 for durig the war in the 10th Virginia Contineltal line

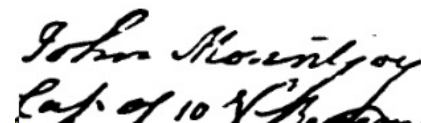


I John Waller [S37503] of Pendleton County Kentucky do Certify that I was well acquainted with the within named Thomas Clark before he retired the army, and was in the army with him, was in the same army with him and saw him after he was wounded, which took place at the Battle of Brandy-wine, and believe the statement in the within letter to be true. Given under my hand this 4th day of October 1819. I was a Sergeant in Capt. John Mountjoys [S36175] Company of the 10th Virginia Reg't



I John Mountjoy late a Captain in the 10th Virginia Continetal Regt. do Certify that I was well acquainted with the within named Thomas clark annd believe the Statement in the within letter is correct Given under my hand this 4th day of October 1819.

John Mountjoy
Late Cap of 10 V Regiment



Fayette County towit

This day personally appeared before me R. J. Todd a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Thomas Clarke who being first sworn [undeciphered word] & saith that he is the same person mentioned in his letter dated the 17th of November 1818 written to Col John Mountjoy of Pendleton County, that the facts stated in the said letter are true that he joined in the 10 Virginia Regiment on contineltal establishment until he was discharged in consequence of wounds he received at the Battle of Brandywine in the spring of 1778 [sic] by which said wound, I have lost the use of my left hand and am the same Thomas Clarke who am on the pension list at Richmond Virginia. That he served [two undeciphered words] in the state line, that he never did receive Warrant for Land for his services & that he never gave any his power of attorney to draw his land bounty until he gave one to James Jay on which accourained[?] the evidence of Col Mountjoy & John Waller alluded to, nor did he ever sell his discharge to enable anyone to draw a warrant for his said services.

Sworn to & subscribed this 26th day of April 1822.
R. J. Todd JP.



I do hereby Certify that I have known Thomas Clarke, a resident of the County of Fayette and State of Kentucky, upwards of Twenty years last past; that I have always considered him, and he has borne the character of a man of honor, probity and veracity. When I first knew him, he had a wound which I have understood was received in the Revolutionary War.

Given under my hand this 16th day of October 1822.

H. Clay [Henry Clay]
Ashland, Kentucky.

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

Fayette COUNTY, SS.

BE IT KNOWN, That before me, a justice of the peace in the county aforesaid personally appeared Thomas Clarke and made oath, that he is the identical persona named in an original certificate in his possession, of which the following is a copy:

I do with the advice of the Council hereby Certify that Thomas Clarke aged about 26 years late a Sargent in the 10th Virginia Regm't. and whose pay was at the rate of £36 pr annum was disabled in the service of the United States by a wound in the left arm which occasioned the loss of the use of it and that he is allowed the sum of £18 yearly to commence from the first day of Jan'y 1786

Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia at Richmond this 17th day of March 1787

Edm'd Randolph

The above is a duplicate of a Certificate issued to Thos. Clarke which appears from the oath of Wm Stanhope Gen'l. to be lost or mislaid

T. Meriweather [sic: Thomas Meriwether]

That he is entitled to a pension of Eight Dollars per month, on account of being wounded in the service of the United States during the Revolution War; that he served in captain West's company of Infantry in 10th Virginia regiment, at the time he was wounded, that he now resides in the State of Kentucky and has resided there for the space of Thirty four years past; and that previous thereto he resided in the State of Virginia

Tho Clarke

Sworn and subscribed 15th day of April 1824 before me, } Wm Davenport J.P.

State of Kentucky }

Fayette County } Sct.

On the 30th day of Novem'r. 1839, before the undersigned, one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Thomas Clarke (an Invalid Pensioner of the United States) a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged Eighty four years last August, 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 6th [sic] 1832. That he enlisted as a private soldier in the army of the United States, under Capt. Thomas West, for the period of three years, or during the war, of the Revolution, and which Company was attached to the Reg't. Commanded by Colo. Ed. Stevens – the precise time of his enlistment not now particularly recollected, though it was some time during the year 1776 – he remained in the service until some time, he thinks, in May 1778 when he was discharged, having been disabled by a wound received at the Battle of Brandywine on the [blank: 11th] day of Septem'r. 1777 – and which disability continues to the present time, and for which he now receives a Pension, as an Invalid, of Eight dollars per month, as per certificate now in his possession, and endorsed, "Registered in Book B vol. 10. page 4, by E Ben'n Stout Clk:" In addition to the services above mentioned, he states, that he served two tours, in the militia, in the years 1775-6 – he refers for proof of his services to the records & proof on which his Certificate as an Invalid pensioner was issued.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension List, Roll of any agency in any State or Territory, except (as an Invalid) as above stated.

He further declares, that from age and bodily infirmity he is unable to attend Court, residing as he does, about Eleven miles from the Court House of his County.



At a Court held for the County of Fairfax the 20 April 1840

This day Charles L. Broadwater [Charles Lewis Broadwater, pension application S8096] an Officer and Soldier in the Revolutionary war, eighty eight years of age, appeared in Open Court and made oath to the following Certificate

That he was well acquainted with Thomas Clarke, who (he is informed) is now living in the State of Kentucky, that he said Clark was a native of this County and enlisted here as a soldier in the Revolutionary war to the best of deponents knowledge in 1776 and that he was attached to Weedens [sic: George Weedon's] Brigade tenth Virginia Regiment of regulars commanded by Col. Edward Stevens, and Capt. Thomas West's company, of which Company the deponent was first Lieutenant, that the said Thomas Clark was in active service, and was wounded at the battle of Brandywine by a musket ball passing through his shoulder, which rendered him incapable of further service, and about the month of June 1778 he was discharged as a disabled Soldier, and further this deponent saith not.

A Copy Teste S. M. Ball

State of Kentucky }
Fayette County }

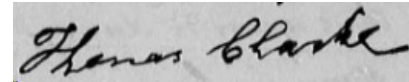
On this 26th day of August 1840, personally appeared Thomas Clarke a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged Eighty five years, (on the 28th inst) who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following, amended declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That in the year 1775 he was residing in the County of Goucester [sic: Gloucester] County in the state of Virginia, and was an apprentice to the Ship Carpenter's trade, being then about Twenty years old, that during the (summer or) fall of the said year (1775) upon a rumor or an apprehension, that Lord Dunmore intended to return to Williamsburg and burn the City, he volunteered under Col. [Mordecai] Buckner and marched to Williamsburg; after their arrival they continued there until relieved by Col. Jefferson, with, as was said, five hundred men, how long this affiant was in service at this time he cannot state, but thinks probably two months. After the return of applicant from Williamsburg, he returned to his fathers residence in Fairfax County Va. and during the spring or summer of 1776, on the ascent of the British fleet up the Potomac, he again volunteered under Capt. Deneal, and marched to Mt. Vernon, to protect the property of Gen'l. Washington [mid July 1776], the length of service at this time, he cannot distinctly state, but thinks it did not exceed one month. That in the latter part of the fall of the same year (1776) the month not recollected, he enlisted in the army of the U. States for three years, or during the war, and served in the 10th Regiment of the Virginia line, under the following named officers, viz: Colo. Edw'd. Stephens, Maj'r. George Nichols [sic: George Nicholas], Capt. Thos. West; Lieutenants John Cofer & Charles L. Broadwater, and Ensign Thomas Pierson. Said enlistment took place in the County of Fairfax County in the state of Virginia. he marched from thence to Baltimore, from thence to Philadelphia, and from thence to New Jersey, where in the spring of 1777, he joined the main army under the command of Gen'l. Geo. Washington, and there remained under the same officers until he was wounded at the battle of Brandywine, previous to which time he was marched through various parts of New Jersey, to Trenton, Princeton, Morristown &c. &c. and at one time the army made a move to the north, perhaps to Boston, but upon the arival of the army in or near the state of New York, information was received that the British were approaching the Chesapeak [sic: Chesapeake Bay, Aug 1777], which changed the movement, and the

army returned, and afterwards was fought the battle of Brandywine, where this applicant was wounded as aforesaid – he was placed in the Hospital at Bethlehem in the state of Pennsylvania where he remained until discharged some time in the month of June 1778. Applicant was under a belief that his discharge was recorded in the Clerks Office of Fairfax County Va. & got his son to write for it, which was not obtained – but in lieu of it, he received from a friend the affidavit of one of his Lieutenants, Charles L. Broadwater (now on file in the Pention office at Washington City) – he knows of no other surviving witness by whom he can prove his services (and did not know of Lieut. Broadwater at the time he made his original declaration, to which this is an amendment).

Applicant further states, that by reason of the lapse of time, old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, or the facts above set forth, but to the best of his recollection, he served as stated above, and thinks he was in service including his service as a volunteer, and the time he was in the Hospital) at least twenty one months, and for which service he claims a Pension.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present: and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency of any State, except on that of the state of Kentucky as an Invalid.



State of Kentucky }
Fayette County } Sct.

I James L Hickman one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, (and before whom the foregoing amended declaration of Thomas Clarke, was made, sworn and subscribed,) do hereby certify, that the said, Thomas Clarke, from his advanced age and bodily infirmity is unable to attend Court, and that he is a man of reputable standing in society, and that his statements are entitled to credit.

I do further Certify, that after closing the foregoing amended declaration (and after my return home) upon examination of a sketch or memorandum made by me, at the time the applicant was relating a history of his services, I find that I omitted some facts, that may be of importance, in the examination of his case – first, on their arrival in Baltimore they took [were inoculated with] the Small Pox, – second - the principal movements of the army in Jersey, was on or in the vicinity of the Raritan River; the encampment at or near “Middlebrook,” from which encampment, (perhaps) the army made the movement towards the north; and lastly, that after his enlistment in the regular army, he acted as Sergeant until he was wounded at Brandywine. Given under my hand this 27th day of August 1840/ James L. Hickman JP.

Lexington Aug't. 27, 1840.

Dr. Sir [Col. James L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner],/ I visited, on yesterday, my old friend Thomas Clarke, and obtained from him an amended declaration – being quite unwell myself, and being rather pressed for time, I did not make out as full a detail of the movements of the army, as detailed by him – on this subject he was very lucid, and more so than I could have expected, after a lapse of some 60 years – his recollection of events appeared to be very clear. You will discover that I have condensed his details, reserving only such facts as I supposed important – in doing which I inadvertantly omitted some that I deem of some importance, and have this morning embodied in my Certificate – on my arrival at Mr. Clarks I found him sitting in a chair in the passage or entrance of his “Log Cabin” it was near dinner time, and being in a hurry to return, I used the time before dinner, in getting from a history of his services &c – the old gentleman being pretty deaf, I requested him to begin with his first services, and give me a detail of the principal events &c. up to his discharge – he did so, and as he proceeded, I sketched down with my pencil, his detail as well as I could – after dinner, I wrote out from this sketch his amended declaration, and read it to him (he being rather too blind to read well) loud, & distinctly, he remarked, that it was true so far as it went, to his best recollection. I then qualified him to this declaration, and left – on my return to

Lex. in looking over the memo. I had made, I found I had omitted, what I had supplied in my Certificate.

If upon a reexamination of his case, you think an increase of Pension ought to granted, you of course will, retain the [pension] Certificate, herewith, and send another, If on the other hand, an increase is denied, please return the Certificate herewith enclosed. Mr. Clark is a pious old man, and appeared very particular in swearing to any fact, where he conceived a possibility of doubt. he thinks he served altogether including his service as volunteer &c. perhaps two years or more, but fearing he might be mistaken, it has been limited to at least 21 months – one thing, I noticed, that his recollections of the events of his volunteer service, &c. did not appear so distinct, as was his recollections of his service in the regular army – this, I account for from the shortness of the service; that being but little to make a lasting impression – he seemed to recollect the circumstances, pretty clearly, except as to the time he was employed; this he could not state with any precision, he said it might be more or even less than the time stated. I wish it were possible, for you to see him and converse with him; could you do so, you would have no hesitancy afterwards. The old man amused me, by remarking, “tell Mr. Edwards, that Charles Broadwater lives only about 10 or 12 miles from the City of Washington, and if he will only take his horse and ride over & see him, he will fully satisfy him.” Hoping that the amended declaration of Mr. Clarke my prove satisfactory & and an Increase of his pension granted, I remain very Respectfully,
Yr. friend and obt. Servt/ James L Hickman

NOTES:

Thomas Clarke’s disability pension was transferred from Virginia to Kentucky effective 4 March 1818.

On 14 April 1843 Jane Clarke, aged 75 on 9 July 1842, applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Clarke on 28 Jan 1788, and he died 7 Feb 1842. An accompanying document refers to her son, James Clarke. As evidence of the marriage she submitted parts of a family record transcribed below.

On 22 March 1855 Jane Clarke applied for bounty land.

MARRIAGES.

(Tho & Jane Clarke Jan’y 28th 1788)

Edward F & Hannah Clarke September 27th 1814

Charles & Jane Clarke May 1ST 1822

James & Lydiann[?] Clarke Jan’y 24th 1828

BIRTHS.

(Tho Clarke Aug’t. 28th 1755)

Jane Clake July 9th 1767

Charles Clarke Jan’y. 30th 1789

Edw’d. Clarke May 2nd 1791

Rich’d Clarke July 14th 1793

Jefferson Clarke June 9th 1797

James Clarke Dec’r. 12th 1803

Thomas Clarke son of Edw’d & Hannah Clarke June 30th 1815

Nancey Clarke April 16th [or 17th] 1817

William Clarke July 31st 1818

Charles Clarke April 26th 1820

David Clarke March 8th 1822

John Thomas Clarke April 12th 1830

James William Clark [rest of page cut off]