

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Micajah Clark W6678

Keziah Clark

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

Amherst County to witt,

On this 9th day of April 1839 personally appeared before me Isaac R Reynolds a Justice of the peace in and for said county Mrs Kiziah Clarke, a Resident of said county aged 78 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision, made by the act of Congress, passed July 4th 1836: That she is the widow of Micajah Clarke, who was a corporal in the Revolutionary war, that he enlisted under Capt Sam'l Woodson [Samuel Woodson] of the Virginia Continental line of service in the County of Goochland on the 10th day of April 1776, for three years and was attached to the 9th Virginia Regiment. that he was at the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], and German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] – at which latter place he was taken prisoner (she believes) that her husband Micajah Clarke remained a prisoner 8 months and 12 days at Philidelphia [sic: Philadelphia] as he told her – that the Americans lost the victory at Germantown, in consequence of one of the Officers (Gen'l. Stevens [sic: Adam Stephen] she believes) being drunk – that at the battle in which he was taken prisoner, the americans being defeated, he clarke got under a barn, and when the british came to get plank they found him under there and told him to come out damned Rebel – that while her husband was in prison the women came to see the prisoners, and endeavoured to effect his escape by dressing him in female apparel – but failed, because the guard noticed that there was one more that came out than went in. That he is the same person no doubt who is named in the certificate of balance of pay issued to Micajah Clarke, on the 25th day of Nov 1785, for £25.6.0, which was delivered to Mr. Jno. Trigg [John Trigg] who was about that time a delegate from the county of Bedford, and afterwards a member of Congress. And she the said Kiziah Clarke further declares that she was married to the aforesaid Micajah clarke on the 23rd day of September 1779 in the county of Powhattan [sic: Powhatan] (by the Rev'd. Hyde Saunders) after said clarke had returned from the regular service. That the year after they were married they Clarke and family moved to the county of Bedford. That in December of 1780 or Jan'y. 1781 the malitia was called into service from the county of Bedford Virginia to meet the British, who were coming up to Richmond – that her husband Micajah Clarke was one who went into service on said occasion – that she thinks her husband left home on or about the first of Jan'y. 1781 – that he went into service on said tour of service as Ensign or Lieut. of the Malitia that his services on this occasion was confined to the lower part of the state – that he was at Portsmouth, dismal swamp &c that[?] he did not return home untill the latter part of May of 1781. That she cannot say positively that her husband was at the battle of Gilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], but she is informed that he was. That at the time her husband the said Micajah went[?] into service on said occasion that they had one child which was name Betsy. That she was married as aforesaid to said clarke on the 23rd Sep'r. 1779 as will more fully appear by the proof annexed (Family Register) &c. That her husband the aforesaid Micajah Clarke died on the 6th day of January 1821. That she the said Kiziah Clarke has remained a widow in said county ever since the death of her husband aforesaid to the present time. That they removed to said county from the county of Bedford about the year 1790 where they lived untill his death and where she has ever since resided to the present time

Test. [signed] Micajah L Clark

Keziah herXmark Clarke

Treasury Department/ 3^d Auditors Office/ Feb 27th 1839

Sir– [Hon. Walter Coles, House of Representatives]

In reply to the inquiry contained in the memorandum you left with me this morning regarding the service of Micajah Clark who is stated to have

inlisted under Capt Woodson about 75 or 76 and was at one time attached to the 9th Va Reg't. I have to state that on reference to the Rolls of the 9th Va Reg't. the name of Micajah Clark as Corporal is found on a Pay Roll for December 1776 and on a Roll for July 1777 he is stated to have inlisted 10th April (believed to be 1776) for three years – the last roll on which his name is found is one of the same Company (Capt Sam'l Woodson) for October 1777 [<http://revwarapps.org/b88.pdf>] after which on a diligent search through the rolls of the Regiment his name is not found.

With great respect/ Your Obt Ser't/ peter Hagner Aud

State of Virginia/ Bedford county to witt,

On this 28th day of March 1839, personally appeared before me Lodowick McDaniel a Justice of the peace in and for said county, Mrs. Frances Leftwich, a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn, doth on her oath, sworn according to law, say – That she is 77 years old in May next – that she was 17 or 18 years old when Mr Micajah Clarke and family move to said county from the county of Powhattan – that said clarke she understood married Kiziah Harris, daughter of Chas. Harris [Charles Harris], of Powhattan county – that said clarke lived next neighbour to Mr. Francis Halley (the Father of deponent Frances Leftwich) at the time the malitia was called in to service from the said county of Bedford to go to the battle of Gilford which she thinks was the same year (and in the Spring) that Lord Cornwallis was captured [19 Oct 1781] – And that all the men from her neighbourhood went into service on said occasion, (that is the battle of Gilford) and among the number that went, she recollects that Micajah Clarke was one – for she recollects distinctly that while said Clarke was in the army, that her Farther Francis Halley used to superintend his Clarkes plantation business for him, and lent his hands to assist said Clarkes woman Hagar in working on the plantation – that she thinks it was the latter part of the winter or early part of Spring that he went into service, and towards the latter part of Spring or the early part of Summer that he said Clarke and the other neighbours, returned from the Army – for it was warm weather – that she had heard said Clarke speak of his having been at the battle of German-Town previous to his going into service on said occasion at the battle of Gilford That he Clarke told her he was taken prisoner at the battle of German-Town and that while he was in prison, the women came to the prison to see him and endeavoured to effect his escape by dressing him in Female apparel – that said clarke got a piece of his ear shot off at said battle of German Town as he told her – that at the time said clarke went into service at the battle of Gilford – which she thinks was in 1781 – that he said Clarke and his present widow Kiziah Clarke – was living together as man and wife, and legally married no doubt at least so considered by all who knew them and that they said clarke and wife had one or Two children at the time said clarke went to the said battle of Gilford – And further the said clarke and family a few years afterwards removed from said county of Bedford to the County of Amherst where they lived as she has been informed untill said clarkes death and where as she is informed his widow Kiziah Clarke now resides – and further that said clarke was a carpenter by trade and that Chas. Halley went over into Amherst to work at the carpenters trade with him. That said clarke was a highly respectable man, a professor of religion and considered a man of strict veracity and she does not believe that he would have related any thing in regard to his service that was not strictly true. [signed] Francis Leftwich

State of Virginia/ Bedford County to witt,

On this 29 day of March 1839, personally appeared before me Thomas Sale a Justice of the peace in and for said county, Mrs. Sally P. Sale a Respectable Resident of said County, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath say – That she is 69 years old 1st day of Feb'y. next that she was 10 years and 1 month old at the battle of Gilford which was in March 1781 that she recollects Micajah clarke perfectly well, that said clarke was married in Powhattan County as she understood and to Miss Kiziah Harris daughter of Chas. Harris who also moved to said county of Bedford when clarke and wife did – that in the month of November or December of 1780 the malitia was called into service from the

county of Bedford and that among the number that went from the neighbourhood in which the deponent lived, that Micajah Clarke aforesaid was among the number – that the troops called into service on said occasion served in the lower part of Virginia – that they went to meet the British when they came up to Richmond and Goochland county – that she lived near neighbour to said Clarke when he went into service on said occasion and stayed seven weeks at Clarke's Brother in law Harris, (Nath'l.) [Nathaniel Harris, pension application S37971] while he was gone, that said Clarke's family suffered much during his absence – that said Clarke did not return home until some time after the Battle of Guilford – that she is under the impression that said Clarke served six months in the army on said occasion before he returned home – which she thinks it was the latter part of the spring of 1781 – that she thinks Clarke had one child at that time which was named Betsy. That said Clarke told deponent that he was taken prisoner at German Town, and was a prisoner 8 or 9 months and was exchanged – that he hid under a barn where he was taken prisoner – that he had a piece of ear shot off. That Clarke was a professor of religion a man of strict veracity – that he would not say anything in regard to his services that was not true. That Clarke was a carpenter by trade, that he removed from said county to the county of Amherst where Clarke and family resided until his death – and where his widow Keziah Clarke now resides (as she is informed.)

[signed] Sally P Sale

NOTE:

No record was found at the time showing that Micajah Clark had been an officer. However, J. T. McAllister's *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War* (Westminster MD: Heritage Books. 1913 [2006]) cites Bedford County records showing that Micajah Clark was recommended for a commission as an Ensign in the militia on 24 Sep 1781.

Several supporting declarations repeat much of the information in the statements by Keziah Clarke and Frances Leftwich. On 28 March 1839 Lodowick McDaniel stated that Micajah Clark "had a mark on one of his ears as alluded to in Mrs. Leftwich's affidavit which I heard him say was done by a British soldier." On 9 April 1839 John Merrit, 64, stated that "Clarke had a piece of his ear shot of which wound he received in an engagement that he Clarke had a conflict with 3 British soldiers that he defeated them and made his escape."

The family record mentioned in Keziah Clark's statement and transcribed below was certified by Micajah L. Clarke as having been largely copied about 1809 or 1810 by John Covey, a schoolmaster, from the original in the handwriting of his father, Micajah Clark.

Elizabeth Dawson Clark was born on the 8th. July 1780.

Charles Harris Clark was born on the 16th. March 1782.

William Madison Clark was born November 30th. 1783.

Sarah Dickerson Clark was born August 2nd. 1786.

Nathaniel Harris Clark was born June 20th. 1790.

Ira Ellis Clark was born on the 9th. November 1792.

Joseph Garland Clark was born January 8th. 1795.

Keziah Snelson Clark was born December 12th. 1797.

Micajah Lynch Clark was born on the 2nd. May 1800.

Nancy Thomas Clark born on the 30th May [page torn here and below at *]

Harriot Living Cl[*] was born July 7th [*]

Elbert H Clar[*] Was born May the 14th 1823

Elbert H Clark was born May 14th 1823 son of Micajah Clark