

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Clark W6683

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

County of Lewis } SS

On this first day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of the said County of Lewis now sitting, William Clark a resident of the said County of Lewis and of Virginia aforesaid aged seventy two years, 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: that in the spring of 1778 according to his present recollection from the County of Hampshire in the State of Virginia for twelve months soon after he was drafted he was marched from Hampshire County Virginia under one Cornelius Westfall an Ensign or Lieutenant [see endnote] and there joined some other troops. was marched from Winchester Virginia to the Valley Forge on the Schuylkill not far From Philadelphia and there joined the main Army under General Washington, and was placed in Capt Kirkpartrick's, Kilpatrick's or KirkPatrick's [Abraham Kirkpatrick's] Company some such name but cannot state it precisely the Captains given name is entirely forgotten he thinks the Captain belonged to the regular troops but cannot be certain. he is confident he belonged to Genl. Scotts Brigade in the 8th Regiment [see endnote] the subaltern officers of his company are not recollect. after arriving at the Valley Forge and remaining there some time but how long he is unable to say. he was taken sick and reported unfit for service he was put in a barn which was used as a hospital, and when the Army marched from the Valley forge he was unable to march with it, and remained sick until some time in the early part of the Fall when he recovered his health sufficient for service, and accordingly joined the army under washington again in New York State on the North River and continued with it some time until some time late in the Fall or early in the Winter when he was marched to Middlebrook in New Jersey and wintered there [12 Dec 1777] is not certain whether the whole Army wintered at Middle brook or not, but knows that a considerable portion of did. he recollects that Scotts and [William] Woodfords Brigades did. he continued at Middlebrook until his twelve months tour expired when he was discharged. he obtained a discharge from this service which has been lost he thinks it was signed by his Captain but cannot be certain. he was in the above mentioned service including the time of marching from and returning home about thirteen months but was only drafted for twelve months. he recollects that while he was sick at the Valley Forge he heard of the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778]. While in the service he frequently saw General Washington, General Scott. he thinks during his service his Captain KeelPatrick, KilPatrick, KirkPatrick or whatever his name was, was promoted to the office of Major but cannot recollect who was made Captain in his place. after he was discharged he returned to Hampshire County Virginia the place of his residence when he entered the service and continued in that County until about the 1st of September 1781 when he was again drafted in the Virginia Militia for a three months tour in Captain James Nials Company in Hampshire County Virginia. Adam Fisher was Lieutenant and Thomas Dowthat Ensign under Capt. Nial. was marched from Hampshire County Virginia to York Town and joined General Washington's Army at that place was there during the "Siege of York" [28 Sep - 19 Oct] and was present when Cornwallis's troops surrendered, and aided in guarding the British prisoners to the Barracks near Winchester. he recollects that on the day Cornwallis surrendered he was posted as a sentinel on the bank of the York River. at York Town he again saw General Washington also saw General Lafayette and other regular officers but has forgotten their names. he thinks he was discharged from this last mentioned service a short time before his three months expired, but how long is not certain, but thinks it was only a short time. is confident he was three months in this last mentioned service including the time [illegible word] in marching from it to his residence. he obtained a discharge from the last mentioned service & thinks it was signed by Capt. Neal it has also been lost. he has no documentary evidence, neither does he know of any

person by whom he can prove his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, declaring that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State. To the 1st. Interrogatory prescribed by the War Department. He answers that he was born in the State of Pennsylvania at a place called "Harmony Ridge" has forgotten in what County [possibly Bedford], in the year 1760 as he was informed by his father. To the 2^d. Interrogatory. He answers that he has no record of his age. To the 3^d. Interrogatory. He answers that he was living in Hampshire County Virginia when called into the service and continued to reside in that County for several years after the Revolution the precise number not recollected. he then removed to Randolph County Virginia and resided in that County for several years, and then removed to Lewis County the place of his present residence and has continued in that County since. To the 4th Interrogatory He states that he has already answered that he was drafted when called into the service.

To the 5th. Interrogatory He that he has already answered this question in his Declaration as fully as his memory enables him to do. To the 6th. Interrogatory He makes the same answer. To the 7th. Interrogatory He states that he is known to Abner Abbott & John Rains [pension application S5969] in his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] William Clark

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners in Lewis and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Lewis county

William Clark aged 72 yrs. Serv'd. 15 mos.

Saw William Clark on the 30th June 1834, when he made the following statement of his revolutionary Services Vz. - Says he is in his 73rd. year. was born in Pennsylvania. Removed to Virginia when ten years old & settled on the South branch of Potomac. that in the year 1777 or 1778 (in the Spring of the year in which the british abandoned Philadelphia [18 Jun 1778] where they had wintered) he was drafted in Hampshire County for one year, & marched to Vally forge. - before the army left Vally Forge, he took sick and had to go to the Hospital. on recovering he joined the army at West Point. from there the army March to Middlebrook New Jersey & there wintered. in the Spring got his discharge & came home haveing served out his touer of twelve months. - the company to which he belonged. Rendezvous'd. at Winchester in Frederick County Va. and took up the line of March for Vally forge. Cant say how many men there were that marched from Winchester (only one company) cant form any Idea of the number or strength of the company. - Cornelius Westfall took him from Hampshire County to Winchester. thinks that (he) Westfall was a Lieut. or ensign. "rather thinks there were other officers at Winchester besides Westfall, but is not certain. cant say who commanded the men at Winchester, nor who commanded them, on the line of march to Vally forge. dont remember." Cant say much about the rout his company took in going from Winchester to Vally forge. Cant remember much about that, but thinks they went through Richmond in Virginia and maybe through Lancaster Pennsylvania. dont recollect any other town through which they passed "for certain" - he was attached to General Scotts brigade at the Vally Forge and 8th Regt. Cant remember the name of the Colonel of the Regt. - his first Captains at Vally forge was a Mr. Kilpatrick. he was promoted. Cant recollect the name of his next Captain nor any of the rest of the officers. Cant remember who commanded the army at Vally forge and at West Point and on the March from the first to the latter place unless "it might be" Washington himself. Cant remember whether Washington was at West Point at all whilst he was there. nor can he tell who commanded the army at Middlebrook whilst in Winter quarters. - Was drafted again for a 3 mo. tour. marched from the same place (Hampshire) through Richmond to Little York and was there at the Surrender of Cornwallis. Cant recollect the year. from Yorktown he marched with the prissoners to the Winchester Barracks - was drafted as before stated for 3 mo. but thinks that he was not in service longer than two months. his officers in this touer were James Niell Captain, Adam Fisher Lieut. & Thomas Douthart Ensign. here ended his revolutionary services.

Gideon D. Campden wrote his declaration. told him the same that he now tells and which

is contained in his declaration. in testimony of which he hereto subscribes his name
Witness Nathan Goff } a copy from the William Clark
[Pension Agent in Clarksburg] } original in my possession W. G Singleton
John Rains (See report in his own case) knows William Clark, but saw neither saw or heard any
thing of him at Vally Forge or Middlebrook. never conversed with him on that subject.

A true copy. W. G Singleton

This narrative of Mr. Clarks reads badly. it was told worse. how it will compare with his
declaration is the question - from his manner I imbibed an impression that he was an imposture
- but in this I may be mistaken. - after getting through the examination I engaged him in
conversation about commonplace matters. in these he seemed to be a man of ordinary
Intelligence. his mind did not seem at all impaired by either age or infirmity.

Respectfully Reported. W. G Singleton Special Agent July 1834

N.B. I am informed by Mr. Camden that the name of William Clark was found on the Rolls. it was
so enclosed in the declaration returned for amendment. it is said that Clark is a man of fair
character. W.G.S.

NOTES:

Cornelius Westfall was commissioned an Ensign on 16 Mar 1777, and he resigned 21 Apr
1778. Abraham Kirkpatrick was commissioned a Captain on 10 Aug 1777.

The 8th Virginia Regiment was commanded by Gen. Peter Muhlenberg. After several
reorganizations part of it may have fallen into Gen. Charles Scott's Brigade at Middlebrook in
May 1779.

On 11 June 1851 Barbara Clark, 72, maiden name Helmick, applied for a pension stating
that she married William Clark on 8 Aug 1798, and he died 23 July 1841. A copy of the marriage
record indicates that it occurred in Randolph County. The part of Lewis County in which she
lived became part of Upshur County in March 1851. She stated that she had received the
arrears of her husband's pension - the pay due to him up to the time of his death. Other
documents state that she was the daughter of Jacob Helmick and died 30 Aug 1855.