

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jonas Clark W1386
Transcribed by Will Graves

Ann Clark

f87SC [sic, NC]
rev'd 9/3/19 & 5/26/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Madison County

On this seventh of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before John M. Johnson, James H. Rogers and Jacob Perkins, Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting Jonas Clark Senior a resident of said County of Madison and State of Tennessee aged seventy three 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 circumstances & he was living in the County of Meclinburgh [Mecklenburg] in the State of North Carolina and on the 20th of December 1779 he volunteered in a troop of Horse raised and commanded by Captain Richard Simmons who lived in Rowan County. He immediately proceeded with his company to Charleston, which from intelligence received, it was expected would be besieged by the British. He arrived there early in the month of January following and in the month of February 1780 the British landed at Stono about 30 miles to the south of Charleston. About this time it was understood that Col. Cruger [John Harris Cruger] the commandant of the British horse at Savannah would attempt to affect a junction with the British forces at Charleston. The company to which he was attached together with some militia the commander of which he does not recollect were ordered to meet Cruger which they did and had several slight engagements with his foraging parties and retreated before him to Charleston. He remained stationed at Bacon's Bridge on Ashley River about 22 miles from Charleston near Dorchester until about the last of March. After the British forces had crossed Ashley River, when the time of service (three months) for which he had volunteered expired, when he returned home. Col. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] commanded the American army at Charleston and Col. Hamright [Frederick Hambricht] of Lincoln County, North Carolina commanded the North Carolina Militia at the same place. He does not recollect certainly the name of the Regular officers at Charleston as he was not stationed in the City and left before the surrender.

In May or June of 1780, two or three months after his return home he volunteered in a troop of horse raised and commanded by Captain Nathaniel Martin (who was Captain Simmons' lieutenant in his first tour as above) and joined Genl. Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] on the day before the battle of the Hanging Rock and was in that battle of the 6th of August 1780. The night after the battle we retreated up to Cain [sic, Cane Creek] Creek about 20 miles. Our company was sent to assist Genl. Gates [Horatio Gates] and we joined him at Rugeley's Mill on the night of the 15th of August and on the next day was in the battle [Battle of Camden] where Gates was defeated nine miles from Camden. On the evening after the battle, he was sent with two or three others as an express to Sumpter to inform him of the defeat and with directions for him to retreat, which he did all night and continued his retreat beyond Fishing Creek where he stopped on the 18th to refresh and were surprised by Tarleton's horse and completely routed and scattered, every man shifting for himself. After this Lord Cornwallis came to Charlotte in

Mecklenburg County and remained there about a month, where we annoyed him and killed many of his foraging parties not having sufficient numbers to give battle. The day after Cornwallis left Charlotte our company and others who joined us pursued after the British dogging and annoying their rear and scouting parties and kept up an irregular warfare until we came to Lansford [Lands Ford] on the Catawba River, from whence we returned home. The British marched up through Lincoln County and crossed over the river into Iredell County. He then volunteered with Capt. Martin and others who joined our company and continued to harass the British on their march and at Mrs. Torrens' at the cross roads we had a smart skirmish where our Captain Martin had his horse killed and himself taken prisoner and Robert Walker the lieutenant took command of the company. From there we returned to Mecklenburg County and in a few days joined Genl. Dickson the commander of the North Carolina militia at Salisbury and marched with him to Guilford Court house where we joined Genl. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] who had superseded Genl. Gates in the command of the Southern Army and fought in the battle of Guilford on the 15th of March. He was in continual service from the time he volunteered under Captain Martin until after the battle of Guilford, a period of about ten months with the exception of a few days during the irregular warfare above described in North Carolina, he was on furlough and allowed to visit his friends and to provide himself with clothing.

After the battle of Guilford he returned home to Mecklenburg County where he remained about two months, when his old Captain Martin (who had made his escape from the British) arrived in his neighborhood, commissioned captain by Govr. Rutledge [John Rutledge] of South Carolina and authorized to raise by volunteers a company of horse and brought me a commission from Gov. Rutledge of lieutenant under him. We raised a company of horse for ten months service and were attached to Col. William Polk's regiment. We reached and joined Genl. Sumter at Browns old field near where Columbia, S.C. now stands. We had several skirmishes with Tories and British—at Friday's fort on the Congaree river, at Orangeburg Court house and at Shubrick's plantation about 12 miles from Biggin Church (which the British had burned with their stores in it). We joined Genl. Greene [Nathanael Greene] on the 7th of September 1781 and fought the battle of the Eutaw Springs on the 8th. The night after the battle we retreated about 2 or 3 miles to a branch where we lay the night before where he remained until the 11th when we returned to the battle ground and buried our dead which we found striped of their clothes by the enemy. In this battle Lieutenant Thos. Polk [Thomas Polk], brother of Col. William Polk and Maj. James Rutherford were both killed near me, the first shot above the eye and the latter in the throat, both of whom I help bury. Col. William Washington was taken prisoner in my view. From thence we marched to Brown's old field and were ordered with a detachment to join Genl. Wayne [Anthony Wayne] in Georgia and joined him at Ebenezer about 30 miles from Savannah and were in some slight engagements with Tories and a party of Creek Indians who suddenly came upon us and returned and was discharged at Browns old field in March 1782. This concluded his Revolutionary services having been more than twenty three months in actual service. His commission of lieutenant, signed by Govr. Rutledge of S.C. and his discharges he saved for several years and by time or accident are destroyed. He viewed them of no value (except as matter of pride and took no means of preserving them, not supposing they would ever be of use to him.) He has never applied for a pension before this because until lately, he was in good circumstances, and would not applied now, had his circumstances not become reduced and having had his arm dislocated by a fall from a horse, which with old age renders him unable to work. He does not know of any person living by whom he can prove his services except John Clark who was the adjutant of Colonel Polk and lived the last he heard from him in York County South Carolina and Jesse Clark that lived when last heard from in Mecklenburg County North Carolina and Colonel William Polk of Raleigh, North Carolina. These lived at a distance of seven or eight hundred miles from the applicant and he has not the men should go and procure their testimony.

He hereby releases every claim 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/Jonas Clark, Ser



Test: S/ R. McIver, Clerk

[Charles Robertson and John Darnall gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories propounded by the Court under the Rules prescribed by the War Department:

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born on the 16th of May 1759 about 20 miles from Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have no record of my age. My birth was recorded in a large ledger book kept by my father, which was destroyed by the British when they overran the County of Mecklenburg where my father lived, they destroyed all most everything my father had.

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

Answer: My father left Pennsylvania and settled in Mecklenburg County North Carolina in July 1771 where he lived at the breaking out of the war and where he joined the service as stated in his declaration. And continued to live there until May 1830, when he left there and settled in the County where he now resides in July 1830.

The fourth, fifth and sixth interrogatories are deemed by the Court sufficiently answered by the declaration.

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

Answer: Charles Robertson and John Darnall of the County have known me 30 years.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 11th August 1832.

S/ Jonas Clark

Test: S/ R. M. Iver, Clerk

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State of North Carolina Wake County

This day William Polk¹ of the County and State aforesaid came before me a Justice of the peace and being sworn in due form of law deposeth & saith, that the facts stated in the deposition and interrogatories so far as regards the said Clark's being a Lieutenant in the Regiment under my command in the State Troops of South Carolina is true and that the other services which she states to have performed he believes to be true; having seen him at the battle of Camden when General Gates was defeated and also with the Militia some short time before the battle of Guilford.



Sworn to before me this 11th day of September 1832

S/ Wm Baylan, JP

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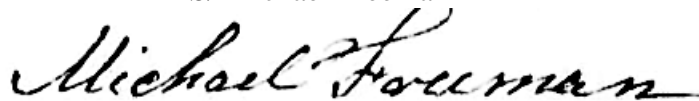
State of Tennessee Madison Co.: SS

¹ [William Polk S3706](#)

On this twenty third day of August 1832 personally appeared before me John M Johnson an acting Justice of the Peace for said County Michael Freeman,² who being first sworn according to law upon his oath states That he is sixty-eight years of age and lives at this time in Caldwell County Kentucky, and being here on a journey, met unexpectedly with Jonas Clark Senior who is an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. That he is well acquainted with said Clark and they were raised near each other and lived near each other in Mecklenburg County North Carolina during the Revolutionary War and until the year 1806, when deponent left there and removed to Tennessee and from thence to Kentucky, and had not seen said Clark from the time he left North Carolina, until meeting accidentally with him in this County. That he recollects very well seeing said Clark in the service of the United States during the winter of 1779, when he volunteered under Captain Simmons and as this deponent always understood, performed a three month tour at Charleston and that neighborhood during the winter and spring of 1779 & 1780. He has always understood he was at the battle of the Hanging Rock, and at Gates defeat and Sumpters defeat [Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] in August 1780. During all this time he knows said Clark was absent from home in the service and has heard many who were in the said battles speak of said Clark being there, amongst those, he has heard his stepbrother speak of it. After Sumpters defeat this deponent volunteered himself about 19th of August 1780 immediately after hearing of Sumpters defeat by Colonel Tarleton and was in the service from that time until April 1781, and was in the Company of volunteers commanded by Captain James Taggart [Taggart or Tagert?], and frequently saw said Clark in the service in the company of volunteer horse commanded by Captain Martin, until after the battle of Guilford, when said Clark went home his term of service having expired, and this affiant continued in the service in the pursuit of Lord Cornwallis –

In the month of May 1781, this deponent volunteered in a company of horse raised by Captain Martin and said Clark as Lieutenant, under commissions from Governor Rutledge of South Carolina, and attached to Colonel William Polk's Regiment for ten months, and this deponent knows from personal knowledge said Clark served this tour, and was in the battles at Friday's Fort, at Orangeburg Court house and at Shubrick's plantation and at the Eutaw Springs, after which while the Army of General Greene was stationed at Brown Old Fields near where Columbia South Carolina now stands, said Clark with others, a company of picked men were sent to join General Wayne in Georgia. This deponent did not go on this expedition, because he had lost his horse, in the spring of 1782. Said Clark returned and joined us again at Brown Old Fields, which was head quarters, and our term of service expired in March and this deponent and said Clark were discharged and came home together to Mecklenburg County North Carolina.

S/ Michael Freeman



Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 23rd day of August 1832

S/ J. M. Johnson, JP

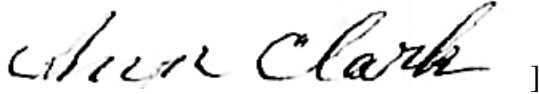
[p 14: On July 17, 1853 in Madison County Tennessee, Ann Clark, 65, on the 18th of November last past, made application for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Jonas Clark; that she married him on or about May 1820 in Mecklenburg County North Carolina; that they were married by Esquire Hampton; that her husband died February 28, 1846 in Madison County and that she remains his widow.]

[p 17: On July 19, 1853 in Madison County, Jonas Clark, Junior gave testimony that he was acquainted with Jonas Clark deceased and Ann his widow before their marriage in Mecklenburg County; that he

² [Michael Freeman S30426](#)

was not present at their marriage but has indisputable evidence that they were married about the year 1820.]

[p 21: On April 14, 1855 in Madison County Tennessee, Ann Clark, 67, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Jonas Clark; in this application she states that she married her husband on March 20th, 1818; that they were married by George Hampton Esquire; that her name prior to her marriage was Ann Alexander.



[facts in file: the widow died June 13, 1859; the children born to the veteran and Ann Alexander Clark were:

John F Clark born May 31, 1822 living in Madison County Tennessee in 1853

Robert A. Clark born April 7, 1823

E. A. Clark born January 22, 1826

Jonas Clark born November 9, 1829

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$220.82 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months service as a private in the cavalry and 10 months service as a Lieutenant, both in the North Carolina militia.]

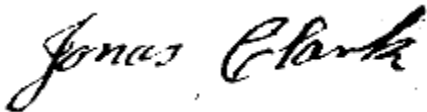
South Carolina Audited Accounts³ relating to Jonas Clark AA3
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1265A

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/3/19

[p 2: Printed form of Indent No. 586 Book M dated October 1st, 1784 “delivered to Mr. Jonas Clarke [sic] late first Lieutenant in N. Martin’s Troop Polk’s Regiment Sumpter’s Brigade State Troops this our Indented Certificate, for the Sum of one hundred forty-one pounds Sterling amount of pay and bounty due him for Services in this Troop with Interest thereon from the first April 1782 to date hereof Agreeable to Resolution of General Assembly of Eleventh March last....”]

[p 3: Reverse of the above Indent bearing various endorsements by Jonas Clark acknowledging receipt of annual interest through May 27, 1789]



³ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person’s surname first in the “Full name” box followed by a comma and the person’s Christian name.