

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Clark (Clarke) R1968 Elender fn58NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 11/18/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

Declaration of John Clark

In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June seventh 1832
State of North Carolina Randolph County: SS: May Term 1845

On this [illegible] day of May 1845 Personally appeared before the worshipful County Court now sitting Mr. John Clark a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged forty-seven years June next and after 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 is the son of William Clark, who was a Captain in the North Carolina line in the war of the Revolution for particulars of service he refers the Department to the testimony hereunto annexed he further declares that his father the aforesaid William Clark died on the 21st day of July 1836 declarant often urged his father the aforesaid William Clark to apply for a pension when alive but owing to his having attached himself to the persuasion of friends he refused. His father the aforesaid William Clark died as above stated viz. on the 21st day of July 1836 leaving a widow Elender Clark who departed this life on the 5th day of June 1839. This declaration is made to obtain the pension due the father at the time of his death under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832. He further declares that his mother the aforesaid Elender Clark died as above stated leaving the following named Children only a heirs at law viz. Dugan Clark, Alexander Clark, Thomas Clark, Mary Clark now Mary Jones, Margaret Clark now Margaret Henley, Haner Clark now Hanor Davis for proof of heirship declarant refers the Department to the testimony hereunto annexed.

S/ John Clark

[fn p. 5: Bible Record—transcribed from the transcript made by the War Department, the original being very difficult to decipher]

"Names of William & Ellonder Clarkes Children first"

Jane born December 9, 1781

Dougan born October 13, 1783

Alexander born November 21, 1785

Thomas born January 7, 1787

Mary born January 2, 1792

Margaret born February 7, 1794

Hannah born February 13, 1796

John born July 10, 1799

Rachael born October 15 1801

Grandchildren (children of Dougan)

William born October 22, 1808

Urban Cooper born December 12, 1810

Alexander born June 6, 1813

Joseph born December 12, 1816

Edmond born June 4, 1819

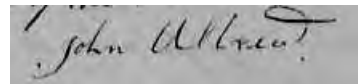
Jessy born August 15, 1821, son of Dougan and Nancy Clarke [not known if she was the mother of the other children of Dougan]

[fn p. 9: affidavit dated May eighth, 1856 from the North Carolina Comptroller showing numerous payments made to a Captain William Clark for services rendered during the revolutionary war.]

[fn p. 16]

State of Tennessee [sic, North Carolina] Randolph County: On this 9th day of May 1845 Personally appeared before the Subscriber a justice of peace aforesaid Mr. John Allred¹ aged eighty-two years of age and after first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following affidavit that he was well acquainted with Mr. William Clark up to the date of his death which took place on the 21st day of July 1836 in this Randolph County and was also well acquainted with his wife Elender Clark who departed this life on the fifth day of June 1839 also in this Randolph County. Affiant does further declare that he affiant was married on the 20th day of March 1787 according to his affiant's record kept by him and at which time and in this Randolph County North Carolina the aforesaid William and Elender was living together in this Randolph County as husband and wife and that they were always recognized in the neighborhood as such and that the marriage never was disputed. Affiant do further declare that he did not see Mr. William Clark in actual service in the war of the revolution but ~~from his standing~~ has all reason to believe he was in the war of the revolution. Affiant having been drafted toward the close of the war of the revolution and that it is his impression the aforesaid William Clark was in service of the United States at the time affiant was drafted.

S/ John Allred



[fn p. 24]

State of Tennessee Knox County: SS

On this 26 day of April 1847 personally appeared John R Johnston [sic, he signed his name "John R. Johnson"] before the subscriber a justice of the peace of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Affidavit that he was well acquainted with Captain William Clark of Randolph County North Carolina from affiant's first recollection and it was always understood in the neighborhood that the aforesaid William Clark

¹ FPA R79

was an officer of the war of the Revolution. Affiant was often told that Captain William Clark and his company pursued the Tories after they had committed the murder of his Uncle Henry Johnston [Henry Johnson?] which made a lasting impression on his affiant's mind. Affiant left Randolph County North Carolina in the year 1835 at which time the aforesaid William Clark was a member of the Quaker church and after the aforesaid William Clark attached himself to the Quaker church he affiant saw him shedding tears saying that he was fearful that he had shed innocent blood during the Revolutionary War.

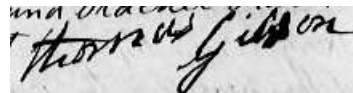
S/ John R. Johnson

[fn p. 25: On April 26, 1847 in Knox County Tennessee, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson,² 72, gave testimony that she moved from Randolph County North Carolina in 1835; that since the age of 12 she has been well acquainted with Captain William Clark; that he was a member of the Quaker church in Randolph County North Carolina; that it was said he could apply for a pension for his service in the revolution; "Affiant further declares that her husband's Brother was killed by the Tories viz. Henry Johnson as she understood and Captain William Clark and Company day pursuit and killed two of the Tories the names of the Tories that were killed were Elrod & Steel the others of the Tory party dispersed"; she states that she is the widow of Robert Johnson who at the time of his death was drawing a pension for his services in the revolution.]

[fn p. 35]

State of North Carolina Randolph County: On this 12th day of May 1845 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Mr. Thomas Gibson³ in his 82nd year of his age and after being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following affidavit that he was well acquainted with William Clark Captain in the war of the Revolution up to the day of his death which took place on the 21st of July 1836. Affiant do further declare that he was with the aforesaid William Clark Captain on several excursion[s] after the Tories and is knowing to his serving as Captain nearly during the whole of the war of the revolution. Affiant often heard William Clark Captain speaking of being at the battle of Guilford and of the Eutaw Springs and also of the battle of Campden [Camden] and affiant has all reasons to believe that the aforesaid William Clark Captain was at the places above stated and it was well known through the neighborhood where the aforesaid William Clark Captain resided that he was Captain in the war of the revolution and affiant do further declare that he was also well acquainted with his wife Elender Clark up to the day of her death which took place on the fifth day of June 1839. Affiant do further declare that the aforesaid William and Elender Clark was married before the termination of the aforesaid William Clark's last service and that the following named children all of the heirs born to William and Elender Clark viz. Jane Clark, Dougan Clark, Alexander Clark, Mary Clark, Margaret Clark, Haner Clark, John Clark, and Rachael Clark. Further this deponent saith not.

S/ Thomas Gibson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas Gibson", written over a faint, illegible printed name.

[fn p. 37]

² [Robert Johnson W371](#)

³ [Thomas Gibson S8560](#)

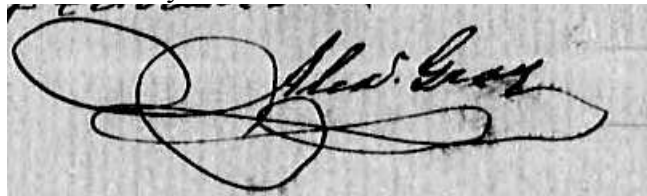
State of North Carolina Davidson County

I Alexander Gray of the County of Randolph aged 87 years being requested to make a statement of my knowledge and understanding of the Revolutionary services of Captain William Clarke who died in our said County some 15 or 20 years ago, do write out and make oath to the following statements. Viz. In the spring of 1792 I removed to Johnson Vail at which the Court of said County was at that time held; commenced business as a merchant and boarded part of my time with John Clarke, brother to Captain William Clarke who said William resided about two miles from that place. About that date I first became acquainted with Captain William Clarke and knew him well from that time until his death. Captain William Clarke was a regular customer at my store for the space of 12 or 15 years. At the time I settled in Randolph (1792) our revolutionary struggle was one of the principal topics of conversation, much was said and many incidents related both by Captain William Clarke and others who had served as militia officers & soldiers viz. Colonel Juduthan Harper, Colonel Thomas Dougan, Dan Merrell, John Grayham, William Bell, John Veach, all men of respectability and of as good standing as any man in the County; and others who resided in the neighborhood of Captain William Clarke. From these gentlemen I was informed that during a considerable portion of the revolutionary war, the notorious Tory Colonel David Fannin [sic, David Fanning] had a complete control over a majority of the Citizens of this County Randolph many joined his troops and others for fear of incurring his displeasure & subjecting themselves and property to his vengeance became neutral and would not serve on either side; but through fear, showed friendship to him and his party. The only Whigs in the County that could be depended on (with a few exceptions) resided near the Courthouse and Guilford County line. Fanning & his troop made several private trips into this neighborhood in one of which he murdered Colonel Belfour and Captain Bryant, each in his own house, with his family around him: and burnt several houses and barns where the men of the house was not at home. They were pursued and fired upon at their camp on the next morning and one of the Tories killed: the rest mounted and made their escape.

On another occasion three of Fanning's men in passing through Randolph to some Relations in Surry took Henry Johnson & a man of the name Tucker. H. J. they made a stand at a tree where they all three fired on and shot him down; Tucker then took to his heels, made his escape and alarmed the neighbors, on which Colonel Dougan and Captain William Clarke and others went in pursuit and found two of them Elrod & Still and put them both to death after giving them a short Court Martial trial. I also have understood that while Fanning & his party remained in Randolph that what militia could be raised in that County together with the assistance of Colonel Galaspia [sic, Gillespie?] of Guilford with part of the Militia under his Command were almost Continually under arms near the Guilford County line and Randolph Courthouse for the protection of the Whigs in that section of the County: On which Fanning and his party was in the habit of making attacks in the nights, and destroying the lives of some & the property of others. I was told by many of those who had served in the Militia, that they were afraid to sleep in their dwelling house of nights, those who were not serving in some militia Company, generally slept out in some private place, least they should be murdered by the Tories before morning. Fanning and his party were much dreaded throughout his range which extended to the Counties of Orange, Chatham, Moore, Randolph and Cumberland; in each of which Counties he had friends who gave him aid and protection, when he committed depredations in one County he would retreat to his friends in another and the could seldom be overtaken by those who went in pursuit. How long it was said Fanning and his troops were engaged in this kind of warfare I do not recollect; but am under the impression it must have been for several years, up to

the surrender of Cornwallis; about which time I have understood he left this Country. Of my own personal knowledge I knew nothing of the time Captain William Clarke served in the revolutionary war; or his grade as an officer in that service, except what I heard from Captain William Clarke and those Gentlemen herein before named (who had themselves been in the revolutionary service) and from whose standing and characters there was no doubt but the statements they made was correct. Which was that William Clarke was a Captain in the militia in the revolutionary war, that he was an active, vigilant officer in defending his County and Country against Colonel David Fanning and the Tories under his command, in which service he was employed a considerable portion of his time. Captain William Clarke & his Company were in the battle of the Eutaw Springs where he Captain William Clarke said he killed a British Officer which he regretted during life and seldom could speak of without shedding tears. He said him and the officer he killed were each engaged in dressing the lines of their respective Companies, preparatory to entering into the battle; when he Captain Clarke, took a gun out of the hands of one of his men, shot at the British officer and saw him fall, which the said Captain Clarke considered a murderous act, as neither of their Companies were then engaged in the battle. In subsequent life Captain William Clarke became a member of the Quaker Society and when urged by his Children or others to apply for a pension he usually replied that he would not receive pay for acts which his conscience condemn. In witness of all which I do hereunto set my hand this second day of October 1855.

S/ Alex. Gray

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured paper. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, appearing to read "Alex. Gray". It features large, sweeping loops and flourishes, particularly a large loop at the beginning and end of the signature.