

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Shadrack Claywell S30929

[fn27VA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

Kentucky, Cumberland County To wit

On this 4th day of February 1833 personally appeared before me Eli Shugart one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Shadrack Claywell Senior a resident citizen of said County aged Seventy three 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 7 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That in the year 1778 served a tour of three months as a militia private from Bedford County State of Virginia under Capt. Robert Adams and was stationed principally the whole time on New River at Chessel's Mines [sic, Chiswell's Lead Mines] and at the end of three months was discharged.

That in the year 1780 he served of three months tour as a militia man from Bedford County Virginia under Captain Thomas Leftwich and was marched to Hillsborough North Carolina and at the end of his tour of three months to wit in the month of June 1780 he enlisted in the regular service under Captain John Watts of the Virginia line and was commanded by Col. Anthony White and continued to serve in the South under said enlistment for the term of twelve months and was discharged. That he was in the engagement at the battle of Guilford in the spring of 1781 commanded by Col. Wm Washington [William Washington] and also at the skirmish at the shallow ford of the Adkin [sic, Yadkin River] about twenty miles from Sallsberry [sic, Salisbury]—that he was acquainted with and saw Col. Lee [Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee] at the battle of Guilford.

He has no discharges or documentary evidence and declares that he served the full term of 18 months as a private for which he claims a pension.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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. That he was born in 1760 in Worchester County Maryland that he has himself no record of his age, but from information on which he can rely, he was born in 1760, that he lived in Bedford County Virginia when called into service, and at the end of his service returned to Bedford County and there lived until the year 1806 when he removed to Cumberland County Kentucky where he now lives, and has lived since year 1806. That his two first tours of three months each was militia from Bedford and the third tour of one year an enlisted private soldier.

The 5th interrogatory previously answered—that if he ever received written discharges for any of his tours they are lost or destroyed. That he is well acquainted with John Garrett, Absalom Phares, Nash Glidewell, Zebulon Norris and many others in his neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity & of their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. Sworn to and subscribed the dates aforesaid.

Attest: S/ E. Shugart J.P.

S/ Shadrack Claywell Senior, X his mark

[Nash Glidewell and John Garrett gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Personally came before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for Cumberland County State of Kentucky Mr. George Richardson a resident citizen of my said County and made oath that his age is near Seventy five years of age, that he is personally acquainted with Mr. Shedrick Claywell Senior the person named in the foregoing declaration, that he was well acquainted with him during the revolutionary war, that from his own knowledge he does not know that said Claywell served the first tour mentioned in his declaration, but verily believes he did, that of his own knowledge he did serve as stated by him in his second militia tour from Bedford County Virginia and the one year as an enlisted private, having often seen him in service in the fall of the year 1780 & Spring of 1781 – that he saw him in the Regiment commanded by Colonel White, and that he believes he is of the age he represents. And I further certify that said Richardson is a man of veracity and respectability & his statements are entitled to full credit, and that I believe he is of the age he states.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 11th day of February 1833.

Att:

S/ George Richardson

S/ Reuben Alexander, JP

Washington – June 16, 1836

Dear Sir,

I am informed that S. Claywell of Kentucky has been stricken from the list of revolutionary pensioners, upon a charge of his having joined the enemy during the War.

Upon the trial of the indictment against King, in the current court of the United States for Kentucky, during the past year, Claywell was himself a witness & this charge against him of his having joined the enemy, became incidentally a subject of the investigation. The result of this investigation was a clear conviction on my mind, and generally, I believe, on the minds of those who heard the case, that the old man was guiltless of the charge in any sense that could be considered criminal. It appeared that while in the service of the United States he was taken prisoner by the British – that during his captivity he became infected with the Small Pox, & being very badly afflicted with it, he was lodged in the same exposed out house, & was otherwise cruelly neglected – that in this condition of disease & exposure, and to save his life, he agreed to join the British upon their importuning him so to do, & promising him that he should be taken care of & better treated. That not long after, and probably about the time of his recovery, peace was made between the two countries, & he was carried off by the British to Canada & that it was several years before he made his way back to the United States. It did not appear that he, in fact, ever served the British. He stated on his oath that he did not, & that it never was [his] intention to serve against the United States, & that he made the promise to join them only for the purpose of saving his life.

Such was the substance of Claywell's case as it appeared upon the trial above alluded to. The circumstances do not, I think, justify the accusation made against him. His conduct, so far as it might otherwise be [word obliterated but ends in “ureable”], appears to have been involuntary & effect of the cruel duress. And this surely all not to be considered as any forfeiture of his rights.

I hope, therefore, Sir, that I shall have the pleasure of hearing from you that he is restored to his pension. Whatever your decision on the matter may be, I by the earliest information of it, as it is my intention to leave Washington in a few days for Kentucky.

Very respectfully
yours &c
S/ J. J. Crittenden¹

¹ John Jordan Crittenden (1776-1863) Anti-Jacksonian US Senator from Kentucky (1835-1836)