

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to George Rogers Clark VAS269

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 May 2015.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Kentucky Counties]

Your petitioner, in his Negotiations and Treaties with the numerous Indian Tribes settled in those parts, has spared no pains in endeavouring to alienate them from the British, and fix them in the American Interest, wherein he flatters himself he has in a great measure succeeded. In the Court of these Treaties, the Indians inhabiting the Country on the Obache [Wabash], and other adjacent parts of the Ohio, expressed the most earnest Desire that your petitioner should continue to reside among them, and as a proof of their affection and attachment insisted upon giving him a Tract of Land adjoining to the Falls, on the north west side of the Ohio River, of seven miles and a half square, and containing about thirty six thousand acres, which he could not refuse without giving them umbrage, and forfeiting the Influence he had acquired among them; they accordingly made him a Deed of Conveyance in the French Language, which being registered in the Records of the Court of St. Vincents [Vincennes IN] the original is humbly submitted herewith to the Consideration of the General Assembly

Your petitioner is sensible, that the Commonwealth hath, and ought to have the exclusive Right of pre-emption from the Indians of all Lands within its own Territory, and therefore presumes to claim no Title, under the said Deed, to the Lands therein mentioned, unless the same shall be confirmed to him by the Legislature; but he begs Leave to observe that this Deed will save to the public the Expence of hereafter purchasing the same Land; and as his Fortune was at best small, the greater part of which he had expended in improving Lands at Kentucky, which by engaging in the service of the public, at the time and under the Circumstances before mentioned, he was obliged to abandon, and has been disabled from carrying into Execution the Improvements and settlements he had begun, so as to entitle him to Certificates for any thing considerable under the late Land Law, whereby he hath, in a manner, lost his All; Confiding therefore in the Liberality of his country, he is induced to hope, and humbly prays, that the General Assembly will be pleased to grant him the Lands contained in the said Deed according to the Bounds therein expressed, upon such Conditions and Terms, as they, in their wisdom shall think fit

And your petitioner shall ever pray.

George Rogers Clark

To the honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates, the petition of Colonel George Rogers Clark Humbly sheweth

That our petitioner, soon after the Discovery of the fine Lands upon the Kentucky, and the adjacent waters of the Ohio River, removed into that Country, where he determined to lay out and risk all his little Fortune, and accordingly was deeply engaged in settling, building on and improving Lands there, according to the Custom of the Country; especially thereby to secure considerable Quantities of Land; but finding, during his Residence there, that the Inhabitants in that Quarter, and other parts over the Alleghany Mountains, were constantly exposed to the Incursions and Depredations of the Indians on the north west side of the Ohio, instigated and aided by the British Garrisons at the Kaskaskis [Kaskaskia] near the Mississippi [sic: Mississipp], and at St. Vincents upon the Obache, and Experience having proved in extremely expensive and difficult, if not impracticable, to protect so extensive a Frontier against the Savages by Troops stationed among the settlements. He formed the Design of surprizing and reducing the beforementioned British Garrisons; thereby to prevent the evil Consequences of their Influence upon the Indians, and by establishing military posts of our own Troops in their Country, to deter them from distant Expeditions against our frontier Inhabitants on the South East of the Ohio, and by Degrees bring them over to the American Interests: deeply impressed with these sentiments, he, at his own Expence, and confidential persons, in the Character of Indian Traders, to reconnoiter and examine those places, and sound the Disposition of the French Inhabitants; and having made himself

perfectly acquainted with the strength and situation of the said posts, and other material Circumstances, he was thoroughly convinced of the practicability and success of a secret Expedition against them, and of its great Importance to the public, and therefore determined to lay his plan before the Governor and Council, and relinquishing all his undertakings and Improvements at Kentucky, to devote himself to the service of his Country, by engaging in the said Expedition (if it should be approved) either as an Officer, or a Voluntier, or in any other Character in which it should be thought he could no most service

That upon the said Expedition being approved, the Governor and Council, unsolicited by your Petitioner, were pleased to appoint him to command it; by the Blessing of divine providence, and the Bravery of his fellow soldiers, he has been able to carry it into effectual Execution, and in the ample and honourable Testimony he has received of the public approbation, enjoys the most pleasing of all Reflections of having discharged the Duty of a good Citizen, and thro' scenes of uncommon Difficulty and Danger, rendered essential service to his native Country your [the rest missing]

May 27th 1780 referred to [Committee on] propositions/ rejected

To The Honorable The Legislature of the State of Virginia

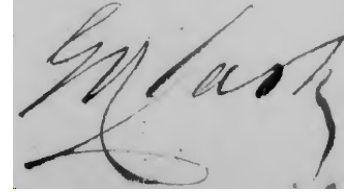
The Memorial of George Rogers Clark, late a Brigadier General in the Troops of that State, and Commandant throughout the Western Jurisdiction of that Commonwealth – Sheweth:

That your Memorialist, relying on the Justice, Magnanimity & Indulgence of your honorable Body, experienced at times by himself, and ever bountifully extended, in every instance, to those of our officers & Privates of the late war who, to say no more, as advantageously to the public [page damaged] they could, have faithfully complied with their duty – [page damaged; undeciphered word], as one among them, by this Instrument, to lay before our House, as well through devotional deference, as with modest confidence, his General statement of Claims, Debts, or Arrearages, with authenticated Vouchers substantiating the same, due to him from your State –, debts of long-standing, and vitally detrimental to your Memorialist's Affairs, from their having been thus long pending & unliquidated –, debts arising from his past Military services, or from advances of the better part of his Fortune for the credit of the State, when that of the State itself (in the instance, at least, in which those advances were made) had been prostrate –, debts incurred by a free Gift of your own to the officers of your Establishment, for the necessary maintenance of your Troops under my command, in this Western Country, troops (it behoves me to say) who with a fortitude, fidelity & martial hardihood, perhaps unexampled, had braved heroically, and with successful effect every kind of want, and every species of peril, to preserve the very fairest portion of your State, and indeed of the whole Union –, debts of commutation for my Half-pay, and debts for having, from my own funds, supplied your Garrisons & those heroic Troops with Bread, to feed on

To say more on a topic so tissued with every incident that can have a rightful claim to the Equity & Humanity, not to talk of the Gratitude of my Government –, on a theme so well known to the existing generation of our countrymen –, on a subject as advantageously to be felt, in its consequences, not only by those who inhabit the various settlements now checquering the face of that wide-extended portion of our empire, then redeemed from the Foe, but by the many Millions who, in the progression of not very many years, must cover it –; to say more, I say, on a subject so teeming with past, present, and future benefits to the citizens of this Commonwealth itself, as well as to those of the Confederacy in general, would (in your Memorialist's humble opinion) derogate from his own, as well as the universal sense of man, on a Legislature of the State of Virginia.

Your Memorialist, therefore, thinks it sufficient at this juncture, to have humbly requested, as he does, the attention of your venerable House to his General Acc't, and to every Document vouching for or relating to the same as herewith transmitted in detached Papers, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 –; and only to add: that the difficulty of collecting the aforesaid enumerated Papers of document from the different & remotely resident Persons who had held them, was the sole cause of your Memorialist's not having made an earlier application, for his claims, to the Legislature of Virginia.

Signed.



11th Nov'r. 1791 Ref'd to Claims/ rejected 70,000 Flour/ reasonable – Bill Exe'ted

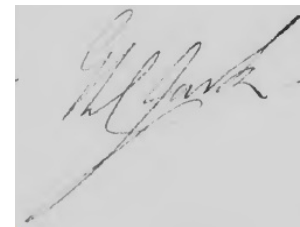
To the honourable the Assembly of the State of Virginia

The memorial of George Rogers Clark humbly sheweth that your Memorialist being at the head of the military Department on the western frontiers of Virginia during the Course of the late war found in the year 1782 that the Funds of the State were so exhausted that no supplies could possibly be procured on its Credit and that without some relief we must either have become a sacrifice to the Enemy or abandon'd the Department and left the Inhabitants to the mercy of the Savages. Those with other consideration induced your Memorialist to strain every nerve to prevent the public calamity that could easily be foreseen would have follow'd a failure in a supply of provisions.

Fortunately for the public a Cargo of Flour the property of Mr. Holker of Philadelphia amounting to seventy thousand pounds on its passage to New Orleans was purchased of your memorialist at five Dollars per hundred for which he gave his own Bonds and Lands as security for which Flour he hath since paid and hath received therefor but a small compensation from the public. This flour being flung into the public stores and wholly made use of for their service your memorialist prays that he may be allowed such redress as your honourable body shall think reasonable and further prays that a Bill given to Mr. Sauld[?] for furniture to the public which your Memorialist hath since paid for be considered and such compensation made him as may be thought reasonable.

Your honble body being petitioned the last session of your assembly on the above subject of the present Memorial your memorialist hopes that his peculiar situation the last war will excuse this repetition.

Your Memorialist further adds that having served this Sate in her army during the late war and from whose service he was not discharged until the 2^d day of July 1783 he humbly conceives himself entitled under the spirit and words of the several Laws to half pay, he therefore humbly prays the consideration of the House and that provision may be made for the satisfaction of his said claim of half pay.



Octo 15 1792 to Claims/ Com. reasonable/ ref'd 3^d Dec'r 92

To the honorable the Speaker & House of Delegates

The Petition of George Rogers Clarke humbly sheweth That he entered the service of this State the second da of January 1778 and commanded the Troops raised for the defence of the Western frontier from that period until the end of the War, in the rank of Brigadier General.

Your Petitioner therefore prays the consideration of the House and that they will allow him half pay for life or a commutation of five years full pay in lieu thereof.

4 Nov'r. 1793 Claims/ Reasonable/ Special/ 22nd 9^{re} [Nov] 93.

[In June 1783 George Rogers Clark and John Crittenden (pension application R13465) petitioned the Virginia House of Delegates for compensation for more than £1175 in provisions they supplied in October 1782 to the fort at the Falls of Ohio (now Louisville KY).]

[The following are from [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#) misfiled with papers relating to John ChowningVAS268.]

[Know all men by these presents that I George Rogers Clark] of Jefferson County State of Kentucky have made constituted and appointed and by these presents do make constitute and appoint Charles Copland of the City of Richmond my true and Lawful attorney for me and in my name to ask demand & receive from the Auditor of publick accounts of the State of Virginia a Warrant for Four hundred Dollars granted to me by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia passed the 20th day of February 1812 which Warrant when received he will present to the Treasurer of the State and receive from him the \$400, hereby ratifying and confirming whatsoever my said attorney shall do concerning the premises, In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal

this Fourteenth day of March in the year 1812. George R. his Xmark Clark

[The power of attorney to receive annual payments of \$400 was renewed on 15 Feb 1813, 8 Jan 1815, 2 Mar 1816, 4 Jan 1817, and 17 Jan 1818.]