

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Clinton S2437

f50SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/18/08) & 5/27/11 & 2/11/18 & 11/30/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Kentucky, Caldwell County

On this 20th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court before William Lander, John W. Marshall, M. Lyon, James A. Cartwright & Steven Grove, Esquires, justices of the County Court of said County and State, now sitting, James Clinton, resident of said County, aged seventy one 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 7, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. In the year 1780 (the month I do not remember) I was drafted as a private in the District of York, South Carolina, for a tour of three months against the Tories under one McGirt [Daniel McGirt] and Indians on the frontiers of Georgia. I served in this expedition under Captain Lattimore and in the Regiment of Colonel Thomas Neal [Thomas Neel]. On arriving on the frontiers in search of said McGirt and his party, we found the whole country overrun with Tories and scouting parties of the British, from several of their posts in that State; and McGirt's party had joined these British detachments, so that we were too weak to affect anything against them. The Colonel thought it most prudent to return without making an engagement, as he could not have had any success against an enemy so much stronger than himself. Accordingly we returned, and were discharged, having served the two months for which we were drafted. Afterwards, and just about the time of the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], the British and Tories became very bold and had established posts throughout the Country. Under this aspect of things the Whigs began to think of organizing themselves into volunteer companies and entering the field against these invaders of the Country. In the month of June as my memory now serves me – it might have been earlier – of the year (1780), I again entered the service in the militia of the state as a volunteer private, and from the same district under Lieutenant Davis, Captain Joseph Howe and Col. Andrew Neal [Andrew Neel] (son of my first Colonel mentioned above). As soon as our troops assembled, we went first in search of one Captain Hook [sic, Christian Huck] a British officer, whom we found at the plantation of Colonel Bratton, and instantly commenced the attack¹ in which Huck was killed with others and his party disbursed. From this place we marched to a British fortification called Rocky Mount, to which we laid siege;² which was situated as I think in the lower end of Chester County, and on the waters of the Catawba [River]. While at Clem's branch, waters of the Catawba, Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] was made General of the troops and took the command

¹ Williamson's plantation, July 12, 1780

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_williamsons_plantation.html

² July 30, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html

as such. From Clem's branch, we proceeded first to the Waxhaw meeting house, where Colonel Buford's [Abraham Buford's]³ wounded then lay and crossed the Catawba about sundown at Land's ford and from thence we marched in the night time to Rocky Mount. During our march, after crossing the River, orders were given that no man speak above his breath as it was our object to surprise the place, and we arrived before the place sometime before day, and commenced the attack about daybreak. This post was commanded by a Colonel Turnbull [George Turnbull] as well as I remember. The attack was on Sunday morning. Sumter divided his men into two or three divisions and ordered the assault to be made from different directions. The division under Colonel Neal had to advance through an old field, and were consequently much exposed to the enemy's fire, and in the first assault Colonel Neal [Andrew Neel] was killed,⁴ not 5 feet from where I stood. I saw him fall & heard, and do now remember, his last words: "I have received a mortal wound – God have mercy on my soul" and instantly died. The attack was continued during the whole day; during which we made two assaults, but were repulsed in both. After the first assault, Sumter sent in a flag and demanded a surrender which was refused, and immediately the second assault was made. I have but little doubt that the garrison would have surrendered at one time, if they had not expected reinforcements. After making every possible exertion and finding it impossible to take the place, late in the evening, Sumter drew of [sic, off] his men, and fell back to Fishing Creek and there encamped. Late in the evening of the day on which the attack was made, as a last resort, we attempted to set fire to the works but a rain fell and prevented its success. Our loss at Rocky Mount was not great in numbers, but the loss of Neal was severely felt. After the death of Neal, Colonel Bratton [William Bratton] took command of my Regiment and Colonel Andrew Love a Lieutenant Colonel as well as I remember. Colonel Love died about ten years ago in Livingston County Kentucky, not far distant from me. We lay at Fishing Creek about a week, we then marched against the Hanging Rock, where the British lay encamped on the East side of the Catawba. On the next Sunday after the attack at Rocky Mount, we attacked⁵ the enemy at Hanging Rock under Bryant [sic, Samuel Bryan] as well as I now recollect – at any rate the Tories were under him. The attack began early in the morning, and continued nearly the whole day, but not always regular, as there was much skirmishing with detached parties through the day. We claimed a victory here because we killed many more than we lost; yet the enemy kept the ground. Our loss was about 30, and if our information was correct the enemy's loss in killed and wounded was about 200 and some of them officers. I remember distinctly that a British detachment was ordered out to relieve Colonel Bryan, at the head of the Tories, who was hard pressed by us; and that this detachment was all killed except one Sergeant Major, and perhaps one or two more. I do not remember the precise time these two battles were fought, but I am certain it was in the summertime; for the weather was warm. During the engagement at the Hanging Rock, my Captain Howe [Joseph Howe] was thought to have behaved cowardly, and was consequently removed, and Lieutenant Davis was made Captain in his stead, and I was made Lieutenant in the place of Davis. This was in the month of August 1780. Before this time, but after going into the last service, and I think while we were at Clem's branch, after the last of June or first of July 1780, I was made a Sergeant in Captain Howe's company and continued so until I was made Lieutenant in August afterwards at a place called Hagler's branch, where we encamped for a while after the battle of the Hanging Rock as aforesaid. The soldiers refused to serve any longer under Captain Howe as he had acted cowardly and while at Hagler's branch they nominated or

³ Waxhaws, May 29, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_waxhaws.html

⁴ Sic, Col. Andrew Neel was killed at Rocky Creek on August 3, 1780 according to https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rocky_creek.html

⁵ Hanging Rock, August 6, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

elected said Lieutenant Davis to fill his place and myself to fill the place of Davis, all which was approved and confirmed by the superior officers and Howe immediately left the service & returned home. He had been a militia Captain in time of peace, but when the time came to try his courage, he was found wanting, and was ever afterwards held in low estimation. We remained at Hagler's branch about a month, during which we had some skirmishing with small parties but nothing considerable. From this place we recrossed the Catawba, and proceeded to Broad River in a southern direction, and encamped at the Fish dam Ford,⁶ where, on the second night afterwards, we were surprised by a detachment of British, and gained some advantage over us, and ran us off the ground. In this affair, Colonel Taylor lost five out of his Regiment, but on the next morning we returned to the ground and found 15 of the enemy wounded & on the ground with a Surgeon attending them. These we left under the care of the Surgeon except two who preferred the American service and one of them was afterwards a good soldier in our Army – He was a tailor by trade. Our General in this encounter came very near being taken prisoner, but escaped. In a day or two afterwards we crossed the river, and remained a few days encamped a few miles from the River, from which place, Captain Hanna and myself as Lieutenant with about 50 man were detached to Shyer's [sic, Shires'] ferry, about 10 miles distant, against a party of Tories near that place. We could not find them, but concluded to fire on a party of British across the River at the ferry. This was fruitless for we killed but one that I know of. On the next day, about 10 o'clock we rejoined the Army at Blackstock's⁷ on Tyger River, whither it had moved on the preceding day. On the next day, a party of British appeared and drove in our pickets and then formed in an old field about a quarter of a mile distant from us and remained in order of battle more than one hour, I suppose with the expectation that we would form also in the field, but in this they were mistaken. General Sumter rode along our lines and asked if any would volunteer to bring on the attack, by making one attack and retreating back so as to draw the enemy to a different point. A Captain (whose name I have forgotten), myself and about 30 man volunteered in this service and marched directly in front of the enemy's line within gun shot and fired upon them and immediately retreated back to the main Army. This succeeded as was expected, for the enemy marched up to the attack. Sumter was posted on a timbered ridge, and thought his ground advantageous. As soon as the enemy approached, a heavy fire commenced and continued but a few minutes, then the British retreated back to the old field. A good many were killed on the ground and amongst the rest a Major whose name I do not know, but on his boots was the name of "Major Levi's" -- it was also said his name was Major Livingston. Who was the superior officer commanding the British, I know not; unless it was Colonel Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] which is my recollection and who commanded horse. After the retreat back to the old field, the enemy were considerably annoyed by a detachment sent round by Sumter in their rear. We stood under arms expecting another attack and that the enemy would be reinforced. About half an hour by sun in the evening, a detachment of dragoons (from Tarleton's horse as I believe) arrived, and advanced along the road in front of our lines, when a deadly fire was poured upon them, and 20 were killed on the spot. They immediately retreated, also the infantry (for some were infantry) from the field. Sumter immediately formed his troops in proper order, and pursued them. We marched two deep, along the road they came, and when we got beyond the old field we fell into an ambush and received a fire from their right and left. But I do not remember a single man of us was touched except Sumter himself who was wounded in the shoulder, which happened near nightfall. Upon this we retreated over Tyger River and encamped the same night at Wofford's Iron Works. The enemy did not pursue. In the whole of

⁶ Battle of Fish Dam Ford, November 9, 1780.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishdam_ford.html

⁷ November 20, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html

this conflict, we lost none that I remember – there must have been 30 or 40 lost on the enemy's side or more. It was now sometime in the fall of the year, but the precise time I cannot recollect. We remained at Wofford's works several days, and then returned to York County, sometime between the 20th and 25th of November of that year (1780). On our return the men were allowed [to] disburse for a while to get clothing and necessities, as they were much in want of these things. We remained dispersed as above until about the 15th January following (1781) when orders came for us to assemble immediately to go against some British forts on the Congaree [River] as they were committing dreadful havoc in that quarter. My Regiment rendezvoused at York Court house and proceeded immediately to Friday's Fort on the Congaree and lay sometime near it, but having no artillery, we made no attempt on it for the present. General Sumter, after consultation, attached a company under Captain William Hanna and myself as Lieutenant down the Congaree to a Fort at Thompson's (sometimes called Buckhead) for the purpose of assisting some Continental troops in taking that station. We were a company of Riflemen and it was necessary to have such for the protection of those engaged in digging entrenchments &c for the purpose of undermining. I do not now distinctly remember who had command of these Continental troops, but I know one Captain Singleton commanded an Artillery Company. We arrived here I think in April; now after much hard service during the day and night, we succeeded in digging entrenchments, and erecting a battery in about 150 yards of the Fort, during the night, and placed a piece of Artillery on it in the same night. Early the next morning a battery opened on the Fort, and in a short time the flag of surrender was hung out, and the Fort surrendered themselves prisoners of War. After remaining here two or three weeks after taking the Fort, my company returned back to Friday's Fort (or Fort Granby) sometime in May 1781, and found it captured⁸ by Colonel Lee [Henry "Like Horse Harry" Lee], with the aid of Sumter's militia as I believe, and on our arrival, the most of the militia under Sumter had disbursed, and I then returned home myself in harvest time, about the 1st July, but I remained at home but three days before I again entered the service. But before stating any further service, I will mention a circumstance omitted in its proper place. Just after I was made a Lieutenant in Hagler's branch, Sumter ordered me to return into my neighborhood and get volunteers if I could or press men if I must, to join him. In the execution of these orders, I procured 8 or 10 only, and returned in all haste to join Sumter again which I did on the Catawba, sometime about the first of September as well as I remember. During my absence on this recruiting expedition, Sumter had been surprised⁹ at the Catawba Ford by Tarleton, and suffered considerable loss; and it was with considerable difficulty he again could collect a sufficient number to commence his operations. To proceed: after Sumter left Fort Granby, and I think in May or June, he took a post at Orangeburg, and remained there sometime. Remaining at home only three days as before stated, I proceeded to join him again, with my old company which was done as we could in small parties for fear of the Tories. We joined him not far from Orangeburg sometime in July 1781 (about the 1st of the month). In a short time after joining him, he detached about 200 men (myself being one and the Lieutenant of a select Company in this detachment) against the Quarter house¹⁰ about five miles from Charleston, where was stationed a guard to protect horses &c. we marched in great haste, and secrecy and came upon ^{them} by surprise. Several were killed and taken prisoners, and several horses were taken. After accomplishing this object in the manner related, we immediately returned, traveling a part of the night. On our way back, we heard of a boat lying in Cooper River not far from Biggin Church, and we turned to attack¹¹ it

⁸ Fort Granby #2, May 14, 1781. https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html

⁹ Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

¹⁰ Quarter House, July 15, 1781. https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quarter_house.html

¹¹ Strawberry Ferry, July 16, 1781? https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_strawberry_ferry.html

which we did, and took all on board prisoners, consisting of a Sergeant's guard. On the same evening we rejoined Sumter on his march towards Biggin Church, on the opposite side of Cooper River. About two miles from the church, we were met by party of British, which we charged so furiously that they instantly fled back to the church leaving several dead, and several prisoners. The same night they set fire to the church, and retreated towards Charleston. Colonel Lee having joined us the same evening, on the next morning we began a pursuit, and continued until evening when we overtook them. A charge was ordered, and Lee charged through their whole ranks and brought off about 40 prisoners. The rest crossed over a branch of Cooper River on a bridge, and took possession of some Negro cabins, from which they killed several of our men. They drew [sic] the bridge they had crossed on and we therefore could not follow them. This transaction was in the month of September 1781, in the early part of the month. We returned the way we had went up to Neilson's [sic, Nelson's] ferry, from which place myself and company returned home, but remained but a short time, before my services were required against the Tories. About this time, I was commissioned a Captain, and had the ^{command of a} company as such during all the balance of my service, but this service was principally against the Tories and in short expeditions, and it is impossible for me to mention the time so precisely as to come within the requisitions [sic, requirements?] of the War Department; nor can I fix the precise time when I was commissioned – I have an impression that I commanded a company as Captain in the pursuit from Biggin Church towards Charleston as before stated, but I may have been still only a Lieutenant. The balance of my service, after my discharge, about the first of September 1781 as aforesaid, I will not attempt to enumerate, it may pass unrewarded, though I done [sic] much; but cannot remember so distinctly as required and I will not venture to guess at it. I do not think I was commissioned a Lieutenant – many officers in those days acted without commissions, particularly in the volunteer service, and many of them acted from appointment and election by the soldiers, and but little attention was paid to commissions. I remember however that I was commissioned a Captain, which was given me by General Sumter. The practice was to send out blank commissions which were filled up by the superior officers – this was done in my case, as well as many others. My commission was signed by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge], and was dated sometime in 1781, but which I have lost several years ago. The British were in the possession of Charleston at the time, and I feared there was no record made of it. I have sent to the Secretary of South Carolina for a copy of it, if it remains of record there, and if I obtain it, it shall be transmitted to the Department though I claim nothing as a Captain, it will corroborate my statements. It may be proper to mention that the troops with which I served, during all the time I was with Sumter, were mounted men, as was also my own company. Since the return of my former declaration I have reflected much on my service and the circumstances attending it and many incidents have recurred to me which I could not mention at the time that declaration was made out; and I hope I have been able to fix the terms of my service so precisely as to serve the purpose – I cannot be more precise as to the time.

On the subject of proof of my service as an officer I fear there is more required of me than I can perform; for verily I know of no one now living by whom I can prove it, unless one Samuel Gordon be now living. He is the last survivor of my company that I know of, and whether he is now living is quite uncertain. I was informed not a great while since by a circuit preacher that he was dead. He moved out and settled in Logan County Kentucky a good many years ago and resided there until his death. He was a soldier under me as Lieutenant and if he be living I will procure his evidence. I can prove the most or all of my service as a private by two old comrades, William Clark and Arthur Travis living in Livingston County. Clark served in the same Regiment with me up to the time of the battle of Rocky Mount. He was in Captain Miller's company and I in Howe's. I once sent on their evidence, and the Department has made no suggestion that it was insufficient to establish my claims as a private. After the battle of Rocky

Mount Clark and myself served no more together that I recollect of, and as I was not a Lieutenant until afterwards (at Hagler's branch) he therefore does not personally know of any thing as such. But if traditionary evidence will be received – if general understanding of the Country be allowed, I have no doubt I can procure such evidence in abundance – and that too, about the time of this service, and just after the War. If, after the production of all the evidence in my power, it should be deemed too weak to establish my claim as a Lieutenant, I do request the Department to grant me a pension as a private. I will freely give up my higher claims if I fail to establish them, though at this time I feel a little pride. Yet my age, and the situation in which I am placed serves to humble my pride, and therefore I ask only what I am able to prove. I declare that I have no documentary evidence in my possession which would prove my service, as I never received any written discharge that I remember of. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State or Territory. In this declaration, I may have omitted many incidents as my memory is rusty, and have none present to converse with on the subject. The following interrogatories as prescribed by the War Department were propounded to the said James Clinton, by the said court, to which he made he subjoined answers:

1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer: I was born in the County of Chester, New England Township, State of Pennsylvania on the 11th day of August 1761 and lived there till almost 8 years old, and my father moved to the York district, South Carolina.
2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it? Answer: I have a transcript of my age drawn off in a Bible at home from the Register of my father.
3. Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? Answer: When I entered the service, I lived in New York District, South Carolina and continued to lived there until about 30 years ago, when I moved to this County, where I have lived ever since.
4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute, and if a Substitute for whom? Answer: I was drafted in the first tour of two months to the frontiers of Georgia, but was a volunteer in all the balance of my service.
5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. Answer: There were no regular officers with the troops where I served, except at the taking of Thompson's Fort (or Buckhead) and in the pursuit of the British from Biggin Church towards Charleston; and the names of these so far as I know them were Captain Singleton of the Artillery & Colonel Lee & his Regiment or Legion. I remember militia regiments: -- Colonel Bratton's, Watson's, Brannon's [sic, Thomas Brandon], and my own (Neal's). I have seen General Greene [sic, Nathaniel Greene], General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] & Colonel Washington [William Washington], but they were at no time with the troops where I served.
6. Did you ever receive a commission, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer I was not commissioned as Lieutenant, but as Captain I was, signed by Governor Rutledge, but this is long since lost.
7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier and officer of the revolution. Answer: Hon. C. Lyon, William Asher (a Revolutionary Soldier from Virginia), Alexander Maxwell, Rev. John Barnett, James Neely, James Guess, and many others – indeed all of them.

S/ Jas. Clinton



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[John Barnett, a clergyman, Chittenden Lyon & Alexander Maxwell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Kentucky, Caldwell County Sct.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for said County & state James Clinton (who is known to me to be the person named in the foregoing declaration for a pension) who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot positively [swear] as to the precise length of his service, as mentioned by him in his declaration; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: – For at least 3 months I served as a private. For at least one month I served as a Sergeant; for 13 months (at least) I served as Lieutenant of a company; and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn and subscribed the 27th day of September 1833 before me

S/ James C Willer, JP

S/ Jas Clinton

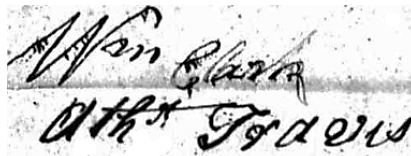
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State of Kentucky, Livingston County

This day William Clark¹² a resident of said County and Arthur Travis¹³ also a resident of the same County, came personally before me a justice of the peace in & for said County and the said Clarke made oath, that he was well acquainted with James Clinton (who now lives in the County of Caldwell in this State) in the Revolutionary War – that he knew him in the service as a soldier and served in the same Regiment (under Col. Neal) with the said Clinton, and was with him in the same Regiment at the battle of Rocky mount, and that the said Clinton did perform much service in the Revolution, and he knows said Clinton was almost constantly in service during the War. The said Travis also made oath that he was well acquainted with said James Clinton in the revolution and that said Clinton was in Colonel Neal's Regiment at Rocky Mount and that the said Clinton was a Soldier good and true and performed much service for his country and that the said Clinton was then and is now a man of good character, and standing and high respectability.

S/ Wm Clark

S/ Athr Travis



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State of Kentucky, Todd County

Be it remembered that on this 6th day of July 1833 personally appeared before me Joseph Gordon, one of the justices of the County Court in and for said County and State, Samuel

¹² [William Clark W8610](#)

¹³ [Arthur Travis S1262](#)

Gordon,¹⁴ a resident of said County & State, aged 71 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare, That he was born on the Susquehanna River near the line of Maryland & Pennsylvania, and that from the best information he has, he is now in his 71st year; that he moved from the Susquehanna to North Carolina, when quite young, and lived there three or four years and then moved to York County, South Carolina, where and in a short time afterwards he became acquainted with one James Clinton who now lives in the County of Caldwell, State of Kentucky; that the said Clinton and himself were boys together – about the same age – that he lived about two years at the house of the father of said Clinton in said York County before entering into the Revolutionary War – that he then knew the whole family of said Clinton, and they were respectable and in good standing – that he has known the said Clinton from that day to the present and he has maintained a most respectable character during the whole time – that he particularly knew the said Clinton during the Revolution, and knows of his own knowledge that Clinton was a true Whig, a good soldier, & done much service; -- that they both entered the service together, and continued together, the most of the time as messmates, until the month of August 1781. That in the early part of 1780 (in January and February) they went on expedition to the frontiers of Georgia, under Captain Lattimore and Colonel Thomas Neal. This expedition was for three months, and was principally directed to the Creek Indians, but McGirt and his party were on the frontiers, and occupied our attention. That they both served three months in this campaign, the said Clinton as a private, and the said Gordon as orderly Sergeant. That afterwards in the month of March 1780 the said Clinton & Gordon again entered the service together as volunteers – the said Clinton as a private, and the said Gordon as Sergeant aforesaid: from the same County, under Captain Joseph Howe, and Colonel Watson in a Regiment of horse, all volunteers. That during this service we defeated a party of Tories at Mobley's Meeting house¹⁵ near Winnsboro, and a party at one Stallions's¹⁶ on Fishing Creek – that after the fall of Charleston in May 1780, Colonel Hook [sic, Huck] of the British Army came up into the interior and defeated us at Hill's Iron works.¹⁷ After this defeat Col. Watson despaired, and told his men to seek better service, & attach themselves to the American Army – that upon this, the said Clinton, the said Gordon, and 25 others made Andrew Neal (son of said Thomas) their Colonel, and said Howe Captain, and proceeded to join themselves to some other troops. On their way, they met Colonel Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] & Winn, and put themselves under the Command of Sumter, who was proceeding on the same errand. Sumter stationed himself first [at] Ramsour's where he greatly [? word dropped?] his force, and then moved to the old Nation Ford, where he recruited his force to 450, including 75 Catawba Indians. In a short time afterwards Sumter attacked the British post at Rocky Mount, and was repulsed. That in this attacked Colonel Neal was killed – that it was fought about the last of June 1780 and as well as he remembers; -- that in a few days, we fought the British and Tories at Hanging Rock. That in both these battles the said Clinton was engaged, and done good service, for he & myself were still messmates, belonging to the same Company. That just after the battle at the Hanging Rock, in according to the recollection of said Gordon, about the first of July 1780, the said Clinton was made a Lieutenant – of the Company to which he belonged, in the place of Lieutenant Davis, who was made Captain in the place of Howe. That the said Gordon, distinctly remembers this circumstance, as he himself was and had been orderly Sergeant in the same Company, and was well acquainted with the causes which lead to the change of officers, namely, the cowardice of Captain Howe. That the said Clinton continued to act and performed the office of Lieutenant of

¹⁴ [Samuel Gordon S30441](#)

¹⁵ May 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_mobleys_meetinghouse.html

¹⁶ Stallion's Plantation July 12, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stallions_plantation.html

¹⁷ June 18, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hills_iron_works.html

the company from that time to the month of August 1781, the time of the attack and pursuit of the British at the Quarter house, and Moncks Corner, which the said Gordon thinks was in August 1781. That the said Gordon continued under the said Clinton as Lieutenant aforesaid until the affair at Moncks Corner aforesaid in August 1781. That after the Hanging Rock, Sumter marched through the Waxhaws, -- crossed the Catawba above Camden, and near the mouth of Fishing Creek was defeated by Tarleton. That he retreated to Bigger's bottom, and after recruiting &c moved to Rights Bluff [sic, Wright's Bluff] on Congaree and thence to Bratton's old fields or plantation, where we defeated and killed the same Colonel Hook [sic, Huck] spoken of before. From this place we marched to the Fish dam Ford on Broad River, where the British surprised us, though they gained no advantage of us. The evening afterwards, we crossed the River and traveled all night -- the next day met Colonel Clarke [Elijah Clarke] at the head of 500 Georgia troops, who joined Sumter, and we went in search of Tarleton, who had moved across the Saluda, and joined Cornwallis. Sumter turned his course and marched to Blackstock's on Tyger River, where Colonel Tarleton pursued, and where an engagement was fought, in which we gained great advantage, killing from 50 to 100, with the loss of none, except a slight wound received by Sumter himself, in an ambuscade, late in the evening. In this battle a Major Lewis was killed by the said Clinton, as was generally known and allowed by all. The action was brought on by a select Company advancing in front and firing upon the enemy drawn up in line. From this place we turned and encamped at Buffington's iron works. Sumter was rendered unable to command, from his wounds, and the troops were ordered to disperse and forage, recruit their horses, get clothing &c until further orders. And the month of January following (1781) we were ordered to assemble, which was done, Sumter being now recovered. He had orders to join Greene as soon as he could. We marched to Orangeburg (about 200 miles) and joined Greene about 10 miles from that place. Greene doubled about -- attacking the enemy at this place & after consultation declined it. He detached Col. Hampton Colonel Lee & Marion to the quarter house, & Moncks Corner some time in July or August 1781 for the purpose of surprising these places. In the execution of these orders, the British were driven of cross Cooper River, and there the pursuit was stopped as the enemy broke down the bridge after them. After returning to Headquarters Colonel Bratton with a Regiment of volunteers was detached up into the interior to stop the depredations of the numerous Tories in that quarter; and that the said Gordon being one selected for this service, was not again in the service with the said Clinton, and cannot therefore speak further about it. Sometime in the month of August 1781, he was selected on this service -- how long the said Clinton remained with Greene afterwards, the said Gordon does not know. What the said Gordon has stated above, he knows from his own knowledge, for all the time he was a friend and intimate of the said Clinton, and knows that in 1779 he did perform a tour of three months as a private, and in March 1780, that he entered the service as a private, and continued constantly in the service until he was made Lieutenant in July 1780, and that he acted as such, constantly, faithfully until the month of August 1781. Whether the said Clinton was ever commissioned, he does not know, but he knows that commissions were not very common in those days amongst the militia, and those that were given were generally sent out in blank, & filled up by the officers.

That the said Gordon has resided in Logan and this County, about 37 years last past.
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. S/ Samuel Gordon



S/ Joseph Gordon, JJCB

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$183.33 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 3 months

service as a private and 13 months service as a Lieutenant in the South Carolina service.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹⁸ relating to James Clinton pp16
Audited Account No. 1301
Transcribed by Will Graves 11/30/21

[p 9]
No. 620 Book [illegible]
Mr. James Clinton his Account of Sundries for Militia use Amounting to £45.15.8 ½ Stg.
[Sterling]
£105 Currency or £9.5.8 ½ is not Certified & is included in the above Account
Ex^d. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]
J. M^c. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

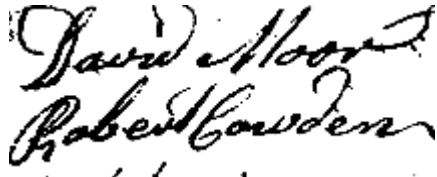
[p 11]
State of South Carolina Dr. [Debtor] to James Clinton for
active service in Camp and Losses sustained in Camp
for actual Service in Camp from ye 1st of June 1780
to 17th of September 109 Days at
20/ [20 shillings old SC currency] per day £109
one Tower [tour] of Duty from ye 29th of October 1780 to the 20th
of November 30 days at 20s/ per Day 030
To one Tower of Duty to and at Friday's Fort Lieut. from
the 1st of May 1781 to ye 30th of the same 30 days
at £2.5 per day 67.10
To one Tower of Duty to and at Cooper Church from the
fourth of July 1781 to the 25th of the same Month twenty
Days at 20s per Day 021
[paper damaged] in Georgia under Command of Col. Neal from
[illegible] December 1778 to the 2nd of February footman at
10/ per Day 028
To one Black Mair [mare] Branded IK on the mountain [sic, mounting]
Shoulder Lost the Tuesday night after the hanging rock Battle valued
to 65 pounds 065
£320.10
Sterling £45.15.8 ½

The above attested Before me
S/ Jos. Howe, JP

[p 12]
South Carolina
Campdon [Camden] District } David Moor Robt. Cowdon being sworn Saith that a Black Mair
lost by James Clinton in the Public Service was appraised by them at 65 pounds £65 old South
currency

¹⁸ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) 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. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

S/ David Moor
S/ Robert Cowden



appraisers }

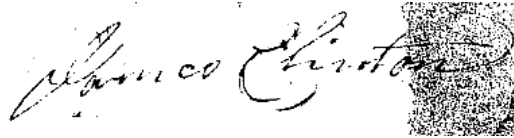
The appraiser sworn Before me
S/ Jos Howe, JP

[p 13]

Gentlemen

Please deliver to Andrew love and Indent to the Amount of my Account Against the Public and is receipt Shall be a Sufficient discharge from Your Obedient Servant

S/ James Clinton



To the Treasurers
of South Carolina
January 12th 1786

Assigned & acknowledged
in presence of

S/ Wm Bratton, JP

[p 15: Printed form of indent No. 630 Book P dated May 23rd, 1785 in the amount of £36.10]

[p 16: Reverse of the above Indent bearing an endorsement by, among others, James Clinton who signature their own appears as follows:

