

Pension Application for John Clark

R.1988

State of Vermont

Grand Isle County SS

On the 15th day of August AD 1837 personally appeared before me, William Wait Judge of the County Court within and for the County of Grand Isle aforesaid, John Clark a resident of Isle LaMott in the County of Grand Isle aforesaid, aged seventy four 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 named officers, and served as herein after stated, on the first of August AD 1777 (the exact day cannot distinctly recollect) I volunteered and entered into the service of the revolution in a company of volunteers, raised in the Town of Spencertown in the County of Columbia & State of New York (the names of the town has since I am informed been altered). The company was commanded by Captain Hawley and Lieutenant Spencer and immediately viz; the first of August 1777, we marched to Albany, where we spent one or two days & then marched to Schenectady & stayed in Schenectady about one week and from there to Stillwater at which place our company quartered until after the middle of October, when General Burgoyne the British command surrendered the Army. We had our battle with the British Army about one month before the surrender of Burgoyne. During all our stay at Stillwater my father the Rev. Jesse Clark was the Chaplin to the Brigade. I was at this time about 15 years old and most of the time I was mustered in the company as a private soldier, some of the time I was furnished with a horse and acted as an express in taking letters & the like communications to Troy & Albany and other places for the officers. My father who was among other things assisting & endeavouring to raise & get in the surrounding militia, General Gates commanded the American Troops. After the surrender of the British Army and about the first of November 1777 our company was disbanded & I in company with my father, returned to our home at Spencertown. I was absent from my home and in the revolutionary service at this time as above, over three months, I remained during the following winter with my family in Spencertown, aforesaid, in the spring of 1778 the Tories in the vicinity had formed large bodies & infested the Towns around us as well as Spencertown, they burned some building and killed & destroyed some cattle, belonging to those in favor of the revolution.

Colonel Peter [Barnes?] & some others raised a liberty Pole & Flag, the Tories made a sally & cut down & destroyed the pole & Flag. A committee of safety so-called was organized & a company of Troops was raised in Spencertown to guard and protect against the Tories. I volunteered for six months into the company raised in our town & served the six months out under Capt Hawley in the following manner, as a private soldier.

We were required parade each day and was arranged in such a manner that each man patrolled and ranged the surrounding country every third night, in companies & Squads, as the exigency of the case required, & when we found persons of doubtful character, or appearance, or every suspected of Toryism, we took them before the committee for examination. I can recollect of taking many up for trial, but cannot recollect of taking many up for trial, but cannot recollect the names of many. I do not know how many troops were raised in this manner in the surrounding country, but I know that similar companies ever raised in some of the neighboring towns. Our company consisted of about forty men and we were sometimes called into neighbouring towns, I did duty as a^d [aforesaid] (except part of the time, man them over third even required to range nights) & mustered daily for six months.

During the winter, Spring & Summer of 1779, I remained in my Father's Family at Spencertown and belonged to the militia, until the last of September 1779, when a draft of militia was made for three months service (I think it was one third of the men) our company was called out, & we were divided into lots, of three in each lot, and one to be drafted out of each lot. I recollect the lot I was in, put in one

dollar each for the benefit of the one drafted. I was drafted & received the money, we immediately mustered under the same officers as above, and marched to the Fishkills [Fishkill] so called on the East side of Hudson River our company was in Colonel Vanrenseerlares [VanRensselaer?] Regiment in which McKinster was Major. Our camp was situated (as near as I can recollect) about two miles & a half up from the river and landing so called, we built our Barracks mostly of trees about six feet high, and then placed our tents for a rook on the top of the; we suffered some for want of provisions and considerable with the cold, before the expiration of the term of our service, for we were most of us destitute of comfortable clothing. I completed the three months service, and then returned to my family as aforesaid in Spencertown, after being disbanded much worn down, with light feed, and cold keeping.

Early in the spring of 1780, a draft was made of the militia. I do not recollect the proportion, but it was for nine months service. I stood his draft, and was drafted for nine months, the same Captain & Lieutenant commanded; our service during the Spring & summer was most of time in Spencertown & the vicinity, guarding against Tories, who had in the latter part of winter—destroyed cattle, burned Starks of Hay & Grain, robbed, plundered & burned some dwelling houses & the like; we took some prisoners, I recollect at our time we took a body of Tories and among the rest, Guy Sharp, John Savage, & Richard Powers who was considered the leaders, among the Tories we took them before the committee of safety at Spencertown for examination who ordered them to be taken to [Lansbury mines or New Gate (so called) in Connecticut, and on the way with the captives, the Tories rallied from the surrounding country, and rescued them, and set them at liberty again; in the fall we were called to the North west to check the Indians & Tories, who were making a descent or invading the villagers & settlements on the Mohawk River, we marched to Albany where we remained two or three days & then to Schenectady, here we remained about three weeks, and were billeted out among the inhabitants to board, the enemy made a sudden invasion upon the country burned & destroyed a number of little villages, we pursued them passed Warrensbush while it was still smoking & followed the enemy as far as the village of Johnstown where we remained a short time and then returned to Schenectady, this I think was in October after the nine months had expired, we were disbanded & returned home, I think in the month of January 1781.

I never received any discharges from the service in writing, nor have I any documentary evidence of any kind touching my service in the revolution wary do I know any person now living with whom I was acquainted while in the service. Plinney Moore, who died at Champlain, about 10 miles from this place, was the last person, and the only one that I have seen for seventy years, with whom I was acquainted in the army, he was an officer.

I was born in Spencertown aforesaid 14th of September 176[?].

My birth was recorded in my Father's family Bible, which has been in existence until within twenty years, when it was worn out & come to pieces. The Bible was brought by Father to the Town of Isle LeMott where I now reside; and at my Father's death which happened in 1816. The Bible was nearly worn out & much in pieces & was soon entirely gone, I do now know of any other record of my birth except that I over wrote in the blank leaf of a large dictionary, which I now have.

When I went into the revolutionary service I lived in Spencertown, where I lived from my birth up to 1783 were I was engaged by our Ebenezer Allen to survey the Island comprising the Town I have live in, Viz, Isle La Mott, and same year, around the Island (seabrit) & in the next summer began again, at this time the British held on each side of the lake, and had some vessels on the Lake, commanded by John Steel and what settles ever in this vicinity, near mostly Tories who supposed that the Canada Line was to be established still south, I was much hated by this class, & for many years was called the rebel r I was taken in 1784 by Capt. Steel As a rebel, & for the purpose as he said of sending me to Qurbec [Quebec?] and after being kept at the British Caravan at Point [and for?], three days I was set at Liberty.

In 1785 I returned to Spencertown, married & returned in 1787 to [Albu?] about six months from this & in 1804 moved to the town, where I have resided ever since.

I was called into the service in manner before described and during my service I equipped myself was with, and under the officers above set forth & under the circumstances above described, I never recollect to have received any discharge from service in writing.

I can prove the evidence of Ezra Pike, and Gardiner Wait, who have known Mr. Moore than forty years, who were in the service as I have no reason to doubt who will state that they have always understood from myself and my father & family that I was in the revolutionary service, and is to their belief and the general belief of the neighbours on the subject, and as to character as to truth & veracity.

I can procure the evidence of the Rev. William Wait the only ordained clergyman in this town who is also Judge of our county courts, who can state of my character and the general belief, that I was a revolutionary soldier I can (I have no doubt) prove my character for veracity by all by all the judges & ex Judges of this county from its organization as well only the sheriff & ex sheriff if required but it would put me to considerable expense to take it.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state. (Signed) John Clark

Sworn to and subscribed the 5th day and year aforesaid.