

Biography of Joseph Camp Clark of Milford, CT (1751-1843)

Soldier of the American Revolution

Joseph Camp Clark was born 14 January 1751 to Samuel and Jane (Camp) Clark in Milford, CT, where he lived his whole life.

He married Sarah (Sally) Camp, daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Gunn) Camp, the second week of October 1783. They had two sons: Joseph Camp Clark, Jr. (1787-1831) and Ezra Clark (1789-1882). There may also have been an unnamed son, who died in 1786/87, and a daughter, Polly, who died in 1864.

Joseph Sr. died in Milford on 30 October 1843 at the age of 93.

On 20 August 1832, at the age of 81, Joseph appeared before the Probate Court of Milford District to apply for a pension for his Revolutionary service. His declaration states:

“In the spring of 1776 in Milford I enlisted in a Company of State Troops commanded by Capt. Samuel Peck and soon afterward said Company marched to New York & thence to the West end of Long Island & was employed at Brooklyn and I served in said Company in manner aforesaid for three months....

In the spring of 1779 I enlisted in a company of State Troops commanded by Capt. Peter Hepburn and I served a year in said Company which was employed during said year as a guard in a Fort at said Milford. [?] protecting & defending the sea coast along said Milford from the common enemy.

In the spring of 1780 I enlisted for a year in a Company of State Troops under the command of Capt. Joseph Davidson of said Milford and I [?] said year in said Company which was employed as a garrison in the Fort at Milford...in guarding and defending the sea coast along Milford from the common enemy.”

Joseph was awarded a pension of \$80 per annum.

The gap in Joseph’s service could be attributed to the death of his father, Lieutenant Samuel Clark, on 6 April, 1777, of small pox. As the oldest of 11 children, it is very likely that he was needed at home.

His mortuary notice, which appeared in the *Republican Farmer* on 7 November 1843, said that he was aged 93, a “revolutionary pensioner, and the oldest male inhabitant of the town. Mr. C. was possessed of great strength of body in his prime, having carried 540 pounds weight into the second story of his house at one time.”

Another death notice which was printed in the *Times* (Hartford, CT) on 11 November 1843, stated that at age 93 and a revolutionary pensioner, “He was the oldest person in the town, and not only outlived the whole of his generation, but many of the succeeding generation. When the news reached his native town that the British fleet was off Sandy Hook, and threatened an attack on New York, he shouldered his gun and marched to defend his country. He aided in throwing up the breast-works on Brooklyn Heights...”