

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of George Oldham: S21906

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of South Carolina} SS.

Anderson District} On this fourth day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Josiah J. Evans of the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas, now sitting Major George Oldham a resident in the District of Anderson and State aforesaid, aged Eighty three 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 stated - He volunteered under Capt. Mat. Jouett of Col William Moore's Reg't of North Carolina Militia went down to Capefear [sic: Cape Fear] (from Caswell County) against the Scotch Tories commanded by Col. McLeod [Col. Donald McLeod under Gen. Donald McDonald], before they got down Gen'l. [Richard] Caswell had defeated McLeod at Capefear [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, 27 Feb 1776] this was the first Battle in that part of the State, and He met the defeated Tories, and took away many prisoners who were paroled & sent home. He believes that he went down in the fall or winter of 1776 he was elected Ensign while out and on his return home was Commissioned Ensign of Capt. Matthew Jouetts Compy of Militia in the Caswell Regiment. He was out about two months at this time - In March 1780 he was Elected Captain of a Company of the Caswell Regiment and was drafted to go a tour of three month, after they got into South Carolina they went under [Lt. Col.] Stephen Moore and marched into South Carolina where they joined General [Horatio] Gates near Lynchs Creek and was at Gates defeat at Camden [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] he was stationed at Rugeleys Mill & was marched to attack the British He was put in the front which made & received the attack After the defeat he went or was ordered back to Pedee [sic: Pee Dee River] where Gen'l. Stephens [Edward Stevens of the VA Militia?] had left his Baggage &c. & joined them & after that they all went home & Gen'l. [John] Butler sent for him to be at Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough NC] & to get all the men in Caswell to meet there he did so & out of the Ten Companies in Caswell County only one could Captains Command could be mustered, and the command of that Company was given to him. He was then sent home for twenty days at the end of that time he was again called to make up the time which had not expired in S.[?] Carolina being forty days - which when completed amounted to about five months - After the Battle at Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780] Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene was retreating through N. Carolina. He Green lay at His (Capt. Oldhams) muster ground On his return home he was out at the C. H. [court house] reviewing or making a draft to relieve the old drafts his wife informed him the British was at his muster ground, He started that night & followed Greene to Dan River he Greene had got on the Virginia side [14 Feb 1781] - Col. Moore met him there and agreed to meet at his Oldhams house - & on the day they met The British was at Hillsboro. they Col. Moore & (Capt. Oldham) got about 30 or 40 men & agreed to go to Hillsboro & see what could be done. There they met Col. [Andrew] Pickens, Col. [Henry] Lee of Cavalry. they joined & followed on the trail of the enemy commanded by Tarleton [Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, under Cornwallis] & his forces. the overtook the enemy in Orange [now Alamance] County near Haw River & had a skirmish called Pyles hacking match where the enemy was defeated [25 Feb 1781]. He was afterwards in the service nearly all the time to the end of the war - but was in no other engagement. he was promoted to the Command of the first Battalion of the Caswell Regiment of the Militia of North Carolina - and commissioned on the 1st May 1783. - 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 Two Years at Least, in the Service of the United States as a Captain - during the Revolutionary war.

[signed] George Oldham

The State of South Carolina

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for the District of Anderson & State aforesaid, Major George Oldham and made Oath to amend his application for a pension, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades

As Sergeant a volunteer in the Year 1777 not less than Twenty days. As Ensign in the same year not less than twenty days

As Captain when he went into the State of South Carolina at Gates Defeat in 1780 (as he believes) not less than Three months & twenty days} 3. . 20

as captain in the State of North Carolina under Col. William Moore not less that forty days - Afterwards about 1781 as well as he can now recollect he was out Twenty days as Captain at the time he was at Pyles Hacking match.

In all he served 5 months & twenty days as Captain - 5. mo. 20 days

As Ensign twenty days 20 days

As Serjeant twenty days 20 do

Total 7 months

This deponent further saith that he was at various times called upon as captain to do many things for his country & prevented from following any civil pursuit & was dependent on his wife for the support of himself & family. But he would prefer to die in need, than to Swear falsely.

Sworn to 5th July 1833 [signed] George Oldham

Before John Harker JP

NOTES:

In Pickens District SC on 30 Jan 1852 "Thomas Oldham, William Oldham and Nelson Guttry & wife Mary Guttry formerly Mary Oldham of the District of Anderson and State aforesaid, children and heirs of George Oldham dec'd who formerly resided in the same District and State" appointed an attorney to try to obtain an increase in pension or bounty land.