

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Oldham: W8492

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky County of Madison Sct.

Hezekiah Oldham of the said County being duly sworn does on his oath make this following declaration. That he is one of the heirs of John Oldham and his wife Anniss Oldham both of whom are now dead Viz The said John died in Estill County Kentucky on the 17th day of November AD one thousand eight hundred and thirty one (1831). the said Anniss died in the same county on the 14th day of March AD One thousand eight hundred and forty (1840). the said John Oldham in his lifetime was a soldier of the War of the Revolution (Viz) At the battle near Camden or Gates defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] he was an ensign in the North Carolina Line [sic: see note below]. For his success in carrying an express therefrom he was promoted to a Captaincy in the said North Carolina Line and in that capacity was in the command of a Company at the battle of Guilford Court House as I have always heard him say and I have always believed him. After the war he removed to South Carolina, and lived there til about the year AD One thousand seven hundred and ninety six when he removed to Kentucky near where he died and continued to reside in the vicinity until he died as above stated aged about Seventy four (74) years

My Father and Mother were married on the 24th day of February AD One thousand seven hundred and Eighty three (1783) in Caswell County North Carolina but by whom I do not know My mothers maiden name was Anniss Rice See Family record [included in the file] My mother survived my father as above stated. She never married but remained his widow. When she died she left the following named surviving and only surviving children (Viz) Abner Oldham, born December 2nd AD one thousand seven hundred and Eighty three (1783) Hezekiah Oldham born April 10th One thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven (1787) Caleb Oldham born June 1st one thousand Seven hundred and Eighty nine (1789) Sarah intermarried with Thomas J Moberly, born May 14th Seventeen hundred and ninety three (1793) Elizabeth intermarried with William Fisher born June 15th Seventeen hundred and ninety five (1795) Nancy intermarried with Jesse Grubbs born December 19th Seventeen hundred and ninety seven (1797) John Rice Oldham born July 14th one thousand Eight hundred and one (1801) Absalom Oldham born May 28th Seventeen hundred and Eighty five (1785) and Mary, born May 22nd Seventeen hundred and ninety one (1791) intermarried with James Grubbs: had both died before my mother. Neither my father or mother ever drew any pension: nor ever made any application; My mother had made a move towards it a short time before she died. Since then we have let the matter rest because we did not understand fully how to proceed. The rest of the children, I am satisfied have all been equally as ignorant of the course to pursue as myself. I do not know of any person living by whom I can prove the services of my father. I know of no witness living by whom I can prove the marriage of my father and mother. I have their Bible containing the family record from which I obtain the facts set forth above in relation thereto and the birth of their children I neglected to mention above that my father was, a portion of the time under Colonel [William] Moore the family Bible alluded to above has been in possession of the family for more than forty years. I do not know the handwriting in which the entries are made. I bought it at the sales of my mothers estate. I am the acting administrator in connection with my brother Abner Oldham.

I make this declaration in behalf of myself and the above enumerated heirs for the purpose of receiving the pension to which we are entitled. the record of John M Oldham's age birth was that of Caleb Oldhams son put there in my father's lifetime while the Bible was in his possession. My father was born November 10th 1757 My Mother was born March 4th 1759 [signed] H Olham

NOTE: Almost the entire North Carolina Line was surrendered at Charleston on 12 May 1780, and the few remaining Continental soldiers were merged into the Militia until the following year. Records of North Carolina show that John Oldham was in the Militia.