

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Oliver: S7280

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia}

County of Bedford} S.S.

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Bedford County now sitting William Oliver a resident of said County aged seventy six 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1832 viz.

That he was born about 1756 (as he always understood from his parents having no register of his age) in the County of Ann Arundal [sic: Anne Arundel] in the State of Maryland. That shortly after the commencement of the Revolutionary War he thinks about the year 1777 he having previously removed into Montgomery County in the State last aforesaid a call was made upon that County and he was drafted and went into service as a militia Soldier for a tour of three months and the company to which he belonged under command of Cap. Claxton marched from said County and were stationed at Georgetown on the Potomack [sic: Potomac] where he remained his full term of service and was discharged & returned home to said County of Montgomery. he received no written discharge and thinks he received no pay. he cannot at this distance of time remember any of the field officers there and then in command. That in about six months thereafter as nearly as he can now remember he enlisted for five months in the same county under one Cap. Campbell on continental service received a bounty of eight dollars paper money and was marched from Frederickstown [sic: Frederick] in said County under Cap Campbell to New York and was in the Regiment of Colo Griffin & Colo. Shyhock in Genl Bells Brigade. He was in the battle of New York (sometimes called York Island) [9 Nov 1776] and at the White plains [28 Oct 1776]. Was present when Forts Lee [19 - 20 Nov 1776] & Washington [16 Nov 1776] were taken by the Brittish. that he served out his full term in active service and was honorably discharged at Philadelphia he kept his discharge to the end of the war but considering it of no value afterwards, it has been destroyed lost or mislaid.

That about one year thereafter he again enlisted in the same county under a recruiting officer one Major Simpson for three years on continental service received a bounty of eight dollars rendezvoused at Georgetown where the company was inspected and was shortly to march to join the Northern Army but before the company marched he received a serious injury in his right foot & ancle by having it severely crushed between the gunnall of a Schooner then lying in the river & the wharf. the injury was so serious that he was unable to march with his company and was left by the Company almost destitute; where he remained about six months and having been left unprovided and destitute he entered on board a privateer called the Friendship at Alexandria commanded by Cap Connaway or Conway. That they sailed from Alexandria and after having been at sea about a month they were captured after an action by Cap. Ridgeway of the British Navy, or perhaps a privateer he does not now remember the name of the vessel. He with others of his crew were landed on Curratuck Island [sic: Currituck in North Carolina] in a destitute condition, they had been prisoners about a month by the assistance of a boat wrecked on the Island they were put on shore and with difficulty he got home aided by some baggage waggons travelling from Williamsburg to Fredericksburg in Virginia. he continued home and unable to perform land service for a long time and still feels the effects of the injury aforesaid. That he states he served three months in the Militia of Maryland five months in continental service, enlisted for three years and after having been mustered and in service was disabled and was left destitute for six months, and from dire necessity was forced as a marine to join the privateer aforesaid - served and was detained as a prisoner of war about one month and was for a long time disabled from the the crushing of his foot and ancle aforesaid whilst preparing to go into the army under his enlistment for three years His suffering and permanent injury was of much greater privation and Injury to him than the three years service would likely have been. That he removed from Maryland to Albemarle County in Virginia about forty one

years ago, and from that County to Amherst and from that County to Bedford County Virginia, his present place of residence where he has lived for the last eighteen years that he knows of no person living by whom he can prove his services except his sister Ann Marshall of said County of Bedford and whose affidavit is hereto annexed. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State

In answer to the interrogatories propounded by the Court the said William Oliver states

1<sup>st</sup> That he was born in Ann Arundal County in the State of Maryland about 1756 as stated in the body of his declaration as he understood from his parents.

2<sup>nd</sup> that he has no record of his age and does not know whether or not there ever was one.

3<sup>d</sup> That when he entered the service, each tour he resided in Montgomery County in the State of Maryland, and had not returned home from his second tour before he entered on the naval service at Alexandria as stated above - and that he removed from Montgomery County Maryland to Albemarle County Virginia, about 42 years ago where he resided about 7 years, when he removed to Amherst County in the same State where he lived about 15 years when he removed to the County of Bedford where he has resided ever since & now resides.

4<sup>th</sup> That he entered the service the 1<sup>st</sup> tour as a Militia man he thinks about 1777. The second tour he enlisted which was in the same or the next year as the first tour, but being entirely illiterate cannot mention the dates with precision

5<sup>th</sup> That the names of the officers with whom he served the 1<sup>st</sup> tour are Capt Campbell, Col Griffin & Shyhock & Gen'l. Bell, - the other officers he does not now recollect. the 2<sup>nd</sup> tour he was under Major Simpson - the other officers not recollected he does not recollect any other particulars to this question further than they are detailed in the body of his declaration.

6<sup>th</sup> He was regularly discharged the 1<sup>st</sup> tour and this discharge was signed by Capt. Campbell. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour he received no discharge in consequence of being wounded & left by the army as before stated.

7<sup>th</sup> That he is not extensively known out of his neighbourhood and having removed so long since from the section of Country where he resided when he was called into service he knows of no person by whom he can prove any of his services except his sister Ann Marshall, whose affidavit is hereto annexed.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid                      William hisXmark Oliver

NOTE: Ann Marshall's declaration states that she was about 74, about 18 months younger than her brother, William Oliver, and that she was married and had children before the war began.