

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Richard Oldham: W6887

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky}
Madison County} Sct

On this 13 day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Will. Goodloe[?] Jas. Dejonnett[?] & Geo. Ahorn[?] justices of the County Court in & for the County of Madison aforesaid now sitting Richard Oldham a resident of said County aged 70 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That in 1777 in Caswell County North Carolina he volunteered & served a three months Tour in the Militia under Capt Waddy Tate - Colo. Will. Moore Command. We were marched to [looks like Countedan; possibly Cumberland] & there staid with Gen. [William Lee] Davidson till the tour was out - after this he performed as a volunteer two tours more in the militia of three months each - went from same County in N.C. - Capt. John Oldham was his Capt in both tours - Colo Moore was Colo - Gen [John] Butler Command't - These two tours were performed immediately after the first - afterwards when [Gen. Horatio] Gates was in the South & the year of his defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] he served a fourth tour of six months under James Wilson Capt - went from same County - was out not less than six months in this tour - after Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] came to the South [2 Dec 1781] he served a fifth tour under the same Capt. John Oldham - in this tour he carried an express from Genl. Green at Guilford Court House to Boyd's Ferry on Dan River [in Halifax County VA] to have Boats ready for crossing his army [on 14 Feb 1781] - was at the Battle at Guilford Court House [15 March 1781] & was at the defeat of Colo Piles [sic: Col. Dr. John Pyle, 25 Feb 1781], who headed the Tories - Colo [Henry] Lee was there - continued to serve till after the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] He is confident that he was in actual service 2 years or more - He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services - but can prove them by Rich'd. Oldham Sen'r & Hezekiah Oldham - & Laurence Morrison, a Capt. of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid [signed] Rich'd. Oldham

State of Kentucky}
Madison County} S.S.

On this 7th January 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Madison County Court now sitting Richard Oldham a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration, supplementary to his Declaration made in this Court on the 13 day August 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 He states that in consequence of age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot detail much more particularly his service as a soldier of the Revolution than he has done in his original Declaration. He feels confident that he served the number of tours stated in his original Declaration - he is also confident that he served as a private in the militia during the Revolutionary War more than two years & for which service he claims a pension - that he was never Drafted but always served as a volunteer - that the first tour he was out was generally against the Tories. He well recollects being at the battle at Whitesells Mill [Wetzel's Mill in Guilford County NC, 6 March 1781]. John Oldham was his Capt & Colo Will Moore his Colonel. He was also at Briants Defeat on the Ya[?] River at the Shallow Ford [sic: Skirmish at the Shallow Ford of Yadkin River 10 miles west of Winston-Salem NC, where Loyalist Capt. James Bryan was killed, 4 Oct 1780] - Marched all night from Hoaut[?] Ferry on the Yadkin to get there. Dudley Runnels [or Reynolds] was his Capt there - went under him from head quarters till his return. This was sometime before the Battle of Guilford, but cannot state the year. He was born in Caswell County North Carolina in 1763. 14th May. He has in his

possession a record of his age taken from one made by his Father. He lived in Caswell County when he went into the service & lived there till he moved to Kentucky in 1788 where he has ever since resided in Madison Count. He does not recollect having ever received any written discharges - has none now. He states that Capt Lawrence Morrisson of Madison has been his neighbour for many years & known him from a Boy - that he & Richard Oldham Sen of Estill County can & have certified as to his services. Josiah Collins & Richard Gentry have also long known & can testify concerning his character & the belief of his services.

[signed] Rich'd. Oldham

NOTE: On 3 Feb 1853 Patsy Oldham, 72, of Platte County MO, applied for a pension stating that she married Richard Oldham in Madison County KY on 27 Jan 1803, and he died there 17 June 1836. In the file is a copy of the minister's return for the marriage of Richard Oldham to Patsy Reid on 26 Jan 1803. On 8 Sep 1855 Patsy Oldham applied for bounty land, still giving her age as 72.