

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Oldham VAS332

vsl 22VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/19/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Petition for bounty land

The heirs of William Oldham – Captain C. L.

This officer's name is not on the Army Register nor on the rolls of officers, which are on file in the first auditor's office.

The facts of this case have been stated, as follows by the witnesses –

Captain Henry Bedinger,¹ a respectable witness, says that William Oldham was Ensign in Captain John Nelson's Company of Continental Regulars, sometime in 1775 – that in 1776 he was in service in New York, where the witness saw him, on his way to Canada – that the name of Captain Nelson's Company submitted for three years: and the witness says, he verily believes, the said Oldham, after having been promoted Lieutenant & Captain, served in the Continental Army the full term of his enlistment – that after the expiration of the term of enlistment of the men, the Company went down; and the said Oldham returned to the County of Berkeley, [text runs off the page and is illegible] – that he soon afterwards [there may be text missing at the bottom of the image of this document] at the head of a Regiment of Kentucky militia, which he commanded.

Captain Ro. Wilson [Robert Wilson], a respectable witness, says that he knew William Oldham, when he was a Lieutenant in the Army of the Revolution, in the fall of the year 1777 – that he left him in service at Ticonderoga, where he (the witness) was ordered on the recruiting service – that he afterwards knew the said Oldham as Colonel in Jefferson County, and says, it was a common report that he was killed at St. Clair's defeat.²

The Petitioners have filed a certificate of Peter Hagner 3rd Auditor, of the Treasury Department of the United States – "That it appears from the Rolls of the 5th Pennsylvania Regiment commanded by Colonel Francis Johnston, that William Oldham was appointed a Captain on the 24th March 1777, and that he resigned on the 15th of January 1779 –" The Petitioners also refer to the Journals of Congress of March 24th 1777 – volume 2nd, page 65, for proof that on that day Captain Nelson's Company [there may be text missing at the bottom of the digital image posted for this page]

I submit the following remarks, upon this evidence.

It appears that William Oldham was a Resident and Citizen of Virginia, when he entered

¹ [Henry Bedinger S8059](#)

² Also known as the Battle of the Wabash, the Battle of Wabash River or the Battle of a Thousand Slain, November 4, 1791

the service in 1775; and returned to his residence in Berkeley County, in Virginia, after he left the service – that he was in service from sometime in 1775, to January 15, 1779. The proof is therefore considered satisfactory, that he was in service more than three years.

But, it appears, that in March 1777, when he had served only about 18 months in the Continental line or in the Virginia Continental line, he was transferred or annexed to the Pennsylvania Continental line, and completed his service in that line. If he, and the Company to which he belonged, was, in consequence of that transfer, credited by the United States to Pennsylvania as part of her quota of troops, his heirs would not be entitled to bounty land from Virginia – on the other hand if he is to be regarded as a Virginia Continental officer through the whole time of his service, or as an officer commanding an Independent Company of the Continental line, who was a citizen of Virginia, his heirs are entitled to bounty land

[digital image of this document ends here with the note on the reversed and that it is the report upon the claim of the heirs of Captain William Oldham C. L.]

[p. 18]

State of Kentucky Jefferson County: Sct.

This day Robert Wilson a Captain of the Army of the Revolution and an old and respectable citizen of this County personally appeared before the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the County & State aforesaid & being duly sworn saith that he knew Colonel William Oldham who was a Lieutenant in the Army of the Revolution in the fall of the year 1777 he knew him and that he left the said William Oldham in service at Ticonderoga went this Affiant was ordered home on Recruiting Service and that he afterwards knew him the said Oldham as Colonel in Jefferson County Kentucky – This affiant further states that by common fame or report that the said Oldham was killed at St. Clair's defeat and that he was Commandant of a Regiment and further saith not.

S/ Robt Wilson [Robert Wilson]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robt. Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

[attested March 29, 1832]

[p. 20]

I Henry Bedinger of the County of Berkeley and State of Virginia being now more than eighty years of age, do Certify that I was personally, and well acquainted with Captain John Nelson, who was an Inhabitant of Shepherdstown for several years, before the Revolutionary war, where I then resided that the said John Nelson was presented by Congress sometime in the year 1775 with a Captain's Commission for a meritorious [indecipherable word] and that I also knew Adam Ott of Hagers Town and William Oldham of Berkeley County, the first a Lieutenant in said Company, and the second the Ensign thereto, that they raised an independent Company partly in Virginia and partly in Maryland that sometime in the winter or spring of 1776 I met with the before mentioned officers & Company in New York on their way to Albany & Canada, this Company was raised for the term of three years, and I verily believe, that Ensign William Oldham after being promoted to Lieutenant and then Captain, did serve in the Continental Army, the full term for which he had first engaged: and that as the Company was not again revived after

the expiration of the term of enlistment, the said William Oldham returned to his home, in the County of Berkeley from whence he in some short time thereafter removed to Kentucky where he continued to sustain the Character of a Valuable & enterprising Officer, and very active in repelling the encroachments of Indians that, as Colonel Commandant of a Kentucky Militia Regiment was killed at the attack and defeat of General St. Clair's Army on the 4th day of November 1791. Given under my hand this 7th day of December 1833

S/ Henry Bedinger, Captain
5th Virginia Regiment
Revolutionary Army

*Henry Bedinger, Captain
5th Virginia Regiment
Revolutionary Army —*

[attested in Berkeley County Virginia December 7, 1833]

[p. 22]

H. Wm Oldham

Capt.

Rej'd 5th May

This claim is rejected but with great reluctance. The evidence is not very satisfactory, but from it I am induced to believe Captain Oldham belonged to the Pennsylvania line.

D C

Dec. 31 1839 Rejected