

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Oldner¹ R80

f25VA

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.]

[f p. 2: Power of attorney dated September 2, 1851 and filed in Norfolk County Virginia by R. M. Boykin administrator of the estate of Joshua Oldner, deceased whose last will and testament was "unadministered" by Benjamin Lewis, deceased executor. He states that Joshua Oldner was a sailing Master in the Virginia State Navy during the Revolution and in powers he is attorney to see the benefits to which the deceased may have been entitled including half pay under the act of July 5, 1832.]

[f p. 5]

The deposition of Dianna Russell a resident of the County of Elizabeth City in the State of Virginia taken before me Thomas C. Peek a Notary Public within and for the County and State aforesaid on this 19th of July A.D. 1853

This deponent being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that she is about 80 years of age, was born and has lived all her life in this County.

That just after the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783, her father who had been an old soldier in the Army invited a large number of gentlemen who had been officers in the Army and Navy to his house, among whom she recollects to have seen Joshua Oldner of Norfolk who had been a sailing master in the Virginia Navy. She remembers to have heard it said then, that the said Joshua Oldner had been a sailing master in the Navy, had been attached to the "*Scorpion*"² one of the vessels of said Navy, and had also been taken prisoner in the year 1781, and carried to the Island of Bermuda, where he was retained a prisoner of war until after the peace in 1783. That she has often heard Peter Fiveash³ with whom she was well acquainted, and who had been a sailing master in the Navy, speak of said Joshua Oldner as one of the prisoners who was carried to Bermuda with him in 1781, and also of his having served on board the "*Scorpion*." That the said Joshua Oldner, as she has been told, died at Norfolk about the year 1814 and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Dianna Russell, X her mark

[f p. 7: Copy of the last will and testament dated January 10, 1812 of Joshua Oldner who describes himself as a resident of the Borough of Norfolk Virginia. He names his son-in-law,

¹ Va. Sea Service Va. Half Pay

² Scorpion.:Coggins:102, Dandridge:186, 188, VANavy:163, Eller:202, ND5:607, ND6:811, ND7:850, sloop in VA Navy, 1776-81. ND8:422, ND9:339, ND11:1164, Capt. Wright Westcott 18 Jun 1776, Capt. Laban Goffagan in Jan 1777, captured in 1781. C64, 123. The vessel was to be sold 25 Jul 1777. Silverstone:20.

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20S.html>

³ FPA R39

William T Stone; daughter Dinah Lewis, wife of Benjamin Lewis; daughter Sarah Stone wife of William T Stone; brother-in-law Lewis Ford and friend John Bramble. He names Benjamin Lewis, Lewis Ford and John Bramble executors of his estate. The will was probated in the November session 1814 in the Borough of Norfolk.]

[f p. 14]

Hampton January 17th 1783

Sir

I have the Honor to Endorse your Excellency a Copy of the Brig *Dolphin* a Flag of Troops Capt. Thomas Seymore from the Island of Bermuda with forty-three American prisoners, to having stayed behind which is mentioned on the list with the Letters which came by her. Also a list of Stores and a few articles to Exchange for Provisions, your Excellency will be pleased to give your corrections respecting them –

Capt. Thos. Gibbins [Thomas Gibbons?] who sailed from York Town for New York some time past with Tobacco is also arrived from New York the night before last, has behaved very Imprudent in bringing a number [of] Articles with some things Landed on the Knight [night] he came in for Mr. Lowry which I have since stopped, the Brig is also stopped & in possession of my Brother on her way to Burwell's Ferry a Doctor Middleton a Scotsman came passenger in her, Landed and went on to York without my knowledge, I have got Captain Armistead to send after him this morning and informed he was in our Service formally & went to Scotland to get and state which was left him there, The Bermuda Captain reported his stores to me Captain Gibbins did not, whether from mistake or not, I can't say.

I have the Honor to be Sir

With Great respect your

Excellency's –

Mo. Obt. Humbe Servt.

Commodore Bason

His Excellency
Governor Harrison
Richmond
by Express

Bermuda alias

Sooners Islands By his Excellency William Brown Esquire Captain General Governor
Commander-in-Chief & Vice Admiral of these Islands of Bermudas

To all of whom these Presents shall come Greeting –

I do hereby & make known, that Thomas Seymour, Master or Commander of the Brigantine called the *Dolphin* hath appeared before me the Governor aforesaid & declared upon oath that the said Brigantine or Vessel of the Burden of eighty tons or thereabouts half belonged to the subjects of His Majesty George III King of Great Britain, France & Ireland, and whereas I have Dispatched, Authorized & Impowered him the said Thomas Seymour to transport in his Brigantine to Virginia forty-five Prisoners lately brought into these Islands, whose names are hereunto annexed & to treat & make and Exchange for the like Number of British Prisoners by & under the sanction of a Flag of truce – I do therefore request you & every of you, whensoever the said Master or Commander shall be or arrive with his said Brigantine that you would be pleased to receive him courteously & use him kindly & permit him upon observing the laws of the

nations to enter into, remain in, & pass from your Ports, Rivers, & Dominions at & there to enjoy all kind of right of navigation without any Impediment, Capture, Seizure, Set or Molestation whatsoever, which I shall most readily acknowledge upon all occasions.

In testimony whereof I the Governor aforesaid have hereunto set my Hand & caused the Great Seal of these Islands to be affixed this 24th of December 1782

By his Excellency's
Command
Henry Tucker Junior
Secretary

List of Prisoners of War Pr Brig *Dolphin* Thos. Seymour Master for Virginia

No.	Names	Stations	No.	Names	Stations
1	Peter Fiveash ⁴	Master	25	John Freeman	Sailor
2	Steven Swain	Mate	26	Josiah Snow	"
3	Mallvilo Miller	Sailor	27	Iona Gross	"
4	John Kelly	Do	28	William Woodhouse	"
5	John Catrule	Do	29	John Higgerson	"
6	Henry Rhodes	Do	30	Negro Samuel	"
7	William Carol	"	31	Joshua Oldner	Master
8	John Savage	Master	32	John Gorham	Mate
9	John Reid	Passenger	33	Norman Bigole	Passenger
10	Severn Reid	Do	34	John Foster	Sailor
11	John Parker	Sailor	35	James Foster	Do
12	Henry Window	Do	36	Joshua Gardner	"
13	Robert Speres	"	37	Whiston Jones	"
14	Thomas Ameg	"	38	William Boothe	"
15	Robert Ryon [Robert Ryan?]	"	39	William Lassater	"
16	John Spinner	Master	40	Lewis Peers	"
17	Edward Walsh	Passenger	41	Samuel Michell	"
18	Daniel Jacobs	Master	42	Moses Cops	"
19	Amos Jacobs	Sailor	43	Luke Hill	"
20	Thomas Wallace	Mate	44	Daniel Downing	Passenger
21	John Gibson ⁵	Do	45	Daniel Richards	Mate
22	Thomas Martin	Sailor			
23	William Curtis	"			
24	Orin Barney	"			

Return of
5 Masters
5 Mates
5 Passengers
30 Sailors
45 Total

Commissary's Office St. Gorges Bermuda December 24th 1782
S/ Pendock Neal C'y of Prisoners

⁴ FPA R39

⁵ Possibly the same man as FPA R52

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

The affidavit of Ann Payne taken before me Thomas C Peek, a Notary Public, for and within the County of Elizabeth City in the State of Virginia, on the 30th day of April A.D. 1851. Ann Payne aged 82 years a resident of the County of Elizabeth City and the State of Virginia being duly sworn according to law depose and saith: that she knew and was well acquainted with one Laban Goffigan who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy during the war of the Revolution, that the said Lieutenant Laban Goffigan was attached to the "*Scorpion*" a vessel then belonging to the said Navy: and that he was on board this vessel when he was sent to the French West Indies after provisions in the year 1781, when she was captured by a British Cruiser and carried into the Island of "Bermuda," where he the said Lieutenant Laban Goffigan together with Peter Fiveash and Joshua Oldner Masters in said Navy and attached to the said "*Scorpion*" & the rest of the officers and crew of the said *Scorpion* were put into the Hulk of an old vessel and then confined in imprisonment until after the peace in the year 1783 –

She remembers many of the incidents connected with the Virginia State Navy during the war of the Revolution and remembers distinctly the circumstance of the "*Scorpion's*" capture in the year 1781 and the imprisonment of her officers aforesaid, left this part of the country and that she does not know when or where he died – further she depose not. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

S/ Ann Payne, X her mark