

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Overton S16499

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Dec 2020.

State of Kentucky. Washington County Sct.

On this 24th day of September 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Washington county Court now sitting Samuel Overton aged Seventy two years in December next a resident Citizen of the said County of Washington & State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law, made the following Declaration in order to obtain the provisions of the Act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States as followeth (To Wit) In the 1st place as a private draughted Militia soldier from the County of Amelia & State of Virginia under Capt. Lewis Ford [W24223] bound for a place called Hampton in Virginia on a tour of two months Our rout was through Petersburg thence crossing James River at Minses Ferry [Mimm's Ferry?] from thence through Williamsburg to Hampton. This tour was performed in the 1777 or 1778 If I mistake not, I dont remember the field Officers as none of them went from my County, & I was unexperienced & only 16 or 17 years old – The next tour I was called on as a draughted Militia man to march agreeable to my number & left home on the 10th day of January 1781 under Capt. William Crowley, after getting to Chesterfield County we were armed & continued on our march for a place called Portsmouth, a place that the traytor Arnal [sic: Gen. Benedict Arnold] as a British commander occupied that Winter [19 Jan - 18 Apr 1781], it being the same winter that Gen'l. Morgan Defeated Tarlton at the Cowpens [sic: Battle of Cowpens SC on 17 Jan 1781, where Gen. Daniel Morgan defeated Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton]. About the time we left Chesterfield Courthouse where we were armed Capt. Crowley sickened & returned home & we were put under a Capt. Harris, who I believe was a Continental Officer. after some time he left us & our Company was dissolved & my self being a Sergeant & some five men was attached to a Captain Haskin's [Creed Haskins] Company from Cumberland County Virginia Our field Officers from whom we were armed was a Colo. Downman [Rawleigh Downman BLWt1917-300] & a Maj. Edmundson both I believe were Continental Officers. Our Brigade Commander a part of the time was Robert Lawson [VAS850] of Prince Edward Virginia & Gen'l. Mughlingburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850] the ballance of the time & the Baran Stuban [sic: Baron von Steuben] was our Commander in chief if I am not wrongly inform'd. Our Rout in this Tour was from home through Chesterfield County thence through Petersburg town, thence taking a road down James River on the south side, passing Cabbin point [sic: Cabin Point in Surry County] & a place called smithfield to the town of Suffolk, on the Nancymond [sic: Nansemond] River in the vicinity of Portsmouth, in which neighbourhood we spent the winter & was discharged on the Eleventh day of April, which including ten days to return home in, makes a tour of three months & ten days I was from home that Tour.

Some short time after I returned home I inlisted in a Volunteer Company of light horse under Capt. Thomas Jones of Amelia County & State of Virginia for two months If I mistake not. We were marched from said County of Amelia by a Maj'r Thomas Watkins in company with a Company of mounted Infantry & the ballance footmen to the amount of about 400 men, our rout was from the aforesaid County of Amelia was through Pohattan [sic: Powhatan] Goochland & Louisa Counties & joined the Army Commanded by the Marquis Delay Fayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] I cant certainly say when but in a few day after on our Retreat the Army reached the Racoon ford on the Rapidan River in the State of Virginia at which place some short time after [10 Jun 1781] Gen'l. Waynes [Anthony Wayne's] Army from the northward joined the Army of Fayette's, & then shortly after our Army took up the line of march advancing on the enemy, about which time they evacuated the City of Richmond in Virginia [20 Jun 1781]. There was with us in this tour two Continental Officers I believe a Colo. Call [Richard Call VAS2165] & a Maj'r. or Colo Dick [Col. Alexander Dick R13751]. Some short time after this our Company was discharged. This tour I was from home some few days over two months if my memory fails me not

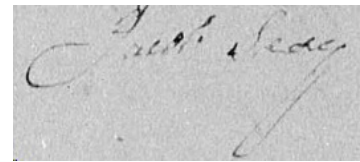
Some short time after I returned home a Capt. Alexander Hamilton [more likely James Harris, a Commissary] came from a place about thirty miles from where I lived called the Pint of Fork [sic: Point of Fork] which place lied in the State of Virginia between the South & North forks of James River [James and Rivanna Rivers] where the said State was about to Establish publick buildings such as an Armory, store houses Taylors & Blacksmith shops & other houses for Artificers to work in &c. The aforesaid Hamilton informed me he was authorised to employ an Assistant Commissary as a guard to go with him & immediately commenced the business & after acting as an assistant about six months s'd Hamilton as an Officer was directed to other Employment, & I was appointed principal Commissary by Colo Davis [sic: William Davies BLWt597-500] Commissioner of the War Office for the State of Virginia. As such I acted at least eighteen months. the Rations I found at that place was generally about one hundred pr. day, the Siege of York happened the fall [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] after I went there, when Cornwallis was taken, during that Siege our Number of Rations was much increased by the Boat hands calling on us for provisions when they were out of thing supplies for said Siege. As an assistant Commissary I had to go to the Commissioner of the Specific tax to have the supplies sent on to our post & the principal comm'y had to attend to the Issuing business, & while I was principal me & my assistant had to act in the same manner, which was full employment for both. Said Hamilton informed me as his assistant Commissary I was to look to the State of Virginia for pay. In answer to the question to be propounded to all applicants I answer this. That I am 72 years old in December next agreeable to the family Register, and was born in the State of Virginia (where I resided during the performance of all my services named in this Declaration) in the year 1760 & I was twice drafted and once I volunteered & I never was a Substitute. I have named several of the Officers both Continental & Militia, but I have intirely forgot the number of the Regiments, & I never had a written discharge, & I am generally known throughout the County, being for at least twenty years in publick business & for eight years rode through the whole County as a Commissioner to take lists of Taxable property, in the County of Washington & State of Kentucky, & County where I now reside, & have ever since the year 1788. And had it not have been for the misfortune of having my house burnt after removing to Kentuck I should have been prepared to have read every statement correctly respecting the whole of my services of every discription during the Revolution. I am in hopes there is some documents to be found that will correct me if I have made any rong statement through lack of memory. If I have made no mistake in the above Statement I have served in the Militia some few days over seven months (That is to say) three months & ten days as a Sergeant & two months as a private soldier, each time drafted, & two month as a volunteer light horseman, & six months as Assistant Commissary & Eighteen months as principal Commissary, in the whole as Commissary two years & seven months & about ten days as Sergeant & common soldier in the Militia. The affidavids herewith transmitted will measurably prove most of the above Statements.

I lastly state that I have no documentary evidence of my services and I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid Samuel Overton

State of Kentucky Washington County Sct.

On this 24th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Washington County Court, now sitting, Jacob Seay [S31352] resident citizen of the said County of Washington and State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law, states and says that himself and Samuel Overton was both born and raised in the State of Virginia and County of Amelia, children together, and that he sometimes lived in the house with the said Overton and by my fathers register, and his information, I was born in the year 1758, and I was well informed by said Overton's mother that he was only two years younger than what I was. as to said Overtons tower of duty of two months under Capt Lewis Ford, I well remember that, that tower was performed in the year 1777 or 78 as I believe but am not certain how long said tower was. I cannot say anything further, only I remember the said Overton was one of Capt. Fords men, and Williamsburg and Hampton was the place of destination, as to his tower of 1781 when he set out from home on the 10th day of January, and was discharged on the 11th April following,

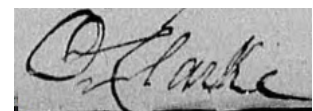
which made him from home three months and about ten days as a Sergeant. I know all the statements he has made respecting that tower to be correct, and I served said tower with him, and know all the statements he has made in his declaration to obtain a pension to be true respecting said three months and ten days tower. I know also all said Overtons statements made in said declaration respecting his services rendered at the Point of Fork as an assistant and principal Commissary to be true, I having carefully examined his declaration, and was with him the whole time of about two years he served as assistant and principal Commissary at the Point of Fork. Said Overtons [illegible word] months tower as a volunteer light horseman, I can only say I know towers of that kind was performed about that time I know said Overton while assistan and principal Commissary at the Point of Fork made his Issues to a Continental Officer by the name of Peyton, and his Boman, and about twenty Taylors [tailors] and 10 or 12 other men who was employed in repairing and keeping the said arms in order, which all were on a continental establishment, besides all the Carpenters, bricklayers &c which amounted to more than one hundred rations per day as I suppose and Capt. John Peyton was the continental officer that superintended the artificers,



State of Kentucky Spencer County Sct [29 Sep 1832]

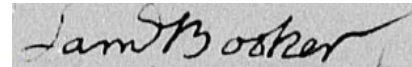
Personalley appeared before me Thomas Newman a Justice of the peace in & for the aforesaid State & County Obadiah Clarke [W8609] who being two infurm to attend Court & mad Oath & states that he had been acquainted with Samuel Overton since the Summer of 1781, he the said Overton then being appointed an Assistant Commissary to a Capt. Alexander Hamilton a Continental Officer, who was then Commissary at a place in Virginia lying in the forks between the south & north forks of James River called the Pint of Fork when the said State was about the erect Publick building for the reception of military stores of various descriptions, such as an Armory, Blacksmiths & Taylors shops, & houses for a Quartermaster & Commissarys purposed & for other Artificers to keep Armes in Order in & other implements of war Sundry of these implements was brought with the Artificers (to wit) about 5000 stand of Armes with Blacksmith & men to keep said Armes in repair also a Continental Oficer by the name of Peyton & about twenty Taylors under his direction, making soldiers Cloathing, & Mr. Dyer with military stores of various description to make Cloathing of &c After said Overton had served as Assistant Commissary about six months said Hamilton was sent to other imployment & said Overton was appointed principal Commissary at said place & as such served eighteen month, in the whole time as Assistant & principal two years, all of which time he the said Overton as Principal & Assistan Commissaryies Issued provision to about 100 men including the Carpenters, Bricklayers & the different Artificers under Capt. Peyton besides a number of Boat hands that was imployed in passing up & down the River procureing provisions to supply the Army at the Siege of Yorktown, when Cornwalllice was taken that fall, I am well informed that said Overton was appointed Commissary by Colo Davis Commissioner of the War Office for the State of Virginia I also state I was with said Overton allmost two years at said Pint of Fork & knew the business he & his Assistant had to do was full employment for them both & I left said Overton at said place when I left there

Some time after this said Overton & myself moved to the State of Kentuck where we both became Mejistrates & acted as such for at least 15 years he in Washington & myself in Shelby County, & both became high Sheriffs the same year & served as such two years & I further state that his statement made in his declaration which I have seen I believe all to be correct as I believe him from information & my own knowledg of him to be a truthful honest man



State of Kentucky Washington County Sct [20 Nov 1832]

Personally came before me David H. Spears a Justice of the Peace in for the aforesaid County Sam'l Booker [Samuel Booker W521] a Citizen of the State & County aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law states & says that some time about the month of July 1781 he entered the service as a Volunteer Soldier in the company of Cap Edward Walker in a trupe of light horse, the tour as will as I recollect about two months I well recollect that Sam'l Overton from the same County of Amelia & State of Virginia that (I were from) served as a souldier in the Company of Capt Thomas Jones troop of horse for about the same time. From my fathers Register I was born the 9th of August 1758 & Sam'l Overtons Mother was my fathers sister & I always understood from them I was about two years older than the said Sam'l Overton. After this in the year 1815 I removed to the State of Kentucky where I found the said Overton acting as a Majistrate in the County of Washington & shortly after this he became high Sheriff & always bore the Carecter of being a truthful honest man I believe



[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Washington County } I David H Spears, a Justice of the peace in the county aforesaid in the state of
State of Kentucky } Kentucky do hereby certify that Jacob Seay of the aforesaid County is a
credible witness and that he personally appeared before me in my county aforesaid and made oath that
he was well acquainted with Samuel Overton of the said County who is now on the pension list as
Assistant Commissary and Commissary in the Army of the Revolution and entitled to receive Three
hundred & twenty dollars per annum. That the said Samuel Overton entered the service during the
revolution about the first of July 1781 as assistant Commissary under Capt Alexander Hamilton who was
a regular officer, at Point of Fork in Virginia where the said state was about to establish publick buildings
for the reception of Military stores and that after having served about six months as assistant commissary
the said Overton was appointed principal Commissary by Col. William Daves Commissioner of the War
officer of Virginia and that the said Overton continued in this last capacity for upwards of eighteen months
and until the end of the revolutionary war; the said affiant further states that he was stationed with the said
Overton at Point of Fork in Virginia during the Revolutionary War, ad that the said Samuel Overton is
now living in the county of Washington Kentucky. Sworne to before me a Justice of the peace for said
count this 7th day of November 1833
D. H. Spears JPWC

State of Kentucky } I Zach'h Terrell a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid in the
Spencer County Sct } State of Kentucky do hereby Certify that Obadiah Clarke of Shelby
County is a credible witness, & that he personally appeared before me in my county aforesaid & made
oath, That he was well acquainted with Samuel Overton of the County of Washington who is now on the
pension list as Assistant Commissary and Commissary, in the army of the Revolution, & entitled to
receive three hundred & twenty dollars per annum, that the said Sam'l Overton entered the service of the
revolution about the first of July 1781 as an assistant Commissary under Capt Alexander Hamilton, who
was a Regular Officer at the Point of Fork in Virginia, where the said State was about to establish publick
buildings for the reception of Military stores, and that after having served about six months as Assistant
Commissary, the said Overton was appointed principal Commissary by Colo William Davis
Commissioner of the War Office of Virginia, and that the said Overton continued in this last capacity for
upwards of eighteen months, & untill the end of the Revolutionary War The said Clarke further states that
he was stationed with the said Overton at the Point of Fork in Virginia during the Revolutionary War, &
that the said Samuel Overton is now living in the County of Washington & State of Kentucky. Sworn to
before me this 11th November 1833
Z. Terrell J.P.S.C

Memorandum of Sam'l Overtons late Revolutionary Services

On the 10th day of January 1781 I marched from home in Amelia County Virginia bound for Portsmouth which place the Traytor Arnold occupied that [undeciphered] as a British commander, I returned home about the 20th of april following, after remaining at home about two weeks I Volunteer'd in a light horse company & served about two month, which two Tours mad about six months & ten day. In about two weeks after returning from the last Tour I after thinking maturely on the business, I concluded to engage in the Virginia line business permanently accordingley I engaged in the business of an Assistant Commissary, about the first of July following under Capt. Alexander Hamilton a Regular Officer, who was then Commissary at a place in Virginia called the Point of Fork, where the said State was about to establish building for the reception of Military stores &c after seving there about six months, as Assistant Commissary, I was appointed principal Commissary by Colo. William Davis Commissioner of the War Office of the state of Virginia. After serving in that capacity a short time over eighteen month, The Revolutionary War then being over, I wrote to Colo. Davis to release me, which he accordingly did, by sending a man to take my place, which put an end to my services, about the month of August in the year 1783 as well as I recollect, so that my services in the Revolutionary War from the 10th of January 1781 to the month of August 1783 was some better than two years & six month, including the five month I seved in the year 1781 previous to my entering into the Commissary business

The above statement is correct to the best of my recollection

Given under my hand this 14th day of November 1833

J. P. Duval Esq'r

[part missing at bottom of page] amounted to about 100 Rations per day to about 80



D'r Sir State of Kentucky Washington County 30 Nov 1833

I have been much delayed in my papers to you for my friend & myself had to ride upwards of two hundred miles before I could obtain the signature of our presiding magistrate. I never got them completely adjusted untill yesterday & I am now [undeciphered] the first mail in order to send them on to you.

Besides my statemen in my memorandum which you have I will remind you of military services in the year 1781 I served upwards of five month in two tours of deauty previous to the first of July, at which time I entered the Commissarys business, which made me conclude I had better enter into the business perminetly as Commissary in Virginia, which business I served in upwards of two years, which I think may be denominated enguageing in the Virginia line which I suppose may intitle me to half pay for life. As the [undeciphered] of my services as Commissary, imminated as I suppose from the Commissioner of the War Office of the State of Virginia as I suspect Capt Hamilton had his appointment from the Comm'r of the War Office of the State of Virginia as well as myself. I will say no more on the subject but leve the business with you to act as you may think best not doubting but you will do the best you can in the business

John P. Duval Esq'r

I am yours &c
Sam'l Overton



NOTES:

It was certified that Samuel Overton "was 15 or 20 years Magistrate & two years high Sheriff & six or eight years a Commissioner of the Tax" in Washington County.

A document in the pension file dated 22 Apr 1844 states that Overton died 30 Apr 1836 leaving the following children: Mary T Fowler, widow; Amelia, wife of Wm Robertson; Susan W., wife of Joseph Bennett; Edward G. Overton. Another document dated 13 May 1851 in Jefferson County KY states that the only surviving children of Samuel Overton were Mary T. Fowler, 61; Amelia B. Robinson, 59; and Susan Bennett, 53.