Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Oliver S21904

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of South Carolina }
Orangeburgh [Orangeburg] District }

On this 17th day of October 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before Josiah J Evans Presiding Judge of the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas now sitting Peter Oliver resident of St. Matthews Parish Orangeburgh district in the State aforesaid aged Eighty years or nearly, 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 7th June 1832. that he entered the service of South Carolina in the militia under Capt. Wm Reid, in Col Wm Thomson's [William "Danger" Thomson's] Regiment, and went immediately against the tories in 1774 in the Campaign in the western Part of the State, commanded by Gen. Richardson [then Col. Richard Richardson] & Col. [Thomas] Sumter. The Tories were dispersed & one of their leaders Fletcher [probably Col. Thomas Fletchall in the Snow Campaign on 22 Dec 1775] & some provisions were taken & the tories put down. He was then sent off by Col. Thomson as an express to his residence in this district at Belleville [Col. Thomson's plantation in Calhoun County SC] and staid at home near there where he resided, until after the Christmas Holydays, and then in January he enlisted in Capt Eli Kershaws Company in the third Regiment of South Carolina troops, called Raingers. These troops were raised by the State but were Continentals. He belonged to the Regiment commanded by Col. Wm. Thomson. Col. Thomson himself enlisted him & placed him Captain Kershaw's Company. He enlisted for Eighteen months from January 1776. they marched down near the Eutaw Springs and encamped for some time on Williams Branch near the Eutaw; this was head quarters for some time, they built cabins. From thence they marched down to the ten mile Spring, that distance from Charleston, from thence they passed through Charleston & were transported to Sullivan's Island, the Fort was then building. Fort Sullivan [later Fort Moultrie]. Co. Thomson's command was sent to the [NE] Point on the Island. He was not in the Fort. In June he believes, but he cannot remember the date exactly. Believes it was the 20th, or 26th June, they had the Battle of Sullivan's Island [28 - 29 Jun 1776]. Sir Peter Parker commanded the British. Nothing else of importance occurred during the rest of these Eighteen months. But he served his time out & was regularly discharged, by Col. Thomson, but he has lost it long ago. after returning home he was soon after drafted in the militia, & was placed in Capt Fateman's (Daniel) company, in Col. Charles Heatley's [or Charles Heatly's] Regiment. Col. Heatley was taken ill soon after he turned out and resigned & the command of the Regiment was given to Wm. Beams who had been Capt. in the 13th[?] Regiment of Raingers commanded by Col. Thomson & was now promoted to the command of a militia Regiment. Under Col. Beams he served six months or a year he does not recollect. Sometime before Charleston was taken by the British [12 May 1780] upon Capt. Fateman's being made Major, the applicant who had then become a Leutenant was made Captain in his place. Charleston was soon after taken & the British overran the country & the troops all dismissed & disbanded for some time, & then he was commissioned as a Major in Col. Rumph's Regiment. He acted as Captain for about two years, & held his commission as Major till long after the War. He served in the campaign against 96 [Siege of Ninety-Six, 22 My - 19 Jun 1781], and was driven back by Lord Rawdon, Gen. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] Commanding & they fell down the Country by McCord's Ferry & passing Granby, by Fort Motte, near Belleville; just before the battle of the Eutaw [Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] he got a fall which broke his leg & he was a long time confined, & was in consequence not in the Battle of the Eutaw. The British left the country & he was no longer engaged. He was born in St. Mathews Parish not far from where he now resides in Orangeburgh district. He has no record of his age. His mother told him he was born in 1754; when called into service he was living near where he now resides. He has stated how he came into service; he was never a substitute for any body. His discharges & commissions are all lost made wrapping paper of long ago. He thinks his Commission was signed by Governor Rutledge. Messrs William Paulling & Joseph Winningham are persons to whom he is known & who can

testify with many others as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services in the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a 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.

Peter Oliver

South Carolina	}
Orangehurgh Dist).

Orangeburgh Dist } Personally appeared in Court Andrew Houser [pension application S21829] who makes oath that he served nine months with the

applicant Peter Oliver in Col. Thomson's Regiment – 3rd Regiment Raingers during the Revolutionary War. Cannot remember the year. Major Oliver was afterwards promoted to a leutenancy, afterward made Captain & then Major. Deponent does not know how long he served in those distinct commands, as they did not belong to the same regiment after their time had expired in Thomsons Regiment, except some time in Rumph's Regiment when deponent then knew him as Captain. He continued as Major till after the war. He was always reputed an excellent soldier & good officer.

Sworn to & subscribed this 17th day of October 1832.

Andrew hisXmark Houser

South Carolina } Personally appeared in open Court John Golson who being duly Orangeburgh Dist } sworn makes oath that he was well acquainted with the applicant Peter Oliver during the Revolutionary War. He first met him in Orangeburgh village a soldier in the Militia. They were in different regiments but he often met the applicant in the service, until the end of the war. He knew him when he was a Captain in the militia service, and afterward Major in Col. Rumph's regiment. He was never in any battle with him. He cannot speak as to the length of time he served in the different capacities of Soldier, Captain & Major. He was never in a battle with him. They were on duty together at Charleston in the Barracks and at Purisburgh [sic: Purysburg] near Savannah.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid [sic: 17 Oct 1832]. [signed] John Golson Sen'r

State of South Carolina } Affidavit of Major Peter Oliver amending his Declaration of the Orangeburgh District } 17th October 1832.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Quorum in & for the District & State aforesaid major Peter Oliver, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of his advanced age, & consequent loss of memory, & from the loss of all his papers relating thereto, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, & in the following grades: He served in Thomson's Rangers for four months as a private. – He served with Kershaw as a private eighteen months: – He served as a Captain for two years; & for such services he claims a pension. The Deponent further swears that he would embody this affidavit of service in a new Declaration for the war department, but that he would thereby loose the benefit of the testimony of John Golson & of the Rev'd. William Paulling both of whom have died since his first declaration was forwarded to Washington.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this twenty third day of October 1833.

[signed] Peter Oliver, Sr