

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Oliver S31282

fn36NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/25/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

Kentucky Clarke County: Sct.

On this 24th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of the County aforesaid, now sitting, Richard Oliver a resident of Clarke County State of Kentucky aged eighty 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

I was born in Halifax County in the State of Virginia, on the 20th December 1752. I have a record of my age made by my father in his Common Prayer Book which book is now at my house in Clarke County in this State where I now reside and have resided since the Revolutionary War between the United States and Great Britain.

1st In October 1779 (the day of the month I can't recollect) I was drafted in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina for a tour of three months in the militia of that State and entered the service and marched immediately in the company of Captain Joseph Shin from said County under General Rutherford to the vicinity of Wilmington, in said State where we were forted in sight of said Town of Wilmington. On this tour I served three months and at the expiration of said term I received a written discharge from said tour in the neighborhood of Wilmington about ten miles from it. – We remained posted near Wilmington as above a short time. I have forgotten the names of the other officers attached to my company nor do I remember the name of the Colonel or other Field Officer of the Regiment to which said company was attached. If there was any regular officer attached to the corps, I have forgotten his name – but I remember that General Rutherford was our General. From Wilmington we were marched into South Carolina – but during said tour we were not engaged in any battle. Before we reached Wilmington the dragoons attached to the corps fell in with a body of Tories going to join the British of said dragoons killed eighteen. One Peter Simmons commanded a company of the dragoons as Captain: I can't tell the names of the places through and to which we marched on said further than I have above set forth. I got my discharge from Captain Shin in January 1780 and have since lost it. When I was drafted and marched as above I was living in said Mecklenburg County.

2nd – Afterwards I moved into Iredell County in the same State and in the month of March (early in the month) 1781 I was drafted for a tour of three months in said militia in said last mentioned County and immediately entered the service and marched from said County under Captain George Davis (Colonel McDowell commanding the Regiment). I don't remember the name of the Lieutenant or Ensign of said company. We were marched from said last mentioned County, up the Catawba River to the foot of the mountains where we were stationed in a Fort situated on said Captain Davis's plantation – and we continued to guard said Fort the whole three months of our term – which three months I served – on this tour we were not engaged in any battle or skirmish and at the end of the three months, to wit in June 1781, I received from said Davis a written discharge at said Fort which discharge I have since lost. When I speak of Colonel McDowell as commanding, I merely intend to say that he was the Colonel of the Regiment from which we were detailed and that we were marched by his orders. The Major of said Regiment was a man by the name of McDowell also and brother of said Colonel McDowell – when drafted for this tour I was living in said Iredell County.

3rd – In the month of November 1781 (early in the month) I was again drafted for a term of three months in said North Carolina Militia. I was drafted in Iredell County where I still continued to live and immediately entered the service and marched in the Company of Captain George Smith from said County under General Cleaveland [sic, Benjamin Cleveland] – There was a considerable force from that and the neighboring Counties in the field. I don't remember the names of the Colonel or other field officers of the Regiment to which said company was attached nor the names of the Lieutenant & Ensign of said company. The whole corps consisted of militia and there were no regular officers along with us – on this tour we were not engaged in any battle or skirmish. We were not marched out of the State of North Carolina so far as I knew. We might have been marched into South Carolina but if we were I don't now remember it. We were marched up and down the Country and about & across it, in every direction prepared and preparing to encounter the British troops if we fell in with them. I was then a stranger to that part of the Country having recently removed there and cannot recollect the names of the places to, through and by which we were marched during said tour. I served in this tour three months and at the end of said term, to wit, in February 1782, I received in said Iredell County from said Smith a discharge in writing which I have since lost. I know that the two last tours above spoken of were performed in the same year that the Battle at the Eutaw Springs was fought, which I am informed and believes was in the year 1781.

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.

I further state that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory I cannot swear positively as to the precise length of my service – but according to the best of my recollection I served not less than the periods above mentioned and in all not less than nine months – and owing to such infirmity of memory I cannot state with more particularity than I have done above, the times of the commencement and termination of my several tours of service nor the names of the places to and through which and of the officers under whom I served on said tours and I claim a pension for nine months service.

I have no documentary evidence of my services aforesaid and I know of no person now living or whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my services aforesaid.

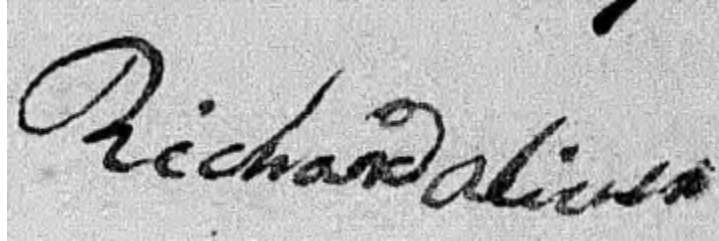
In the year 1782 I moved from Iredell County to Mecklenburg County aforesaid and in the course of two or three years I moved from Mecklenburg County to the State of Kentucky and settled in Clark County where I have ever since resided.

I have stated above where I lived at the several periods when I was drafted.

In my present neighborhood, I am known to David Hampton Esquire, James Wood, Esquire Chilton Allen Esquire – now a representative in Congress from this State and Melton Vivion Esquire – who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

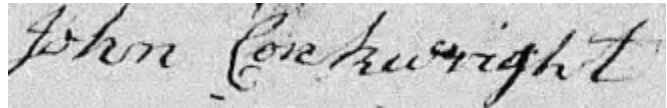
S/ Richard Oliver

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Oliver". The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[James Edmonson, a clergyman, and James Wood gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 3: On October 28, 1833 in Clarke County Kentucky, Isaac Oliver, 68, gave testimony in support of his brothers application stating that at the time of the revolution he, Isaac, lived about 50 miles distant from his brother but heard discussion in the family of Richard serving as a substitute for one Henry Goulman, who has since died; Isaac does not recollect how long his brother served; Isaac signed with his mark.]

[fn p. 4: On October 28, 1833 in Clarke County Kentucky, John Conkwright, 59, testified that Richard Oliver married his sister & that he has often heard said Oliver speak of his services during the revolutionary war as a militia man

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Conkwright". The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[fn p. 5: on October 28, 1833 in Clarke County Kentucky, Charles Goulman, 50, testified that he married the daughter of Richard Oliver and has always heard the Oliver family speak of the services of Richard Oliver as a soldier in the revolution as a militia man; that he has also often heard his father Henry Goulman, who died about 37 years ago, speak of having Richard Oliver having served two tours in said revolution as a militia man. Charles signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March fourth, 1831, for nine months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]