

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Oliver S31888

f32NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/15/09: rev'd 9/22/17

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

State of Georgia Clarke County

On this 22nd day of October personally appeared in open Court before Asbury Hull Sr. & presiding Judge of the Inferior Court of said County, now sitting, John Oliver Senior, a resident of ___ in the County of Clarke and State aforesaid, aged 70 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: He was drafted for three months in the month of June 1780 & marched under Capt. Searcy¹ & joined the Army at Hillsboro under General Gates [Horatio Gates] & at the expiration (or near it) of the draft we were sent home & I then volunteered under Capt. Joshua Coffee for two months which was to answer for a three months tour at the time the British lay in Charlotte in North Carolina [late September and early October 1780] then Deponent got his horse wounded in a skirmish with the British for he was a mounted volunteer; on the night of this skirmish deponent was commanded by Major Dixon [perhaps Joseph Dickson]. After this he marched under Col. Philip Taylor & joined Col. Davy's [sic, William Richardson Davies'] volunteers at Salisbury & marched to Fifer's Mills [Phifer's Mills] where General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] joined us with some troops our time ended at the Waxhaw settlement & was discharged by order of General Smallwood [William Smallwood] & returned home & then volunteered under Capt. Thomas [William Thomas] & joined the General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] acting as Second Lieut. at the high rock Ford of Haw River, a short time before the battle in March 1781 of Guilford [March 15, 1781] & furnished a hard three months at Roanoke [River] fishing for the Army -- deponent served altogether eleven months & a half. He was born on James River Virginia, Chesterfield County in 1762 12 of January. He has no other register of his birth than a piece of paper taken & kept from a Bible of the family which is now in Tennessee. He resided in Granville [County] N. C. till 1823 then moved to Edgefield District SC lived there two years & then moved to Clarke County, Georgia where he now resides. He had a-written discharges but they are lost. They were given by the captains under whom he served. He is able to prove his service by Robert Hester.² He

¹ J. D. Lewis lists the following captains surnamed "Searcey" who served in the Granville militia, to wit: Bartlett Searcey, Hargron Searcey, Reuben Searcey and Richard Searcey. Under which of these men the veteran served is not determinable from the information he gives in his pension application. See,

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_captains.html

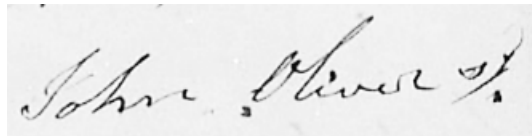
² [Robert Hester S31737](#)

has no documentary evidence & knows of no one else by whom it can be done within his power. He will state the names of John W. Graves & Thomas Stanley who can testify as to Deponent's character for veracity & their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution. His name is upon no pension roll in the United States.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court this 22nd of October 1832

S/ Robert Ligon, Clerk

S/ John Oliver Sr

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Oliver Sr." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 7]

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ John Oliver Sr.

[Thomas Stanley, a clergyman, of Athens Georgia and John W. Graves gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 6]

Georgia, Clarke County: Came into open Court Robert Hester who being duly Sworn deposes & saith that he knows that John Oliver Senior the declarant in the foregoing Statement did served several tours of duty in the revolutionary war. He saw him in the Camps & saw him in the Army a short time before the battle of Guilford & has no doubt that he served the tours to which he has deposed in his deposition.

Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court this 22nd of October 1832

S/ Robert Hester, X his mark

S/ Robert Ligon, Clerk

[p 16]

State of North Carolina Granville County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November court A.D. 1832

William Hunt,³ Shadrach Owens,⁴ James Downey⁵ & David Chandler⁶ all of this County of Granville & State aforesaid having been duly sworn according to law in a matter relating to the Revolutionary services of one John Oliver formerly a resident of the County & State of and now residing in the County of Clarke, State of Georgia depose and say, as follows (viz.) -- James Downey says that he served with said John Oliver a two months tour during the revolutionary war in a Troop of Cavalry -- said Oliver & this affiant finding their own horses which by an Army regulation at that time was considered equivalent to a three months tour -- They served this tour under Col. Philip Taylor -- Major W Hunt & Capt. Coffee all of this County -- they marched on by way of Hillsboro -- Bell's Mill, Salisbury -- thence on to Phifer's Mills where they were stationed for some time -- thence marched through Charlotte and were engaged in reconnoitering

³ [William Hunt S7051](#) No statement is attributed to this man in the affidavit, nor did he sign it. Why was he named?

⁴ [Shadrach Owen \(Owens\) W5459](#)

⁵ [James Downey R3064](#)

⁶ [David Chandler R1847](#)

for some time on the waters of the Catawba [River], the twelve mile Creek &c -- thence on to a place called the six mile Creek where they were discharged. The only remarkable event which this affiant recollects with respect to said John Oliver except his general services in this tour was the fact of his having his horse shot by some of the British or Tories in a scouting party.

David Chandler maketh oath that he served one tour of three months with the said John Oliver in the revolutionary war in the year 1780 and well recollects of being with him at Gates defeat near Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]⁷ in South Carolina. This affiant served with him under one Capt. Bartlett⁸ all of this County.

Shadrach Owen maketh oath that he also served with the said John Oliver in the said tour as mentioned by the said David Chandler and affirms in substance his statement.

In addition to the above James Terry⁹ also maketh oath that he was well acquainted with the said John Oliver and served with him in the revolutionary war one tour of two months in a troop of Cavalry finding his own horse -- equivalent to a three months tour -- this was in the fall of 1780 under one Capt. Coffee -- was engaged with him in the skirmish near Polk's mill [Polk's Mill, October 9, 1780],¹⁰ as he thinks in the County of Mecklenburg in this State in which said Oliver had his horse shot.

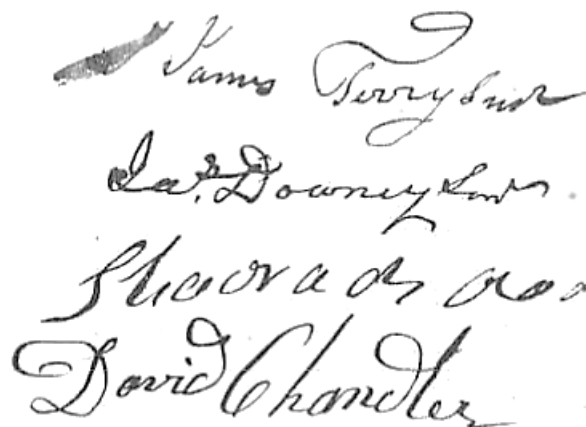
And we all furthermore certify that we are well acquainted with the said John Oliver that we believe him to be seventy years of age or upwards -- that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he formerly resided to have been a soldier of the revolutionary war -- he is of fair and upright character his statement is entitled to credit -- and we concur in that opinion. Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 6th day of November 1832

S/ James Terry, Senior

S/ James Downey, Senior

S/ Shadrach Owen

S/ David Chandler



James Terry Senior
James Downey Senior
Shadrach Owen
David Chandler

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 10 ½ months in the North Carolina militia.]

⁷ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

⁸ I wonder if this is a mistaken attempt to name Capt. Bartlett Searcey

⁹ [James Terry R10464](#)

¹⁰ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_polks_mill.html