

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Oliver Porter S32452

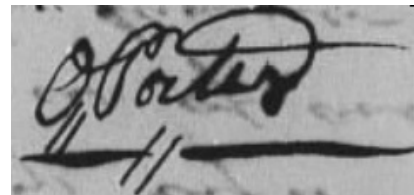
VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 Oct 2022.

State of Georgia, Greene County

On this the 27th day of November Eighteen hundred and thirty three personally appeared before the Honorable the Inferior Court of said County Oliver Porter a resident of the county & state aforesaid aged seventy years, who first being duly sworn according Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress passed June the seventh 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the Militia of the State of Virginia on the 25th of May 1780, that he was drafted for the term of five months, commanded by Capt Jesse Owens rendezvous'd at Hillsboro [Hillsborough] North Carolina, the whole detachment was put into Reg'ts commanded by Gen'l Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens], he does not recollect the name of the Commander of the Reg't that he served in, but thinks that it was in the 4th Reg't [commanded by Col. James Lucas]; marched from thence to Rudgelys Mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill], twelve miles from Camden South Carolina and there joined Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates on the 15th August 1780. On the 16th was in Gen'l. Gates's defeat [Battle of Camden 16 Aug 1781] – the remnant of our Reg't. after the Defeat rendezvoused again at Hillsboro. from thence marched to Guilford Court House, under the command of Col. [Ralph] Faulkner, and was discharged on the 25th Oct'r 1780, if any written discharge was given it has been lost or mislaid. Also volunteered in the Militia of the State of Virginia on the 15th of February 1781, and joined Gen Greens [Nathanael Greene's] army near Dexey [sic: Dix's] Ferry on Dan River, under the command of Capt Andrew Baker 1st Leut. Joseph Park [Joseph Parks] 2nd Leut. Joseph Reed [Joseph Read]; was detached from Gen'l. Greene's head quarters under the command of Col. Otho Williams of the Continental line of light infantry, and was in a skirmish at Whitsells mills on the reedy fork of Haw River with the main body of Lord Cornwallis's army on the 8th March 1781 [sic: Wetzel's Mill, 6 Mar 1781]. Also was at the storming of a British Picket guard previous to the engagement at Whitsell's mill under the command of Capt Kirkwood of the Maryland continental line [see note below], and was discharged some three or four days before the 15th March 1781 [date of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse], after a service of one month. That some time in the summer of this year (the date he does not recollect) he volunteered & served two days in guarding military stores from Prince Edward county to New London in Bedford (now Campbell County) to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy. Also volunteered & marched to (in the same year he does not recollect the date) to Petersburg Va. under the command of Capt Williamson Bird & after a service of fifteen days was discharged without any occurrence worthy of notice, with the exception of takeing a deserter and delivering him to Barron Steuben [Gen. Baron von Steuben] at Chesterfield Ct. House.

Also entered the service as a substitute for a man by the name of ____ Johnson in the year 1781, about the Twentieth of September under the immediate command of Capt. Nath'l. Cunningham [Nathaniel Cunningham] of Gen [Robert] Lawsons Brigade of Virginia Militia, was at the Seige of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], & capture of L'd. Cornwallis on the 19th day of October 1781, & was discharged on the 20th October, making a service of Thirty days as near as this applicant recollects. This applicant further states that there is no liveing testimoney in this state by which he can substantiate the above statement of facts. 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "O. Porter", with a horizontal line underneath. The signature is written on a light-colored, possibly aged, paper.

Questions by the Court

1st Where and what year were you born?

Answer – In the state of Virginia, Prince Edward County in the year 1763.

2nd Have you any record of your age, & if so where is it

Answer – I have none but have seen it as above.

3rd Where were you liveing when called into the service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Answer – I lived at the time of my service in Prince Edward County Virginia, & have resided in Greene County State of Georgia ever since 1783.

4th How were you called into service were you drafted, Did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?

Answer – I was drafted & volunteered as set forth in the forgoing narative I was a substitute in the service at the siege of York for a man by the name of Johnson

5th State the names of some of the regeler officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer – I have seen Gen'ls. Greene, Washington, LaFayette, De Kalb, Gates, Col's Smalwood [sic: William Smallwood] & [John Eager] Howard & others of the Continental line Col's. [Henry] Lee & [William] Washington of Light Dragoons.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, & if so by whom was it given, & what has become of it?

Answer – If I ever received a discharge for any of these tours before stated, they have long since been lost, destroyed, or mislaid.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day & year above written

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "O. Porter". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. Below the main signature, there are some faint, less legible markings that could be initials or a date.

NOTE: In the predawn hours of March 5, 1781, Capt. Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Continentals attached to the Maryland Line, led an attack against British sentinels at the “old Regulation ground”– the site of the Battle of Alamance on 16 May 1771 that was part of the Regulator Movement. I thank Drew Neill, Historic Interpreter at the Battle of Alamance State Historic Site, for correcting a previous error in the date of Kirkwood’s attack.