

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nicholas (Nichols) Oliver S43741

f23NJ

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/22/16

[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 New York, SS.

To the Hon. Richard Riker Esquire Recorder of the City of New York, and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, called the Mayor's Court of the City of New York, which is a Court of Record in the State of New York.

The Declaration under Oath of Nicholas Oliver formally a Soldier engaged in the Service of the United States during the Revolutionary War, now a Citizen of the United States and a resident of the City and County of New York, Respectfully Sheweth,

That the said Nicholas Oliver sometime in the month of March 1779 he Enlisted into Captain John Rudolph's [John Rudolph's]¹ Company and Colonel Lee's [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee's]² Regt. of Cavalry and was in the Battle of Guilford North Carolina [March 15th, 1781]³ after said Battle Deponent joined the Infantry under the Command of Captain Michael Rudolph [Michael Rudolph]⁴ commonly called Legions in the Continental Service where he continued in the Service of the United States until the close of the Revolutionary War and was disbanded at Charleston South Carolina the 30th of June 1783 – and said Captain Rudolph in said Legion – Deponent also states that [he] was five times Wounded while in the service aforesaid and is fifty Eight years of age.

And the declaration [sic Declarant] further sheweth, that the said Nicholas Oliver is now a citizen of the United States, resides in the city of New York, and is, by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, in need of assistance from his country for support.

Therefore the said Nicholas Oliver conceives himself entitled to the benefit of the Act of Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," approved 18th March, 1818, and requests your Honor will examine into the truth of the matter aforesaid, certify and transmit the testimony in the case, and the proceedings had thereon, to the Honorable the Secretary of the Department of War, to the end that such relief may be had in the premises, as is by law in such case made and provided. And in support of the facts above set forth, the said Nichols Oliver [sic] refers to David Brower & Aaron Crygier ~~both~~ Citizens of New York.

S/ Nichols Oliver

¹ [John Rudolph \(Rudolph\) VAS2156](#)

² [Henry Lee BLWt1299-500](#)

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

⁴ [Michael Rudolph \[Rudolph\] BWLt945-300](#)

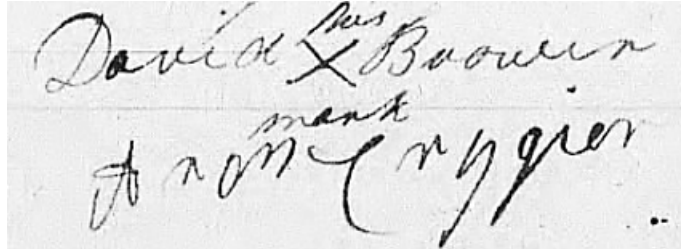
Nichols Oliver

City and County of New York, SS.

David Brower and Aaron Crygier of New York being sworn, saith, that they are well acquainted with Nicholas Oliver and verily believe him to be the same person who served in the War of the Revolution as he the Deponent has stated, furthermore said Brower knew that said Oliver actually served as he the Deponent has set forth in the foregoing declaration

S/ David Brower, X his mark

S/ Aron Crygier



David Brower
Aron Crygier

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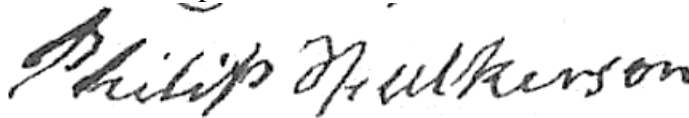
City & County of New York SS

Philip Fulkerson [sic] of the said City: Yeoman & Sergeant at Arms in the Court of Chancery of the State of New York being duly sworn deposeseth & saith that he is well acquainted with Nicholas Oliver the applicant in the annexed paper named. That they have known each other from boys & went to School together in the State of New Jersey of which State they are both natives – this Deponent well remembers that the said Nicholas Oliver served under Major Lee, afterwards Colonel Lee in the Cavalry in the year 1779 – the said Cavalry then acting in New Jersey in the Continental Service. That the said Oliver served [indecipherable word]⁵ the whole residue of the War as this Deponent believes, as he saw him after the Army was disbanded. This Deponent was himself in the Service & in the Battle of Springfield [June 23, 1780] & has no doubt of the truth of Oliver's Statement. He once saw Oliver on Furlough about the year 1780 in the [indecipherable word]⁶ of Lee's Cavalry.

Sworn before me this 5 February 1819

S/ R Riker

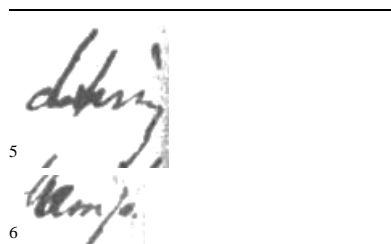
S/ Philip Fulkerson



Philip Fulkerson

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I do further certify that Richard N. Oliver who enlisted by the name of the Nichols Oliver being



Richard N. Oliver

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sworn by me deposed that he Served in the Army of the revolution constantly from 1779 to 1783 in Colonel Lee's Legion & was at the Battles of Guilford Court house North Carolina – & at Eutaw Springs South Carolina [September 8, 1781]⁷ & wounded in the last Action – was regularly & honorably discharged at Charleston 30 June 1783. And I further certify that I have known Oliver for a number of years & understood that he had served in our revolutionary army
Attest 4 Feby 1819 R. Riker

[p 10]

Marine Court of the City of New York

In the Court called and known by the name of the Marine Court of the City of New York held in the City Hall in and forth the said city before the Justices of the said court on Tuesday the thirtieth day of January in the year of our Lord 1821

Present The Honorable Thomas Hertell and Elbert Herring Justices of the said Court City of New York SS Be it remembered That on the thirtieth day of January in the year of our Lord 1821 personally appeared in the court called and known by the name of the Marine Court of the City of New York, in open court; the said Court being a court of Record for the city and County of New York, according to the Laws of the State of New York, Nicholas Oliver aged Sixty years resident in the said city of New York, in the State of New York United States of America who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows: That is to say he enlisted as a private in the Continental Service at Bound brook in the State of New Jersey in the second troop of Lee's Corps, in the Company commanded by Captain John Rudolph, Major Henry Lee Commandant of the Corps in the year of our Lord 1779, Deponent's Enlistment was under the continental establishment for and during the war From Bound Brook he went to Burlington in said State of New Jersey where he joined his Corps wintered there, in the Spring went on to the lines had one or two Small Skirmishes with the enemy in the course of the Summer marched as far as Portsmouth in Virginia and returned to the Northward wintered again at Burlington in the Spring of 1780 again went on the lines where they continued until October when they were marched across the Delaware [River], through Lancaster, Georgetown, Fredericksburg in Virginia, Richmond, Petersburg, on to Guilford in North Carolina when Lee's Corps (which the Summer after Deponent had joined it had become by the accession of three companies of Infantry a Legion) joined General Green [Nathanael Greene] and fought what is called the battle of Guilford against Lord Cornwallis, after the battle of Guilford deponent's Corps moved on to the Scotch Lake in South Carolina Besieged Fort Watson [April 16, 1781],⁸ took it, from thence went to Thompson's Hill & took another Fort [this MAY be a reference to the taking of Fort Motte, May 7-12, 1781]⁹ from thence marched on Santee River and Besieged & took a Fort [Fort Granby, May 14, 1781]¹⁰ commanded by Major Maxwell [Andrew Maxwell] which lay on Santee River from thence marched to Fort Golphin [Fort Galphin, May 21, 1781]¹¹ on Savannah River still in South Carolina & there the enemy made a sortie from the Fort but were driven in the Fort was regularly Besieged and taken by Lee's Legion, with the assistance of two field pieces commanded by Captain Smith who was with them when the Fort at Thompson's Hill was taken they were also

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

⁸ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_2.html

⁹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fort_motte.html

¹⁰ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html

¹¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_galphin.html

assisted by a few militia men, from thence they marched to Augusta, crossed Savannah River stormed a fort commanded by a Tory Colonel called Gracen [James Grierson], the fort was called Fort Gracen [Fort Grierson] being only a stockade fort – they also entrenched around a fort commanded by Colonel Brown [Thomas "Burnt Foot" Brown] which capitulated¹² – from thence Deponent again returned with the Legion to South Carolina to a place called Ninety Six & Besieged [May 21-June 19, 1781]¹³ a fort commanded by Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger], stormed a redoubt which covered the enemy's watering place filled up their well and leveled down their redoubt, continued their entrenchment until Lord Rawdon with reinforcements for the enemy obliged them to abandon the enterprise. From there marched to the high hills of Santee, marched down Ashley River until nearly opposite to Charleston South Carolina when with thirteen men & himself under the command of Lieutenant Manning [probably Lawrence Manning]¹⁴ entered the British rendezvous took a Hessian General and a British Lieutenant got off safe to their encampment,¹⁵ a few nights after took a British Galley¹⁶ which lay opposite the quarter house in Ashley River brought the prisoners 48 safely off and set fire to and blew up the Galley – From thence went up above, crossed Ashley River went to Dorchester – had a charge with and drove the British & killed a few Tories – from thence to Eutaw Springs & there under General Greene fought the British again from there marched to Georgetown South Carolina & there encamped and remained until the news of Peace – from there marched to Charleston & remained until the 30th of June 1783 & were disbanded – Deponent and everyone but two or three who proved to be cowards at the Eutaw Springs got their honorable discharge & he does not know but these men also did. Deponent has lost his discharge moving about. Deponent has been in several Skirmishes he forgets – was wounded in the right leg with musket ball at the Eutaw Springs – And that his original declaration is dated the 6th day of April 1818 and that his pension certificate is Number 7852.

Sworn this 30th day of January 1821 in open court

S/ Thos. Herttell, Justice &c

S/ Nicholas Oliver



And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule

¹² Siege of Augusta, May 22-June 6, 1781: <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

¹³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

¹⁴ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of the Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution: April, 1775 to December 1783*, Reprint, Baltimore Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003, lists a Lawrence Manning as serving as a lieutenant in Lee's Legion from July 1779 to the end of the war.

¹⁵ John C. Parker, Jr., *Parker's Guide to the Revolutionary War in South Carolina: Battles, Skirmishes and Murders; Second Edition*. Patrick, SC: Hern Branch Publishing Company, 2013, p 92 describes a raid at Dewees' Tavern in which a Hessian major and a lieutenant from the Volunteers of Ireland were taken and paroled. This MAY be the action this veteran is describing. Parker, however, says the raid at Dewees' occurred after, not before, the capture of the *Alligator*.

¹⁶ Veteran is describing the capture and destruction of a galley *Alligator* on March 18-19, 1782. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_galley_captured.html. See also, Parker, p 92.

hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to wit, Real Estate None
 Personal Estate (necessary clothing or wearing apparel and bedding excepted) none save as follows that is to say

one Bureau valued at	\$12.50
two pine tables	1.00
One Candle Stand cost	1.75
Eight Windsor Chairs	4.00
Two Iron potts	2.00
one Kettle (iron)	0.50
one Tea Kettle (Tin)	0. 62 ½
one Brass Kettle	4.00
one Iron stove & pipe	10.00
two Candlesticks	1.25
Five knives & forks (odd ones)	0.25
Six plates	0.25
Four Cups & saucers (odd ones)	0.12 ½
Five Iron spoons	0.15
Two wash tubs	2.00
one pair dog and irons	0.50
one pair shovel & tongs	0.75
one Coffee pot	0. 37 ½
one Tea pot	0.25
Four Smothing irons	1.00
One pye pan (without a cover)	0.75
One water pail	0.37 ½
Two fore planes	1.50
Two Smothing planes	2.00
Two Jack planes	1.00
½ dozen chisels	0.75
½ dozen Gouges	0.75
2 Screws	2.00
3 Hammers	1.00
1 Hatchet	0.25
1 doz. Gimblets	0.75
1 doz. brad awls	0.37 ½
1 doz. Moulding planes (old & worn out)	<u>3.00</u>
Whole value of applicant's estate (except as before excepted)	59.57 ½

Declarant served his time to no trade but by his own intaught [sic?] effort undertook and for some years since the Revolutionary War occasionally carried on the Carpenters Ship Joiners & Cabinet making business, but is now unable to do much at any of the above branches being very much troubled with the wound in his leg which he received at the Eutaw Springs which often breaks out afresh, is now sore, has once or twice mortified and been confined to his bed on account of [it] for the space of six months at a time – for two years he walked on crutches until last summer a year ago – from 1816 to 1819 was most of the time confined to his bed or walking on crutches. Declarant is also very much troubled with the Rheumatic pains in his arms shoulders and knees and is altogether too old & too much worn out to do any work save

occasionally perhaps one quarter of his time but is altogether unable to support himself. – Declarant has a wife named Elizabeth aged forty-six who is very much worn out with hard work, is of a delicate constitution & unable to do any work save a little housework. Declarant has also residing with him a son named Saunnous [?]¹⁷ Oliver aged 22 who is also weakly and Slender – Deponent tried him at several mechanical branches which proved too hard for him was obliged to put him to a barber but he has been lately very sickly unable to maintain himself – he has been in the New York Asylum deranged & for some time for nearly seven months in the Hospital sick he is unable to support himself or contribute anything towards deponent's support – Deponent has a daughter also residing with him named Caroline aged 13 – who is also a very weakly child has been sickly since infancy, has never earned a sixpence in her life, can neither maintain herself or constitute [sic] anything towards deponent's support, also a son named David aged six years who is a healthy child but too young to maintain himself or to do anything towards the support of Deponent or his family – of late Deponent has been assisted by a brother who resides in New Bern North Carolina & by a brother in law residing in Charleston South Carolina. Declarant Saith that he is in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support himself without the assistance of his Country, that is to say without the aid of the Government except by private or public Charity.

Sworn in open Court this 30th day of January 1821

S/ Thos. Herttell, Justice &c

S/ Nicholas Oliver

[Note: a letter in the file indicates that the veteran died March 17, 1824. The place of his death is not stated. The file contains no other family information.]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 6, 1818, for service as a private for 4 years in Lee's Legion of continental Cavalry.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

City and County of New York: SS : Helebrant Lozier¹⁸ of the City of New York and Peter Lozier¹⁹ of Bergen County and State of New Jersey being sworn doth severally depose and say that they were Personally acquainted with Nicholas Oliver who was in Colonel Henry Lee's Legion of Horse during the Revolutionary War, that we knew him in the Continental service from the month of March 1780 until the end of the war in 1783, that he was enlisted for the war and we [several illegible words] served in the said Legion for about three years and a half that at the close of the war he was honorably discharged & the said Legion of Horse belonged to the Virginia Line.

Helebrant Lozier
his
Peter Lozier
mk

Sworn before me this 9th day of April 1819

S/ R. Riker

¹⁷ *Saunnous*

¹⁸ [Helebrant \(Hillibrand\) Lozier W16331](#)

¹⁹ [Peter Lozier S42886](#)

City & State of New York – SS – the close Oliver of said City being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he enlisted in Colonel Henry Lee's Legion of horse during the Revolutionary War in the year of our Lord 1779 and that he continued in said Legion to the end of said War.

S/ Nicholas Oliver

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicholas Oliver". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name. The word "Nicholas" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than "Oliver".

Sworn before made this 9th day of April 1819

S/ Charles Merrill [?—signature partly cut off at the bottom of the page]