

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Oakley S4628

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/14/12

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Maury County: SS

On this 5 day of September 1842 personally appeared in Open Court before the Honorable Edmund Dillahunt Judge of the Circuit Court of Maury County aforesaid at the September term 1842 of said court being a Court of record now sitting James Oh Senior a resident Citizen of Maury County & State of Tennessee aged about 87 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he was drafted a private Soldier in Amelia County in the State of Virginia in the year 1777 in August, and was attached to the company commanded by Captain Gabriel Fowlks [Gabriel Fowlkes] and served until November 28, 1777 when he was honorably discharged, he has lost his discharge long since, but he has in his possession a certificate from Captain Fowlkes which he obtained as an evidence of his services when he was again about to be drafted, which he here files as part of his declaration, which he solemnly declares is the paper he received from said Captain Fowlkes and is genuine, the 1 Lieutenant was John Knight, the Militia General under whom he was placed at Hampton & was drilled for was General Nelson sometime after the Company was ordered over the River at Hampton & were placed as guard at the seashore & at the salt works & back River, he saw the British vessels of war frequently pass in sight of the place they were stationed during this tour of service, which was an ordinary tour, but they were in no battles, but done considerable services after the Tories. He afterwards volunteered his services & furnished himself a horse, bridle & saddle & fire arms & went into the service in Amelia County in Virginia in 1781 & was attached to the Company commanded by Captain Thomas Jones & was marched through the 13 Counties in Virginia & were several times under the command of Generals Lafayette, Wayne, & Among [probably Charles Armand, Marquis de la Rouerie], Colonel Dick & Major Careless [?] & many other officers & was never himself in a battle, but was in hearing of several engagements with the British & Tories, the Company was held as a guard over the far age & baggage wagons, he was in actual service more than six months that tour and was honorably discharged in July or August 1781. He cannot state the exact time he entered the service but thinks it was December or January preceding this discharge. His whole amount of service was more than thirteen months including his two tours – He was several times after his discharge in 1781 engaged as Commissary in collecting provisions for the Army & pursuing the Tories – in all he done much hard, hazardous & laborious service in the War of the Revolution on the side of the old we party & for which he has never received one cent except in Continental money which was worth little or nothing to him. He has no other documentary evidence of his services than the Certificate from Captain Fowlkes & that he knows of no person

by whom he can prove his services or can testify to his services, his old comrades are all dead.

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, and prays to be placed on the Agency at Nashville Tennessee. He will state that he is so very infirm & old that he has never felt himself able to attend court to file his claim, that he had been advised by those in whom he had Confidence that he could not swear to his petition except in open court, & some time he felt unwilling to be placed on the pension roll as he felt he had done his duty in defending his Country & fighting for its liberty & could live without the bounty of a generous Country, but he is now so old & infirm that he stands in need of the pension to support him in his old & infirm age. He states the foregoing statements are all true in fact & that he served as herein stated & raised for a pension &c.

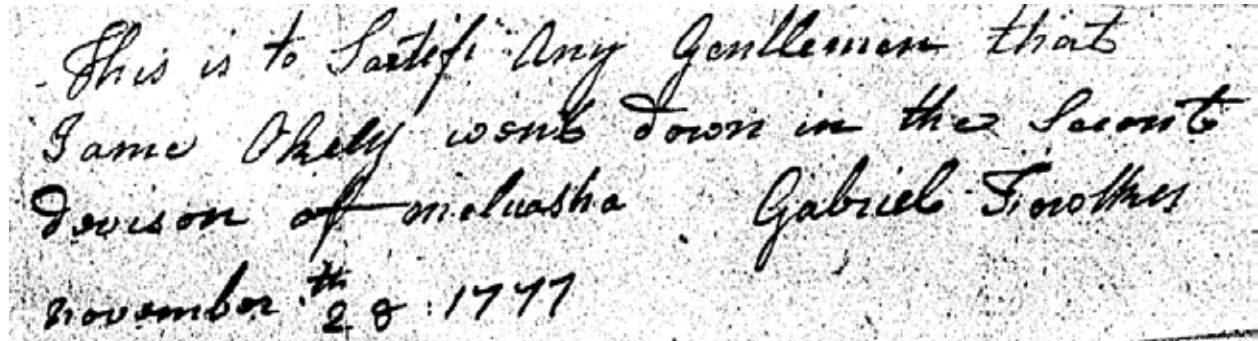
Sworn to & subscribed in open Court September 5<sup>th</sup> 1842

S/ P. Mahon, Clerk

S/ James Oakley, X his mark

[John B Hamilton, a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church and George W Fly & James Caughron Esquires gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

This is to Sartifi [certify] Any Gentleman that  
Jame Okely went down in the Secont [second]  
devison [division] of malusha [militia]  
November 28, 1777 Gabriel Fowlkes



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Jame Okely went down in the Secont  
Devison of malusha Gabriel Fowlkes  
November 28 1777

State of Tennessee Maury County

Personally appeared before me Ishmael Stevens a justice of the peace for said County, James Oakley of said County, who being duly sworn to speak the truth, deposeth as follows  
Question 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Amelia County in the State of Virginia, in the year 1755.

Ques. 2. Have you any record of your age: and, if so, where is it?

Ans. I have none. I have seen a record of my age, but do not know that it is now in existence anywhere.

Ques. 3. Where were you living when called into Service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war; and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living in Amelia County, Virginia, at the time I was called into Service; after the war ended, as well as I can remember, I lived about three years in the County of Henry State of Virginia (my father having moved from Amelia to Henry County during the war). I then, after that, thence in the County of Rockingham State of North Carolina somewhere near twenty years, from thence I removed to Williamson County State of Tennessee, where I made 3 crops and then moved to Maury County, State of Tennessee, where I now live.

Question 4. How were you called into Service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute, and if a Substitute, for whom?

Ans. In the year 1777 I was drafted; in the year 1781, I substituted for Christopher Roberson or Robertson.

Ques. 5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your Service?

Ans. In the first tour my Captain's name was Gabriel Fowlkes my Lieutenant John Knight, while stationed at Hampton Virginia General Nelson, as he was called, came out and exercised us, I don't recollect any other Officers, except under officers, during that tour, (at that time we were mustered into service [in?] Williamsburg Virginia). After we left Hampton we crossed the River, the name of which I don't now remember, and were stationed at Buck Roe, and guarded the salt works. We after guarded at a place called Back River the main Army was still at Hampton.

In 1781 Lafayette was general, and General Wayne, Steuben was also a commander. I recollect Colonel Dick and Major Canless. My Captain's name [was] Thomas Jones, the Lieutenant's name was Pleasant Robards. In this tour I was a great deal on the March, first retreating before the enemy until Army recruited and then we were in pursuit some time.

Question 6<sup>th</sup>. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service; and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I never received any regular discharge. I got a certificate from Captain Fowlkes certifying that I was in the first tour I have mentioned.

Ques. 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution?

Ans. The Reverend Bostain Gardner, William Edmondson Esquire, George Fly Esquire, John Robinson and Doctor John Fly.

S/ James Oakley, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me at the Dwelling House of said Oakley, by said Oakley making his mark. This 2 day of May 1843

S/ Ishmael Stevens, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]