

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jonathan Overton S8915

NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 23 Dec 2014.

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas and Quarter Session Dec'r Term 1832
Chowan County } On the 19th day of December AD 1832 personally appeared in open Court before us Baker Hoskins, Nath'l Boyd, Rich'd R Browning & Jo. Manning Justices of the Peace of the said County now holding the said Court, Jonathan Overton a resident of the town of Edenton in the County of Chowan & State of North Carolina aged seventy nine 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, to wit, That being an apprentice under John Bateman, the said John was draughted to serve for three months in the revolutionary war. That the said John furnished this affiant as a substitute in his stead. That the substitute of the said John (this affiant) entered into the service of the United States under Jeremiah Bateman as captain and Solomon Patrick as Lieutenant. That from Edenton N.C. under the command of the said officers affiant was marched to Charlston [sic: Charleston] S.C. That when he reached Charlston S.C. he was placed in a regiment of which [Archibald] Lytle was Colonel and Hogan [sic: James Hogun] was General, affiant being kept under the immediate command of the said Bateman as captain & Patrick as Lieutenant. That John Bateman for whom affiant acted as a substitute was draughted for three months only – that this affiant served the whole of the said three months in Charleston S.C. except the time that was taken up in marching from Edenton to Charleston. That during the first three months of his service in Charleston was mostly surrounded by the British under the command of General Clinton and that during the whole of that time he was engaged in defending the City of Charlston S.C. That after the three months for which this affiant first engaged to serve, had expired his officers Captain Bateman & Lieutenant Patrick together with most of the men whom they carried from the State of North Carolina returned. This affiant however remained in Charlston, and at the expiration of the said three months continued in the United States army at Charlston S.C. as a volunteer under the immediate command of Captain Bradly [probably George “Gee” Bradley], his field officers being the same as before stated. That he volunteered in Charlston to serve three months. that after he had thus volunteered he continued in Charlston constantly engaged in defending that city until he was taken prisoner by Gen'l Clinton [12 May 1780]. After having been thus taken, he was permitted to return to Edenton N.C. under parol [sic: parole: promise not to fight again until exchanged]. That when he returned to Edenton he in a few days [sic: see endnote] volunteered again for the term of three months under Captain Richard Huwett [sic: Richard Hewett] and in the regiment to which John Bond of Chowan County N Carolina belonged. That from Edenton N Carolina under the command of the said officers just mentioned & General William Skinner he was marched to the North West bridge in the State of Virginia [sic: a bridge over Northwest River, which is in present Chesapeake City VA or in Currituck County NC]. That at the north west bridge in Virginia under the command of the said officers together with several others a battle was fought with the enemy under the command of Cornwallis. This affiant was in the whole of the said battle which lasted for three days. That after the battle was fought at the north west bridge this affiant was continued there in the army until peace was established between the United States & Great Britain and that he was then marched home under the command of Col Bond & General Skinner. At this distance of time this affiant is unable to state the month or the year he entered the service of the United States, but he is perfectly confident that he served as a soldier in the United States army for the space of nine months and a few days. This affiant has no documents whatever by which he can establish his service as herein stated; nor does he recollect of ever having any, except the parole granted him by Gen'l Clinton which he tore up shortly after he received it, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure except Malachi Halsey [see endnote] who can testify to his service; and that the

said Malachi Halsey can prove only that part of his service which was rendered after he enlisted under Captain Richard Hewett, and that he has not been able to procure the attendance of the said Malachi. The said Jonathan Overton 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.

Jonathan hisXmark Overton

State of North Carolina
Chowan County

Personally appeared before me Joseph Manning one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County of Chowan and State aforesaid Jonathan Overton of the town of Edenton, in the County of Chowan and State aforesaid, who made the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That in the winter of 1783 [sic] he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier, and as the substitute of John Bateman, and in that capacity and as said substitute was marched to Charlston and rendered the services heretofore stated in the accompanying declaration of the 19th of December 1832. That this declarant belonged to the company under the command of Capt Jeremiah Bateman and Lieutenant Patrick, and to the regiment under the command of General Hogan and Col Lytle. that as a substitute of John Bateman he served for the three months.

That after the expiration of the three months for which this declarant served as the substitute of John Bateman, he immediately volunteered as a private soldier for three months more. he was then placed in the company under the command of Captain Bradley, and continued to serve under Gen'l Hogan and Col Lytle, and during the time he had thus volunteered he rendered the service as state in the said declaration, until within then days of the expiration of the said last mentioned three months, when he was detained fourteen days, when he was released upon his parol of honor

That after having served in Charlston as stated he returned to Edenton N. Carolina, where he immediately volunteered as a private soldier, and was marched to Virginia under the command of Captain Huwett. that in Virginia he rendered the services as heretofore stated in his declaration of the 19th of December 1832 that in Virginia his field officers were Col. Lamb and Gen'l Skinner. that he served the whole of the three months last aforesaid, and twelve days in addition thereto – that he was marched back to Edenton N.C. and in front of the Court House in said town he received his written discharge from Gen'l Skinner as he now believes. This declarant has no documentary evidence whatever of his services or his discharge. That during the several terms of service aforesaid this declarant was not engaged in nor followed any civil pursuit whatever. That the terms of service for which this declarant claims a pension is nine months and twelve days.

Questions

Quest 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans I was born in the County of Perquimans N.C. where I continued until I was bound to John Bateman of Chowan County. I was born in 1754.

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

Ans I have no record of my age

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 Edenton in the County Chowan N. Carolina when I entered the service – Since the revolutionary war I have constantly resided in Edenton except when I was at Sea, and am now a resident of Edenton N Carolina

Quest 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 I entered into the service as a substitute for John Bateman, and I subsequently volunteered as stated in my declaration.

Ques 5 State the names of some of the Revolutionary 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 Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln was the commander of the continental regiment at Charleston. I knew Capt Johnson at Charleston. I knew Gen'l Gregory, Col [Richard] Parker, Col Dozier [probably Peter Dauge] and a number of other officers whilst I was engaged in the service of Virginia; but from the lapse of time and the imperfection of my memory I cannot recollect them with positive certainty. The general circumstances of my service are as stated in this and my declaration of the 19th of December last, to both of which I beg leave to refer.

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

Ans I am under the impression I received a written discharge from Gen'l. Skinner, and if I did it has long since been lost. I know I was discharged by him in the town of Edenton as before stated.

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

Ans I have for many years lived in the town of Edenton NC and think I am know to almost every person of said town, and to many in the County. I think I can refer to T N Hathaway, W D Roscoe, James Hoskins and many others as to my veracity, and that James Hoskins, T N Hathaway and many other persons knows by tradition he served in the revolutionary war. By Malachi Halsey, James Halsey and Frederick Halsey I can establish a part of my service.

Jonathan hisXmark Overton

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence at Edenton this 24th day of May 1833 Joseph Manning J.P.

NOTES:

Cornwallis did not enter Virginia until almost a year after the surrender of Charleston, he was not in the area of Northwest River, and there was no battle lasting three days. The following is what Malachi Halsey stated in his pension application S2598 about the tour: "This Claimant further states that about twelve months after his return from the Southern Campaign [in the spring of 1779] he was drafted by Captain William Skinner; that he joined at Edenton North Carolina the Company of Captain Richard Hewitt of Tyrrell County N.C. Joseph Whedbee [sic: Joseph Whidby] of Edenton being first Lieutenant – whence he proceeded to the North West River Bridge in Virginia, where he was attached to the Regiment of Colonel James Blount under the command of Genl [Isaac] Gregory – he remained at this station for three months." Henry Halsey (S2597) made a similar statement.

The 1830 federal census for Chowan County NC lists Jonathan Overton as a "Free Colored Person." In the 1850 census Jonathan Overton, 98, was listed as Black and a fisherman. The file contains a letter dated 10 July 1852 indicating that Jonathan Overton was still living.