

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Oakley W5438

Susannah

f30VA

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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 28]

To the Honorable the Secretary of War for the United States of America

Your petitioner George Oakley of the County of Wilson in the State of Tennessee sheweth that he is of the age of sixty-five years, indigent, infirm and not able from his age & other infirmities to gain to himself a support. That he served a soldier in the Revolutionary war, between the government of Great Britain & the thirteen United States in the following manner & for the time hereinafter specified. In the first place, your petitioner enlisted under Captain Simon Triplett of Loudoun County Virginia in the minute service and marched from thence to Alexandria, in which service he remained nearly twelve months, – On being released, from said service, he enlisted under Captain William Payne of Fairfax County, Virginia, in the Marine service, and was placed on board the United States Sloop of War, the *Scorpion*,¹ under Captain Wright Waiscoat [Wright Westcott, Wescott, Waistcoat]², in which last service he remained nearly 12 months longer, until he was discharged therefrom, at Norfolk in Virginia. Being discharged from said last enlistment, your petitioner again enlisted in the service of the United States, under the aforesaid Captain Payne for the term of 3 years, and was placed in the first Virginia State Regiment under Colonel George Gibson, when your petitioner, marched in said Regiment to the North & joined General Muhlenberg's Regiment at Valley Forge: your petitioner having served his term of 3 years, was discharged by his Colonel at Philadelphia which said discharge your petitioner has long since lost. Subsequent to your petitioner's last discharge he served two short towers [tours] in the Militia service. During the service of your Petitioner as aforesaid, he accidentally had his arm broke. For all his aforesaid services, your petitioner received from his government Continental money, which was never of any service to your petitioner.

¹ *Scorpion*. Coggins:102, Dandridge:186, 188, VANavy:163, Eller:202, ND5:607, ND6:811, ND7:850, sloop in VA Navy, 1776-81. ND8:422, ND9:339, ND11:1164, Capt Wright Westcott 18 Jun 1776, Capt Laban Goffagan in Jan 1777, captured in 1781. C64, 123. The vessel was to be sold 25 Jul 1777. Silverstone:20.

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20S.html>

² Wright Westcott [Stewart, 265] (Wescott) [NOAR, 332] was commissioned on 18 June 1776 to command the Virginia Navy Sloop *Scorpion*, on the Potomac River. On 7 September 1776 he was ordered to Portsmouth, and then to join Commodore BOUCHER in Chesapeake Bay. On 11 September he was ordered to transport troops to New York. [NOAR, 332] He was aboard the *Scorpion* in December 1776. [Stewart, 265] Westcott later commanded the Virginia Navy Galley *Norfolk Revenge*. On 28 May 1778 the *Norfolk Revenge* was sunk in Nansmond River with a loss of prisoners, including Lieutenant EDWARD MORTON. [Stewart, 53] Westcott and the members of the crew who escaped were ordered by the Virginia Navy Board to proceed to Jamestown for reassignment. [Stewart, 53] After the *Norfolk Revenge* was sunk Westcott transferred to the Virginia Navy Galley *Henry*. He was one of the retained officers of the Navy. He was the guardian and near relative of Stephen Wright, who started with him to Martinique. They were captured by HMS *Cerberus* and put in prison [Stewart, 265] Westcott died 1 February 1784. [Stewart, 266] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20W.html>

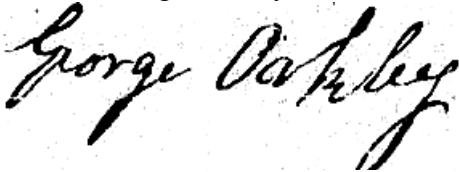
Your petitioner fought at the battles of Monmouth [June 28, 1778], & Stony Point [July 16, 1779].

The above statement of facts your petitioner cannot prove by any individual in the State of Tennessee that he knows of: Nor by any of his aforesaid commanding officers, of whose existence or death he knows not: or if alive of whose place of residence he knows not.

From the above statements, your petitioner trust he may be placed on the Pension List, according to the late act of Congress & that he may receive such support & allowance as by said law, he may be entitled to.

Your petitioner releases all other pensions or right of pensions he may have against the United States.

S/ George Oakley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Oakley". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[f p. 14: On December 7, 1837 in Smith County Tennessee, Susanna Oakley, 79, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of George Oakley, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him on the 15th of September 1778; that they were married by Parson Dade; that her husband died September 9th, 1824 and that she remains his widow; that her husband served 2 tours of 3 months each after their marriage and was at the taking of Cornwallis at little York; at that time they lived in Loudoun or Shenandoah County Virginia. She signed her application with her mark.]

[On October 13, 1838 in Wilson County Tennessee, Susannah Oakley filed an amendment to her earlier application stating that she has no documentary evidence to support her claim; that she does not know the exact day of the month and year in which she was married; that she recollects it was in the middle of the month that they were married; that they had traveled some distance to meet Parson Dade and that he married them at a place called New Gate in Loudoun County; that as to the date of 1778 she expects that she was mistaken about the age of her oldest son who has conversed with her and at whose house she now lives; that she thought her eldest son was a year older than he is; that she suspects that her marriage took place in September because the weather was not cold; that she remembers when Cornwallis was taken at little York that her husband wrote home that they had Cornwallis "as safe as a hen in a coop"; that her oldest son William Oakley was a small suckling child when her husband came home; that her husband was a man who could write very well but he never set down the ages of his children through neglect. She signed this document with her mark. Below this document is one on which the following entries appear:

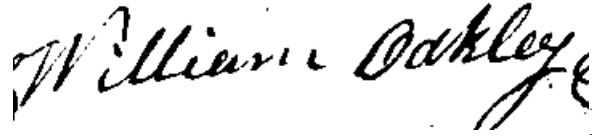
"William Oakley was born January 26 in the year of our Lord 1781

"Cathrine Waters was born November 20th in the year of our Lord 1790

"William Oakley & Catharin Waters was married December 25th in the year of our Lord 1806"]

[f p. 7: On October 13, 1838 in Wilson County Tennessee, William Oakley authenticated the above family record as being one he set down in his own sheet according to information from his father; that he, William, is the oldest child of George and Susannah Oakley; that he recalls his father and Daniel Edmonds conversing about the last service his father served in Virginia

upwards of 30 years ago; that he has no hesitation in saying that his parents were married in March 1780 and that his father served one or 2 tours of service after their marriage.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Oakley". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

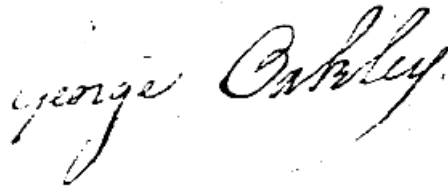
[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 28, 1818, for service as a private in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831.]

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

Loudoun County September 22nd, 1783

Please Order a Land Warrant to issue in the name of George Taylor for the amount of my Claim as a Sergeant in the State Artillery Regiment the Term of 3 years as per Certificate he having made the full satisfaction for the same. Given under my hand the date above.

S/ George Oakley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Oakley". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

This is to Certify that George Oakley Sergeant of Captain Charles Ewell's Company belonging to the first Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson having served the Term of 3 years in which he enlisted for is hereby discharged from the service. Given under my hand at Philadelphia the 20th day of December in the year of our Lord 1779.

S/ Charles Ewell, Captain

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