

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Overton Callis W6645

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Cuckooville [Cuckoo] 10<sup>th</sup> December 1805

Dear Sir,' [Honble John Dawson in Congress] I am informed that my Warrant as Lt in the U. S. Army during the Revolutionary War, is now remaining in the War Office, & that the Secretary at War, will not deliver it without a certificate in great formality. I will take it a particular favor if you will be good enough to apply for it in my name, with instructions at the War office that if James Taylor of Campbell County in Kentucky should apply for it personally or by order that the applicant may be sent to you & that you will deliver it to him. If any doubt sh'd be with you of your knowledge of my service in U. S. Army &c Mr Madison drew the warrant for me by Power of atty & can verify that I am the person properly entitled to claim the warrant. – I am anxious to have a Post office established here – can it be done? Col. Overton [possibly John Overton BLWt1615-300] is in the same situation with myself & wishes your assistance in his case should it be necessary. he writes to Gen. Merewether.

Accept the Consider'n of Respect/ with which I am &c/ [signed] W. O. Callis

[The following three items are among the [Bounty Warrant papers of the Library of Virginia](#):]

Rich'd.

I do certify that I knew Captain William Overton Callis of the Va. Cont Line – he was in service very early – in the latter part of the year 1775, he was afterwards aid to Gen'l. Nelson at the Siege of York – was not [illegible word] in active service, but did not resign (& tho a supernumerary) was in service till the end of the war.

Witness my hand this 4 Sept 1822.

J. Pryor/ formerly an Officer of the Revol'y. Army  
[John Pryor, pension application W12064]

Richmond 21 August 1822.

I do certify that I knew Captain William Overton Callis of Colo Charles Dabney's Regt. Va. Continental Line – he was in service early in the war, in the latter part of 1778 he became a supernumerary and remained as I suppose to the end of the war but I do not know how long – Given under my hand the day as above written

Wm. Price [William Price]

Augusta County

I do certify that I recollect Capt William O. Callis was in the Va. Continental Line, but do not remember his service. I knew him in 1777 and 1778.

Witness my hand this 16 Sept 1822.

Ro. Porterfield [Robert Porterfield S8965]

State of Virginia }

Louisa County. } SS. On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1838 personally appeared before the subscriber, a justice of the peace, in and for said County of Louisa and state aforesaid, Anne Callis, a resident of said county, aged 64 years in Nov'r. next, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, entitled "An Act granting half [pay] and pensions to certain widows": That she is the widow of William O. Callis who was a Captain in the Virginia Continental Line in the War of the Revolution. She has but little knowledge of military matters and therefore cannot state with precision the services of her said husband – but she is under the impression that he served in the first

instance in the Line of the Army above stated. In consequence of an injury received from a cannon ball either at Germantown [4 Oct 1777] or Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], his lungs were deeply effected – towards the close of the war she believes he entered the state military service & was aid to Gen'l. [Thomas] Nelson, and was in service at the period of the Seige of York in Virginia [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. His rank whilst aid, was that of Major. She begs leave to refer to the public records in Richmond and Washington to prove the services of her said husband. There was several thousand acres of land awarded by the Virg'a. Government about 13 or 14 years ago for the Revolutionary services of her said husband. She further declares that she was married to the said William O. Callis on the fourth day of May seventeen hundred and ninety (1790) that her husband, the aforesaid William O. Callis died on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 1814: that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety four, to wit: at the time above stated.

[signed] Anne Callis

The affidavit of Joseph Spicer [pension application S14554] of the County of Louisa and State of Virginia a Revolutionary Pensioner, taken on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1847 before Robert Y. Bibb a Justice of the Peace in and for said County

This affiant being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath state that he is a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States. That he is now eighty six years of age. That he was well acquainted with Col. William O. Callis deceased of the County of Louisa, both before and after the close of the Revolution, and this affiant knows of his own knowledge that the said Callis acted as aid de camp to General Nelson during the War, but how long the said Callis acted in that character this affiant is unable to state. This affiant recollects however that he, himself, was in a tour of two months duty at Shirly hundred [sic: Shirley Hundred] and other places, in the month of May seventeen hundred and eighty one, and that the said Callis was at that time acting as the aid to the said General Nelson, and further this affiant saith not

[signed] Joseph Spicer

This is to certify that I am a Revolutionary Pensioner of the County of Hanover and State of Virginia, now eighty five years of age. That I was well acquainted, both before and after the Revolution, with Col. William O. Callis deceased, of the County of Louisa and State aforesaid and I know of my own knowledge that the said Callis acted as ade camp to Gen'l. Nelson at one time during the war, and it was during the period when the British Fleet under Admiral [Thomas] Graves was in the Hampton roads, and Lord Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] operating with the forces under his command by Land. I was in a tour of three months duty at the time under Capt William Overton Winston of this County, and I know that Col Callis who, (from the best of information and belief at the time, was then a Captain of a Volunteer troops of Horse) was acting and continued to act as aid to Gen'l Nelson during the three months I served. How long he had previously acted in that Capacity I donot know.

Col. Callis had been an Officer in the Continental line, but in consequence of bad health, retired from active service for a while. perhaps as a supernumerary Officer, and after his health got so as to admit of his going into active service again, he raised (as was said, a Volunteer troops of Horse, (there being no vacancy for him to fill at the time) and joined Gen'l. Nelsons Regiment. After this he was, I think, promoted and Commissioned as Maj'r. or Col, and continued in service to the final close of the War in 1783. Given under my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1847.

[signed] Edmund Gilman [pension application S8565]

#### NOTES:

The file includes a certificate showing pay to William O. Callis as a Lieutenant from 12 Jan 1777 to 27 Sept 1778.

On 13 Dec 1847 Tobias S. Callis applied unsuccessfully for an increase in pension for himself and

other surviving children of Ann Callis, who died on 8 Sep 1846. The basis for the claim was that his mother's pension was for William Overton Callis's service as a Lieutenant, but his father was alleged to have been a Captain. A document certifies that the children who survived Anne Callis were as follows: Tobias S. Callis, Caius M. Callis, Lavinia C. Smith, Barbara E. Jerdone, Jane C. Callis, Mary E. Kean, and Arthur Callis (last heard from in 1828). The file includes a family record transcribed below.

William O Callis was born 23<sup>d</sup> day of March 1757 and intermarried with Martha Winston 23<sup>d</sup> day of October 1782 who was born 20 June 1765.

Eleanor Addison Callis, daughter of W. O. & M. Callis was born 24<sup>th</sup> July 1784

Cleon M Callis son of ditto was born 14<sup>th</sup> January 1786

Martha Winston Callis was born 20<sup>th</sup> April 1788

Martha Callis the Elder departed this life 29<sup>th</sup> April 1788.

W. O Callis intermarried with Anne Price 4<sup>th</sup> May 1790, who was born 4<sup>th</sup> November 1774

Lavinia Callis daughter of W. O. & Anne Callis, born 11<sup>th</sup> Feb'y. 1791

Otho W. Callis son of d'o. was born 13<sup>th</sup> October 1792

Jane Cosby Callis daughter of ditto was born 25<sup>th</sup> Feb'y. 1795

Arthur Callis son of ditto was born 23<sup>d</sup> Dec'r. 1796

Tobias Shandy Callis son of Ditto was born 17<sup>th</sup> Dec'r. 1799

Caius Marcellus Callis born 26<sup>th</sup> May 1804

Mary Elizabeth Callis born 23<sup>d</sup> Sept 1806 died 16<sup>th</sup> May 1808

ditto ditto — 1811.

[The following in different handwriting.]

Barbara Ann Callis born the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1814.

Colo William O. Callis departed this life the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1814.

Otho W. Callis departed this life 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1831.