

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of Nathaniel Craighill VAS1962

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Transcribed by Will Graves

5/5/15

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

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Jefferson County Legislative Petitions

To the Honourable General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, The petition of Nathaniel Craighill of Jefferson County respectfully represents, that your petitioner is a native of the County of Westmoreland in the said Commonwealth, – In the year 1774 your petitioner, then being about 18 [written over and unclear]<sup>1</sup> years of age, young and ardent in the cause of his country, enlisted as a private in a company of minute men commanded by Capt. William Washington, in which company, he did duty for twelve months, – In the year 1775 he entered on board the Schooner *Adventure*,<sup>2</sup> commanded by Capt. William Saunders,<sup>3</sup> and served in the

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<sup>2</sup> *Adventure*. Paullin:397, VA Navy schooner, 1776. Dandridge:186 and VANavy:160, ND5:431, ND6:239, 919, 1242, ND7:328, show a schooner, Capt William Saunders, at Hobbs Hole, Jul 1776, sent to St. Eustatius on trade mission, Dec 1776. Eller:174, 201, a schooner/pilot boat/trader for the Bay, 1777, disposition unknown. VANavy:159, pilot boat of VA Navy which patrolled the Rappahannock River in 1776, Capt John Calvert. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20A.html>

capacity of Stewart and Clerk until the fall of 1776, & he was then appointed first midshipman on board the ship *Dragon*<sup>4</sup>, commanded by Capt. Eleaser Callander [Eliezer Callander]<sup>5</sup> of Fredericksburg, where he did duty until the spring 1778, when your petitioner resigned his commission, – He was immediately thereafter appointed first Lieut. and served in a Regiment commanded by Col. George Slaughter<sup>6</sup> and continued in that service until the winter of 79-80: at which time being unable to perform duty from a long and severe illness, he resigned his commission Early in the year 1781, (your petitioner's health being restored) he joined a company of Volunteers commanded by Capt. Samuel Mark[?]<sup>7</sup> and served a tour of three months duty = he

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<sup>3</sup> [William Saunders R89](#) & SAUNDERS, WILLIAM; VA: Captain, Virginia Navy; William Saunders was commissioned as a [First] Lieutenant in the Virginia Navy and assigned to a galley on the Rappahannock River (the *Lewis*), to be commanded by Captain CELERY SAUNDERS. [NOAR, 272] Virginia Navy Schooner *Adventure* was commissioned on 8 June 1776, when William Saunders was appointed as her master. [NDAR, V, 431] Saunders had previously served as First Lieutenant on a galley, from 1 April 1776. [NDAR, IV, 621] On 17 June RICHARD LIGHTBOURNE was appointed as Mate on the *Adventure*. [NDAR, V, 593-594 and 594 note] Both Saunders and Lightbourne were issued commissions on 20 July 1776, as Captain and Lieutenant, respectively, by the Virginia Council of Safety. [NDAR, V, 1164] On 27 July Saunders drew £77.3.0 for his schooner's payroll from date of enlistment to 25 July. [NDAR, V, 1249] *Adventure* was at Hobb's Hole on 19 August 1776, when Saunders was ordered to cruise about the Virginia Capes to annoy the enemy, and then return to York to refit when the schooner was foul. The Virginia Navy Board also wished to inspect the schooner. [NDAR, VI, 239] *Adventure* was apparently fitting out at York by 20 September 1776, when Saunders drew a speaking trumpet, hour glass, and bunting from the storekeeper. [NDAR, VI, 919-920] He drew cordage and slops on 12 October 1776. [NDAR, VI, 1242, 1242-1243] The Council of Safety now had more interesting employment for the *Adventure*. On 29 November 1776, the Council ordered the Virginia Navy Board to send the schooner to either St. Eustatia or Martinique, consigned to the agents (Van Bibber; Harrison) there. [NDAR, VII, 328] A cargo of flour was procured and a cover letter written on 30 November. [NDAR, VII, 338] Nothing is known of this voyage, whether it took place or not, or what happened to the *Adventure*. Saunders was in Virginia on 18 April 1777, when he was ordered to take command of the galley *Manley*. [NDAR, VII, 369. Misidentified in NOAR, 272, as the *Hanley*.] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20S.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5bCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5d.html>

<sup>5</sup> [Eliezer Callander VAS230](#) & CALLENDER, ELEAZER [ELIEZER] VA: Captain, Virginia Navy: Eleazer (Eliezer) Callender entered service in 1775. [Stewart, 160] He was appointed, by the Committee of Safety, as a Captain in the Virginia Navy on 1 April 1776 and assigned to the second cruiser to be built on the Rappahannock River. Captain Green was to be his first mate. [Stewart, 12n] On 17 June 1776 he was assigned to the Virginia Navy Sloop *Defiance*. On 19 August 1776 he was ordered to sail down the Rappahannock River to Hobbs Hole. On 12 September 1776 he was ordered to transport troops to New York. [NOAR, 47] Between then and October 1776 he left the *Defiance*. [Stewart, 17] He later commanded the *Dragon*. He lived in Fredericksburg after the war. On 12 November 1791 he petitioned the Virginia House of Delegates for compensation for a valuable horse lost in the service. He was an original member of the Virginia Society of the Cincinnati. [Stewart, 160] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20C.html>

<sup>6</sup> [George Slaughter W8729](#)

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afterwards served a Tour of three months duty in a company commanded by Capt. H. Beall [?],<sup>8</sup> he then joined a Regiment from Stafford County commanded by Col. J Garrett, and on the march to York Town your petitioner was by the misfortune of a severe attack of fever, compelled to leave the service and to return home to recruit his health. This was a short time before the capture of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. From the year 1774 until late in the summer 1781 your petitioner was almost constantly engaged in the service of his Country, in one capacity or another and he most solemnly declares that all the compensation he ever received was the sum of \$15 = Your petitioners father was a warm Whig, in good circumstances, and supplied him liberally with the means of support = Your petitioner further states that by means of committed industry and care, he had acquired an ample fortune, but in his old age he became imprudent, and trusting to the prudence and honesty of others, he became bound for many large amounts as security. In consequence of this unfortunate step, all his property both real and personal, has been sold from him, and he finds himself now entirely dependent upon the bounty of others, at a period of life too when he is unable to support himself. Heretofore it was a matter of pride to your petitioner, that, he had received no compensation for his public services, and that his country (so dear to him) was his debtor, and it is now with mortification and a subdued spirit that he sues for relief. Your petitioner prays that your Hon. body will take his case into serious consideration, and grant him some compensation for his services, either in the shape of a gross son, or a pension during a life [this is the end of this petition. The record does not indicate what action, if any, the assembly took regarding this petition.]

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*Isaac Beale*