

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Suddarth R10293

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/25/12

[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.]

Kentucky Warren County: SS

On this 28th day of August 1839 personally appeared in open Court before the Circuit Court in & for said County, now sitting, John Suddarth, a resident of the County of Simpson and State aforesaid aged seventy-five years on the 16th of February next, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

That he volunteered in the Army of the United States about the last of June (he recollects it was just before harvest) 1778 as a substitute for his brother James Suddarth under the command and in the company of Captain John Burley or Burleigh and in the Regiment of Colonel Bland, of the Virginia Troops, but he cannot state whether of the State or Continental Line. Under the command of these officers he was engaged as a Private in guarding the Prisoners, in the County of Albemarle about four miles westwardly of Charlottesville Virginia which prisoners had been taken by General Gates [Horatio Gates] in the defeat of General Burgoyne [Battle of Saratoga, October 7, 1777]. He continued in this service, until the last of September, (a period of three months) he was relieved by the return of his brother for whom he had substituted as aforesaid and who had been compelled to leave the service in consequence of sickness –

This declarant at the time of joining the service, resided in the County of Albemarle, Virginia: – He recollects that Captain Holeman Rice & Captain Garland [James Garland] were in this service at the same time with the Declarant – And that Captain Garland was shot by a centry [sentry], whilst there.

This Declarant again joined the Army of the Revolution from said County of Albemarle & State of Virginia about the middle of July 1781, in the Company of Captain Benjamin Harris and joined a portion of the main Army at Williamsburg, which to the best of his recollection was under the command of Major Meryweather [probably Thomas Meriwether]. He will not say that Meriwether was the highest officer in command there, but from his indistinct recollection, he now seems to him to have been so. – From Williamsburg we marched to Travis' Point, at the mouth of Queens Creek into York River, where we remained a few days guarding a number of beeves &c belonging to the American Army – From thence we were marched down to the main encampment before Yorktown – We were here immediately placed to work in raising the breastworks around the town – We were put on duty, during this time at 8 o'clock in the morning and not relieved until the succeeding morning at 8 o'clock only taking time to eat our meals – We then rested the succeeding 24 hours & so on till the works were finished. He was present at the taking of the two British redoubts, the one stormed by the French & the other by the Americans. He was not a participant in the storm, except so far as that he was drawn out with a large body of

other troops to render such 8 as might become necessary. Each man of the troops with him had a [one or more indecipherable words]¹ and so soon as the redoubts surrendered, they were thrown down and the work of circumvallation was recommenced. Your declarant during the progress of these works witnessed a deed of personal daring & coolness in General Washington which he never saw equaled. During a tremendous cannonade from the British in order to demolish their breastworks a few days prior to the surrender, General Washington visited that part of our fortifications behind which your declarant was posted, and whilst here discovered that the enemy were destroying their property & drowning their horses &c. Not however entirely assured of what they were doing, he took his glass & mounted the highest most prominent & most exposed point of our fortifications, and there stood exposed to the enemy's fire, where shot seemed [?] flying about as thick as hail, & were instantly demolishing portions of the embankment around him for ten or fifteen minutes, until he had completely satisfied himself of the purposes of the enemy. During this time his aides &c were remonstrating with him with all their earnestness against this exposure of his person, and once or twice drew him down. He severely reprimanded them & resumed his position. When satisfied he dispatched a Flag to the Enemy and they desisted from their purpose. Your declarant continued at York Town till the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. He then marched as a guard with the prisoners as far as Nolan's ferry on the Potomac [River], where we delivered them to the Maryland troops. Thence he returned and was discharged about Christmas of that year, making the period of his service five months & a half – this making the entire period of his service eight months & a half.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State. Your Declarant received no discharge. The war was ended & he & his Captain did not then regard it as useful or necessary. He makes this application in the County of Warren because he resides almost as near to the Court House of Warren as Sampson [sic, Simpson] (the counties being adjacent) and because it is more convenient for his agent to transact the business in Warren than in Simpson – There is no Minister of the Gospel in his neighborhood to whom the reputation of his services is none – This Declarant was born in Amherst County Virginia. He has not the original record of his age. It is in the family Bible of his father, which is now in the possession of the family of an uncle, long dead. – He states he is known in his present neighborhood to John Copland, Colonel __ Darly, Wm L. Carter, Wm Carter, Hervey Harris & Thomas Harris who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. – He knows of no living witness whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

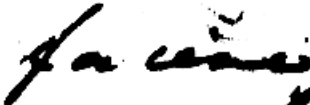
Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ A. G. Hobson, Clerk

S/ John Suddarth, X his mark

[Harvey Harris and Thomas Harris, both elders of the church, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[A note in the file indicates that the application for a pension was rejected because the applicant failed to furnish proof of service of six months as required by the pension laws.]



1