

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Saunders R89

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 April 2021.

Petition of the heirs of William Saunders, Captain in the State Navy, for Bounty Land (additional) William Saunders entered the service April 1st 1776, as 1st Lieutenant in the Navy. He continued in service as Commander of the Schooner Adventure, Manly [sic: *Manley*] Galley &c to the end of the war.

He was reported by a board of Officers in 1784 as having served to the end of the war. He received, 4,666 acres of Land. His heirs are entitled to Bounty Land for his services, from April 1st, 1776, to the end of the war, and the quantity received should be that allowed to a Major in the Land Service, deducting 4,666 acres.

To his Excellency Gov Floyd
[Copy certified 4 Feb 1850.]

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com. &
March 19th, 1834.

[The following was certified on 5 Feb 1850 as a copy of “a paper to be found in 1st Vol of papers concerning the State Navy.” Letter-number combinations in brackets designate pension applications.]

List of Officers of the State Navy agreeable to the arrangement 13th May 1784.

James Barron [VAS1949]	Commo[dor]e	Commissioned	July 3 rd 80.
Richard Barron [R5]	Capt	“	Jan’y 76.
Thomas Lilly [VAS923]	Capt	“	Jan’y 76.
Richard Taylor [S25873]	Capt		
Celey Saunders [VAS4353]	D[itt]o	Dead	
Edward Travis [R103]	D’o	Dead	
Willis Wilson [R109]	D’o		
James Markham [R72]	D’o		
Wright Westcott [R106]	D’o	Dead	
Elliott [George Elliott R38]	D’o		
John Harris [R41]	D’o	Dead	
William Saunders [R89]	Lieut		
Gray [Robert Gray?]	D’o	Dead	Black list
Thomas Chandler [R24]	D’o	D’o	
William Steel [William Steele R96]	D’o		
Wm. H Parker [William H. Parker R82]	D’o		

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files.]

I Do hereby Certify that Capt. William Sanders was in the Navy in June 1776,
Rich’d Taylor [Richard Taylor S25873]
May 18th 1783

To the Governor of Va

The heirs of Capt. Wm. Saunders respectfully state that under the arrangement of the navy their ancestor was entitled to 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$ ac’s but has only rec’d 4000 ac. The Agent of the Executive Mr. Smith has reported him entitled to the additional Land. They respectfully pray the allowance.

NOTES:

William Saunders is listed as Captain in “A List of necessaries wanting out of the public store, for the Officers on board the Ship Tartar – for two months, from 25th Nov’r. 1779 to 25th Jany 1780,” a transcription of which is in the pension application of Thomas Bonnewell (R10).

A document in the federal file states that William Saunders died “first of January, 1797.”

On 23 Jan 1850 Elizabeth Murray of Fredericksburg VA appointed Reuben Saunders as attorney to obtain “any balance of half pay, Commutation or interest that may be due, either from the state of Virginia, or the United States, or both, on account of the Revolutionary services of [her] Father, William Saunders.” On 11 Mar 1850 William Murray, administrator of William Saunders, appointed Reuben Saunders of King and Queen County as attorney to obtain “any half pay, commutation, and interest that may be due, particularly under the act of 5th July 1832.” A letter in the file states that Elizabeth Murray was the only surviving child of William Saunders, and that William Murray was a grandson.