

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Donald (Daniel, David) Sellers (Sellars) R9376

f42NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/3/11 rev'd 4/21/15

[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.]

[p 12]

Guysborough Interval Province of Nova Scotia

March 28, 1839 A.D.

To the President of the United States of America

May it please your Highness

To let me lay before the foot of your throne this My fation [petition ?] and inform you that I am not guilty of what the Comittee [Committee<sup>1</sup>] charges me with for the Comittee themselves say that they were to remain prisoners until Lawfully exchanged But they did not perform their promise for they broke the prison and disarted [deserted] in Companys [Companies] and by so doing they Broke the Capitulation and set Sir Henry Clinton at liberty to punish the remainder part with any Cruelty he choosed [chose], and it enraged [enraged] his anger so furiously that he ordered a stronger prison to be got ready Such as prison ships to be moored in the center of Cooper River and such a severe prison was more than what I was able to stand Being at the same time without Money and Clothes eating [eaten] up with lice and rotton [rotten] with dirt I laid down at night the same as I walked about all day neither Blankets nor anything But the hard boards to rest upon And now if Congress had fulfilled their promise to me and had paid me my wages and Clothes as I was promised then I would have been clothed as [a] Soldier and paid every month. I might then been able to stand the hardship of the prison being so severe as it was But to the best of my knowledge I never received pay or Clothing for the space of three years and being in that bad Situation my body & patience were worn out and seeing my Service was altogether forgot & how often my body was exposed to powder and ball, and been in four General Engagements. And being told by my friends that if [I] could come out of prison that Sir Henry Clinton would give me his protection and that I should never be compelled to fight against the States of America Now I will also inform you of some of the transactions of the war which will lead you to see that I am not claiming any favor unworthily. I was on the outside pickett [picket] of all about two miles from Charlestown [Charleston] the same night that Sir Henry Clinton crossed Ashley River with the British Army. With our arms in our hands all night and pad rools [patrols?] was going Continually all night where I had all the opportunity that I could desire if I preferred [preferred] the British Army before that of Congress early in the morning

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<sup>1</sup> The file contains no report by a "committee" which appears to be the trigger for this petition. Since this veteran's application for a pension appears to have been referred to the US House of Representatives, I briefly tried to find a report in the Journals of the House but was unsuccessful. That is not to say, however, that a report by some House committee is not contained in the journals of the House—simply that I did not find it during a cursory search.

General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Aidcamp [aide-de-camp] and General Lawrence<sup>2</sup> came out from Town and inquired of the Lieutenant if he could inform them what the enemy was about which he told them to the best of his knowledge that Sir Henry Clinton was making all preparation to Storm the Town with that they made fast the pickett towards the enemy and about Six minutes after the Aidcamp returned back being badly wounded and appeared to me if as [sic, as if] the wound was in Some part of his head but he wrote [rode] so fast I had no opportunity of Seeing much but the left Side of his body was covered with blood in the Course of ten minutes after I was wounded myself and I was so badly wounded that I could neither Serve Congress nor the King as a Soldier and my Captain was killed the same day about three OClock in the afternoon Captain Joshua Borman [sic, Joshua Bowman]. The lieutenant that commanded the pickett was Sir William Walton he was first Lieutenant of Cpt. Jos<sup>a</sup> Bor<sup>n</sup> Company. I was one of the Company also it was the first Company of Infantry of the North Carolina Brigade. And also the I would like to let you know a few remarks whilst I was with the Grand Army at head quarters first I was two days in the line of Battle at White Mash hill [sic, White Marsh]<sup>3</sup> when the British came out of Philadelphia and we had no notice of it and there was nothing expected but that a general engagement would take place when they got within three miles of Washington's Army they stopped and remained a couple of days where we remained two days without anything to eat still in the line of battle but the British returned to Philadelphia and no action took place. I was also with the Army the winter they were at Valley Forge and done duty at head quarters where I done duty often times at the Generals door and done duty there until General Washingtons life Guards were chosen out of the Army none was to be higher than 6 feet and none lower than 5 feet 10 inches being in amt [amount] 100 men they were clothed in a long blue clothes. I was also at West point when Major Anders [sic, John André]<sup>4</sup> was taken when he came out of New York as a Spy to Spy Washingtons Army and works and also when he was hung he was adjutant General to the British Army and when General Arnold [Benedict Arnold] made his escape to New York I was also along with General Wing [sic, Anthony Wayne] taking of Stoney Point.<sup>5</sup> When he was within two miles of the fort he called a halt and told us what to do he was going about that he was determined to have the fort that night and for none of the Arms to be loaded all was to be done by the bayonets Every man received a piece of white paper and put it in the front of his Cap as the night was very dark when the countersign was given the Fort is our own Ground Wing Commanded the right division Major Stuart the Left General Wing himself received a slight wound a musket ball went through the top of his cap and injured the skin as it passed Washington himself came to the Fort at daylight after it was taken. When the North Carolina Brigade received orders to march to Charleston to reinforce it they were ordered to come to the head of Elke river [Elk River] where there was shipping ready waiting to receive them on board in order to go to Sea next day but that night there came a heavy frost and the next morning all was hard and fast in the Ice he gave us orders immediately to come on There and take the road the weather continuing very cold & Christmas day we crossed Siskahanna river [sic, Susquehanna River] the Same as the road we suffered a great deal by not having Conveniences to lodge in The Snow deep & tegious [sic, tedious?] travelling When we Came to

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<sup>2</sup> This may be a mistaken reference to then Lieutenant Colonel John Laurens who is known to have participated in skirmishing with the British outside of Charleston during the siege of that city.

<sup>3</sup> December 5, 1777 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/771205.htm> and <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/whitemarsh.htm>

<sup>4</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Andr%C3%A9](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Andr%C3%A9)

<sup>5</sup> July 16, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790716.htm> and <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/stony-pt.htm>

Willington [sic, Wilmington] in North Carolina they received us heartily and made us a great dinner and the Soldiers purposing one to another that they would not go out of their own State until they were paid off and settled with and this was called Mutiny by the Commanding Officers but he ordered the Soldiers off Immediately on their March and put a stop to their Intentions and some of them were shot for proposing any such a thing. And now if David Sellers performed and seen these things or any other man but myself don't you think I would speak of him and not myself. Also This will Show you of Some of the General Officers I Knew.

General Nash [Francis Nash] who commanded the Brigade I belonged to the North Carolina Brigade he was badly wounded at the battle of Jermingtown [Germantown] a shot from the Artillery took away his left leg and part of his thigh and died in three days after he was wounded. General Mac Intosh [Lachlan McIntosh] took the command after his death and I had an opportunity of Seeing General Lee [probably Charles Lee] as he lodged at head quarters and I was told that he was upon the ? of Honour. There were the Generals Marquis Delifect [Lafayette?], General Wing [Anthony Wayne], General Arnold, General Lord Starling [William Alexander, Lord Stirling], General McDugal [probably General Alexander McDougall], General Green [Nathanael Greene] General Gaites [Horatio Gates]. These all the first officers of the North Carolina Brigade Cornal Lamb [Colonel Gideon Lamb], Cornal Hugin [probably Colonel James Hogue], Cornal Clark [Colonel Thomas Clark], Cornal Martin [probably Colonel Alexander Martin]. As for my [sic, me] I had no parish or minister to apply to as I was a Stranger and the ? truly begun for if I had it would Certify all And the Committee themselves Say that there was no other man the name of Sellers only one. And your Laws Say that if any parson [person] telling the Battles and ascertain [asserting? or ascertaining?] to them and the officers whom they Served under is Sufficient. Then may it please and Satisfy you as I have described them here and more than that I have proved my Service by the Oaths of Mr. Nathan Pushee<sup>6</sup> & James Harreld [? or Harrod]<sup>7</sup> [word obscured] you Can obtain it And my papers from the hands of Mr. William B. Parker in Portsmouth.

This is what the Committee holes [holds] against me and this is what I am stating to convince you So as you may See all things, My Name was they Say Wrote David Sellers and that is all they have to Keep me from the pension but as I stated before My service was proved by those two Men and that I am really the man. The reason that my name was inserted David Sellers Instead of Donald was I suppose as I had no English & my Captain no Gaulic [Gaelic]. I must Conclude in hopes to receive an answer in my favour as I have Stated you can See that if So it will not be granted unworthily, and if not I value my Character as Soldier and far more than the money. I would have wrote before only not having convenience until this My youngest Son has Come to the advantage of assisting me and if he has spoken Amiss Pardon us and I am in the meantime your obt.

Servant-----

S Donald Sellers



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<sup>6</sup> [Nathan Pushee W13835](#). While living in Nova Scotia, the veteran filed a claim for his service. He served from Massachusetts and was in the Cavalry in a Regiment which he refers to as the Lady Washington Regiment commanded by Colonel George Baylor. He states that he was taken prisoner while at Moncks Corner in South Carolina and held a prisoner in Charleston for 11 months. This file contains no testimony or affidavit by Nathan Pushee.

<sup>7</sup> Sic, [James Harrill \(Harrold, Harrell\) R4634](#). This file contains no testimony or affidavit by James Harrill.

NB if you please to answer this  
direct it to Mr. Morrow Merrican  
Counselor Halifax Nova Scotia  
D. L.

[p 30]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office January 28, 1836

Sir

I have carefully searched the muster rolls and other documents in this office for the name of David Sellers but do not find it. I find that Daniel Sellers was a Soldier in Colonel Lamb's Regiment in Captain McRee's Company, and from the Warrant book it appears he has been dead many years past, the Warrant having issued to "The Heirs of Danl. Sellers."

Very respectfully your Obedient servant  
S/ Wm Hill

James L Edwards Esquire  
Commissioner of Pensions

[Note: This file contains correspondence from Malcolm Sellers of Beaver Dam Wisconsin Territory to the Commissioner of Pensions regarding the claim of his father Daniel Sellers of the County of Guysborough, Province of Nova Scotia. The file also contains correspondence from a lawyer by the name of William B Parker of Portsmouth New Hampshire relating to a claimant by the name of David Sellers or David Sellars. From what I can piece together by reading all the correspondence in the file, it appears that the original claim was made in 1836, it was denied by the Commissioner of pensions, and Parker instructed the Commissioner to send the contents of the file to Samuel Cushman,<sup>8</sup> Representative from the State of New Hampshire. Since there is no actual application dated 1836 contained in the file, I assume it was sent to Representative Cushman and never made it back into this file.]

[p 2]

"The printed list of 1852 of Rej. [Rejected] & Sus [Suspended] Rev [Revolutionary] pension claims, page 20, shows David Sellers of Guysborough, Interval Co. Nova Scotia 'suspended for want of proof in 1836, and papers withdrawn and not replaced by Honorable J. Cushman in June 1837.' "

[p 42: letter from Malcolm Sellers, son of the veteran, inquiring as to the status of the Congressional hearings on his 'aged father's' case.



Malcolm Sellers

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<sup>8</sup> CUSHMAN, Samuel, a Representative from New Hampshire; born in Portsmouth, N. H., June 8, 1783; attended the common schools; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Portsmouth; served as judge of the Portsmouth police court; county treasurer 1823-1828; member of the State house of representatives 1833-1835; nominated by President Jackson to be United States attorney for the district of New Hampshire but was not confirmed; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-fourth Congress and reelected as a Democrat to the Twenty-fifth Congress (March 4, 1835-March 3, 1839); chairman, Committee on Commerce (Twenty-fifth Congress); United States Navy officer at Portsmouth 1845-1849; died in Portsmouth, N. H., on May 20, 1851; interment in Proprietors' Burying Ground. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C001021>