

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Cornelius Sanders S2019

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

State of Tennessee, Wilson County Circuit Court October Term 1832

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable James C. Mitchell Judge of said Court now sitting Cornelius Sanders, a resident of Rutherford County State of Tennessee, aged seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in January or February 1781, in a company commanded by Captain Dred Philips [Etheldred Phillips] as a volunteer for a tour of three months. He cannot recollect the precise day he volunteered his services he was attached to a Regiment of North Carolina Militia commanded by Colonel Thomas Hunter, Major Curlee was the Major when he first joined the Army they marched from Halifax in North Carolina to Hillsboro but before they got to Hillsboro Major Curlee for some cause left them and returned home and after that Colonel Hunter returned home owing to having his house burned and his Captain Dred Philips was elected Major in Curlee's place and Axum Philips [Exum Phillips] was elected Captain to command the Company. General Thomas Eaton had the Command of Brigade or division, and marched the whole force Consisting as he thinks of about two thousand through Hillsborough and joined General Green's Army [sic, Nathanael Greene's Army] a few miles beyond Hillsboro, after our force united with General Greene's Army, the American Army under the Command of General Greene reconnoitered and pursued the British Army until the battle at Guilford [sic, Guilford] in March 1781 [March 15, 1781],<sup>1</sup> he was in that battle and was in sight of General Stephens [Edward Stevens] at the time said General got his thigh broke and horse killed under him in that engagement said Stephens was a General of the Virginia militia. After the battle at Guilford he marched with the American troops to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River where he remained stationed with a part of the American troops until the expiration of his three months tour when he was discharged by Captain Axum Philips which discharge he has lost.

A few weeks after he returned home there was a call for twelve months men his Company was divided into classes Consisting of twelve men and each class was to furnish one man to serve a twelve months tour in casting lots in his class it fell upon him to serve twelve months he marched under the Command of Major John Armstrong from Halifax North Carolina with the other troops raised in the Halifax district comprised of Edgecombe and some other Counties to the division under General Greene within four or five miles of Camden. They had not organized any companies until they joined General Greene the troops which were marched from Halifax district were divided and allotted to different Companies in Greene's Army to make them complete they having been reduced by deaths and other causes he was attached to a company

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

Commanded by Captain Joshua Hadley-- Pinck Eaton [Pinketham Eaton] was the Colonel who commanded the Regiment, Hogg, Dickson [sic, Dixon?], Sharp and Armstrong commanded as Majors at different periods during the twelve months but at what periods they respectfully [sic, respectively] commanded he cannot undertake to speak distinctly at this distance of time he recollects Major Hogg was most generally with them. After joining Greene's Army they marched to a little town called Charlotte, and reconnoitered about Charlotte and Camden some time and then marched to Ninety Six and besieged the British Garrison or Fort at that place [Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781],<sup>2</sup> he recollects the troops were employed in digging a trench towards the British Fort. It was rumored the design was to blow up the Fort, during the siege Colonel Pinck Eaton was sent around with a small detachment with 15 or 18 men to a marsh or swamp near the British Fort to draw the attention of the British in that quarter there were also three men sent to set fire to the British redoubts – Colonel Pinck Eaton and all his men except three were killed in that service, he thinks the three men went to set fire to the redoubts were killed also. After remaining at Ninety Six from three to five weeks the British were reinforced and General Greene retired with the force under his command. We marched from point to point watching the motions of the enemy until the two armies met at Eutaw Springs where they had a Severe engagement this applicant was taken sick and stationed at the house of one Spinks with eight or ten invalids in consequence of which he was not in that engagement. He remained at this place until his term of service expired and was then discharged as he thinks by Captain Joshua Hadley which he has lost. When he was discharged he had not recovered his health and was scarcely able to walk.

He was upwards of 200 miles from home and was one month or more after he received his discharge before he arrived at home making a period of 13 months or more he served this tour counting the time he left home until he returned which added to the former three months making 16 months which he was in the service of the United States: He cannot recollect the precise day he entered the Service in the last time. He cannot recollect the precise day he entered the service the last time but thinks it must be sometime in May 1781, he was employed as a drummer and was sometimes attached to Captain Joshua Hadley's Company and sometimes to Captain William Lytle's Company.

In addition to the officers he has already named he also knew Captain Coleman, Captain Armstrong, Captain Hadley, Colonel Mabry, Colonel Washington [William Washington] & Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] of the light horse. He has seen General Marion [Francis Marion] but never was with him in service, he was also acquainted with General Greene the commander of the division, he cannot state the day he was discharged from either of the terms of his Service. He further States he was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1762 in Edgecombe County North Carolina as he has been informed by his parents he has a record of his birth in a book at home which was put down as he has always been informed by his Grand Father on his Mother's side Cornelius Jordan [sic, Cornelius Jordan?] a few hours after his birth. When he grew up he bought the book in which his birth was recorded at the sale of his Grand Father's property after his death and owns it yet. He lived in Edgecombe County when he entered the Service before the close of the war however there was a new County established called Ash [sic, Nash] County it included the place where he lived he resided in said County until the year 1808, as well as he now recollects when he removed to Tennessee and Settled near the line of Rutherford and Wilkes Counties but rather in the Rutherford side where he has remained ever since; he states his residence is somewhat nearer Lebanon than Murfreesboro and the clergyman that is best acquainted with him lives in Wilson, whose affidavit accompanies this declaration and who could not go with him Conveniently to Murfreesboro is the reason he applies at this

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ninety\\_six.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html)

Court.

He further states that he is known by Reverend Joshua Woolen, Joseph Woolen, John Curry, Augustus Edwards and Grover W. Banton, Esquires and a great many others in his neighborhood all he believes would testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the revolution; He further states that he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person living at this time testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State whatever.

Subscribed & Sworn to this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832.

S/ Cornelius Sanders, X his mark

S/ Wm Martin, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity for the County of Wilson in the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

We Joshua Woolen a clergyman residing in the County of Wilson State of Tennessee and Moses Woolen residing in the same County and State hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Cornelius Sanders who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 70 years of age. That he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Joshua Woolen

S/ Moses Woolen

S/ Wm Martin, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Law and Equity for the County of Wilson and the eleventh Judicial Circuit

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, full service as a private for 16 months in the North Carolina militia.]