

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Sanders [Saunders] S3847

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/19/16

[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, Sumner County

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Sumner sitting, Richard Sanders, a resident of Wilson County, in the State aforesaid, aged about seventy six 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

That he was born in Virginia in 1756, that he was raised on Dan River in Caswell County North Carolina, when the Revolutionary War with Great Britain broke out in 1775, a great number of Tories said to be 2000 gathered in Orange & other Counties in North Carolina, Applicant volunteered under Captain John Moore for either a 3 or 6 months Tour & attached to General Butler's [John Butler's] Brigade; we marched in pursuit of the Tories towards Wilmington, where they expected to meet with the British, but on the way, they were defeated<sup>1</sup> by Colonel Caswell [Richard Caswell], Our Brigade was in the Rear, took a great many of them Prisoners, and was in pursuit of them for three or four months as they collected in Swamps towards Wilmington. Applicant was then regularly discharged – Some time after the Applicant volunteered in a Horse Company for six months under Captain James Falls, we marched under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] & Colonel James Sanders [James Saunders] to Charleston South Carolina, where the British made a faint to land, but did not effect it. We then marched under Major General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] to Purysburg on Savannah River, where we lay for sometime and then went up the River against the mouth of Briar Creek, where a part of our Army crossed the River, and the British came upon them by surprise, and defeated them with great loss of men & arms.<sup>2</sup> Applicant believed this happened in the fall of 1778 & Spring of 1779. Our Army still lay on the River, and the British moved up the River and crossed to our side at this time Applicant was sent on an express to General Washington to Pennsylvania, and returned to General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], where he was discharged near Charleston for a nine months Tour having furnished his own horse and equipage. The next service performed by Applicant he received the appointment of Captain in the Caswell Regiment, commanded by Colonel Adam Sanders, his commission is hereto appended. Applicant marched his Company under Colonel Thomas Harrison into South Carolina where Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] came upon our Regiment in a Lane, near Broad River, and the most of our men were cut and slain to pieces for Tarleton showed no quarter to them. This happened in 1780 when Cornwallis was about to move his Army into North Carolina, he pushed General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] through the State into Virginia, and Cornwallis stopped at the Red House

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<sup>1</sup> Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776.

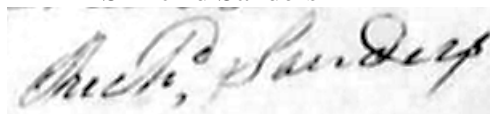
<sup>2</sup> Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]

in Caswell: his Army lay there for several weeks, foraging. Applicant received orders to march against their foraging Parties; they moved on to Hillsboro, from there through the Alamance Settlement to Guilford County and at Whitsell's [sic, Wetzel's] Mills [March 6, 1781],<sup>3</sup> where we had an Engagement and from thence to Guilford Court House, a good many of the Militia were killed and wounded, where a general engagement took place in March 1781 [March 15, 1781],<sup>4</sup> after which General Greene pursued Cornwallis to Ram Saw's [sic, Ramsey's] Mills, but could not bring on another engagement. He then moved on to South Carolina. Applicant was still pursuing their foraging Parties. In May 1781, men were drafted for South Carolina. Applicant had the command of a Company from Caswell, and marched under Colonel Joseph Palmer and Major Humphries to Camden in South Carolina, and was there stationed under General Greene marched his Army across the River: the British were at that time moving down to the Eutaw Springs, commanded by Colonel Stewart, we pursued them, and an engagement took place at the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781],<sup>5</sup> and we took about 300 Prisoners, Applicant was sent with them to the Barracks on James River in Virginia, before he reached there, heard of Cornwallis's Surrender [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], a short time after which he was regularly discharged from service having been regularly in service as a Captain 15 months: Applicant has lost his discharges; he has no other Documentary evidence of his service than the Commission above spoken of: He knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure by whom, he can prove his services except Samuel Motherall<sup>6</sup> whose affidavit is hereto annexed. 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.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. Applicant would here state that at the time he received the appointment of Captain he did not get his Commission, nor did he get it until the Legislature sat in North Carolina after Peace was made.

Sworn to in open Court August 21, 1832.

S Rich'd Sanders



S/ A. H. Douglass, Clerk

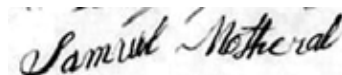
[David M. Saunders, Thomas Anderson, and the Rev. Joseph B. Wynne, a clergyman, gave the standard supportive affidavit.]

I Samuel Motheral of Wilson County State of Tennessee do hereby certify, that I served under Captain Richard Saunders [sic] a Tour of three months and was under his command at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs in South Carolina, I do also certify that I am well acquainted with the said Richard Saunders who is making an application for a Pension & have no hesitation in saying that I believe he served as he states, but have no personal knowledge of any further service than the above.

Subscribed & sworn to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 in open court.

Test: S/ A. H. Douglass, Clerk

S/ Samuel Motheral



<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_weitzells\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html)

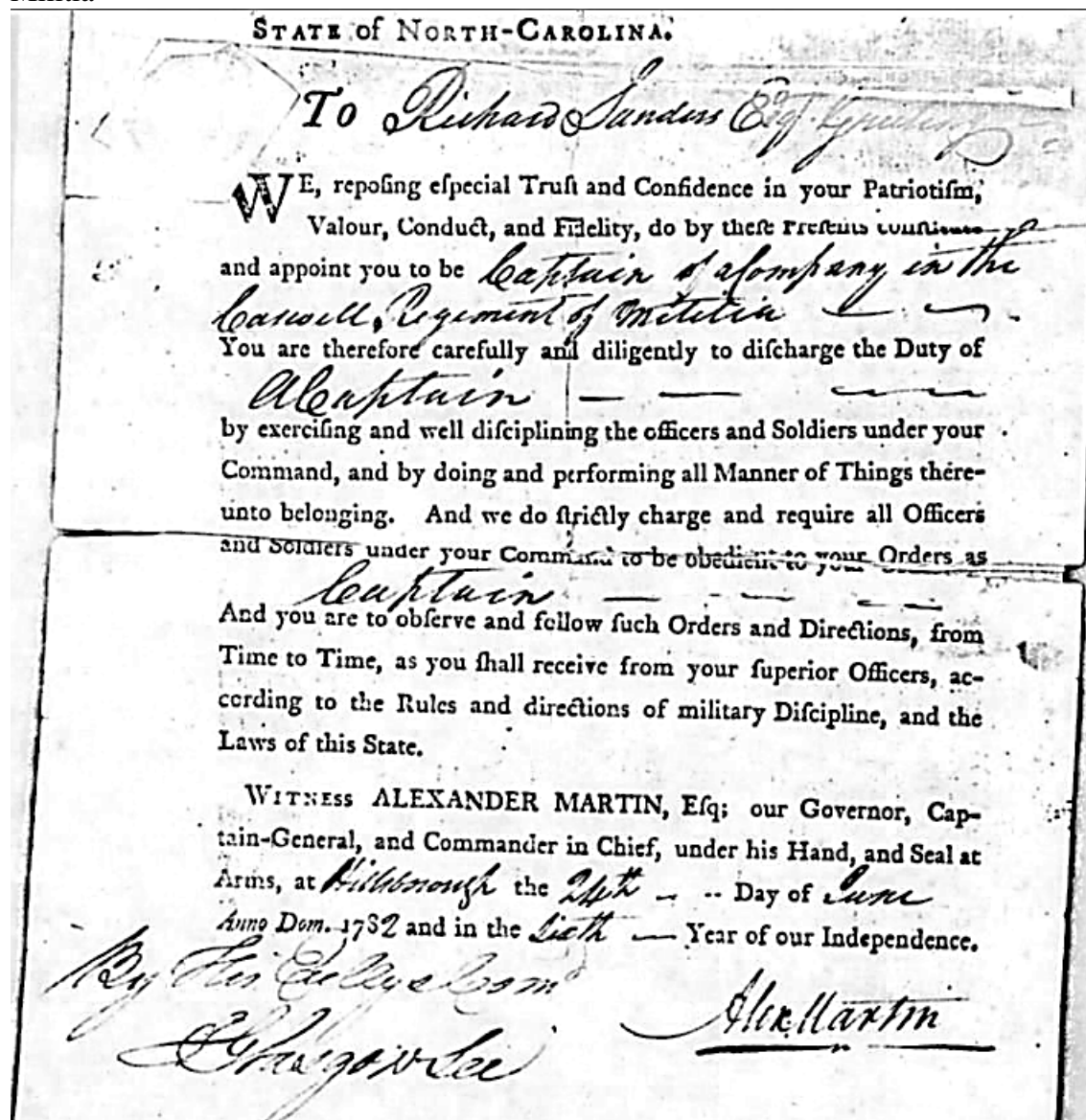
<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_eutaw\\_springs.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html)

<sup>6</sup> [Samuel Motherall W971](#)

[Veteran died in Wilson County, Tenn. on February 13, 1834]

[p 11, contains a printed form commission dated June 24, 1782, signed by Alex Martin, Governor of NC, appointing Richard Sanders a "Captain of a Company in the Caswell Regiment of Militia"]



State of Tennessee, Wilson County

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County & State aforesaid Thomas Miles,<sup>7</sup> a resident of said County aged about 83 years, who being first duly sworn, deposeth & saith that he is so old & infirm, that it is with much difficulty that he could travel to Court; that during the Revolutionary War, he was well acquainted with Major Richard Saunders who has made an application in the County Court of Sumner to obtain a Pension, & whose Declaration is now before me – that said Saunders during the War resided in Caswell County, North Carolina, that Deponent believes that during the year 1780 he received the appointment of Captain, & that he was in service in 1780 & 1781 – during which time the said Saunders performed several Tours of service. In 1780 Deponent was in the engagement at

<sup>7</sup> [Thomas Miles W8457](#)

Wetzel's Mills in Captain Harriston's [sic, Harrison's?] Company in which engagement, he believes that said Saunders was commanding a Company. Deponent has no doubt about said Saunders being in service as a Captain in 1780 & 1781 – Deponent was is acquainted with said Saunders from the above time, until about 1800, when Deponent moved to Tennessee; a few years since said Saunders has moved to this Country – said Saunders is a man of strict honor & veracity & deponent has no doubt from his personal knowledge of his services & from his character, but he served, as he states.

Subscribed & sworn to this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1833.

S/ Thos. Miles

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Miles". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Thos. Miles".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$335 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service for 3 months as a private in the infantry; for 6 months as a private in the cavalry; and for 15 months as a captain of the infantry, all in the North Carolina militia.]