

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Michael Sowers S46548

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Brownsville [PA] 12 November 1828

Honored Sirs

Some time in the month of June last past I forwarded to Col Aron Ogden my certificate or declaration with the deposition of Col Basil Brashears and Mr. Israel Miller as to my Indentity as required by law also a power of attorney to secure in my Name and for me such pay as I might be entitled to at the same time requesting of him should other proof be wanting of my services in the army that I could with some trouble and expence find a man in the western country that knew me in the army and knew that I served to the end of the Revolutionary War altho he was not present at my enlistment. Col Ogden hath not thought proper to honor me with an answer or any information on the subject I can truly say it hurts my feelings to think that old soldiers should be treated with such gross neglect I know that many of them are worthless and not to be believed that is not an evidence that all are such what evidence the records of the Revolution may show of my inlistment or my servis I can not say. I will give you a true and honest statement of Facts early in the Spring in the year 1780 a Recruiting party came to Hagerstown Maryland comanded by Captain Smith at least he was called Captain Smith I was then a young Ignorant bound apprentis boy being tired of serving a tyrant I was determined to inlist accordingly in the month of March 1780 I did inlist I left my masters house one evning whent to the recruiting party one of the private men give me a small sum of money as part of the boundry [sic: enlistment bounty] no contract was entred in to as to the time of servis next day the man that I was bound to called on Captain Smith and claimed me as his apprentice the Master finnaly agreed if the Captain Would give him the amount of the boundry he would quit claim Captn Smith came to me informed me that he could not take me with him without the master would quit claim at the same time informed me that if I would give him the master the amount of the boundry he would give up his claim I Redely agreed to the proposition no contract between me and the officer as to lenth of time I was not Sworn in until we arived in Frederick town Maryland to the best of my recolection the oath I took was in these words that I would obey my Subperiors and faithfully discharge the duties of a Solder in the Continental Servis of the united States of america and until I was Legally discharged. from Frederick town we marched to Anapoliss [sic: Annapolis] Maryland there we took water Landed at Pittersburg verginey [sic: Petersburg VA], joined the Army then Comanded by General [Horatio] Gates, there the new recruits were detailed myself with some others detailed to the Sixt Rigeмент [6<sup>th</sup> Regiment] of the Maryland line Comanded by Col othey Williams [Otho Holland Williams] I was joined to a companey Comanded by the Name of Captn [Nathan] Williams afterwards suceedet by Cap'n [Henry] Dobson who was killed at the Battel of the Eutaw Springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781] afterwards by Capt'n Truman [sic: Alex Trueman] by this statement you will see that I inlisted in March 1780 was not discharged until late in the Spring 1783 I was not only in the servis until the termination of the Revolutionary war but was retained in the servis upward of three years as to Certificates there were Comisseners appoindit to settle with the troops I think it was in the year 1782 that the came to the South settled with the troops and give them Certificates I received a certificate and sold it for a small trifel in store goods the person who I sold to told me he must have the discharge with the Transferr on the certificate in order to mack his claim legal I give him the discharge with the certificate I think it was a conditional discharge Rather in the Nature of a Furlow I can prove my Servis to the end of the war by one now living in the western Country he knows that I joined the Army at Pettersburg Verginey and that I served until the end of the Revolutionary War but he can tell nothing about my inlistment he knows my being taking Prisner at Sumpters defeat [defeat of Gen. Thomas Sumter at Fishing Creek SC, 18 Aug 1780] and me macking my escape from the British Seven or Eight months after having ben taking and joining agen the American Armeey at Ninty Six [Siege of Ninety-Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] then Comanded by N Gens Green [sic: Gen. Nathanael Greene] you Sirs must be sensible to the dificulty at the lapse of nearly half a centry to furnish such proof as would give full and

entire satisfaction if you Sir or other gentlemen can have any confidence in me or in my statement and me to receive nothing you will with me think it a hard case in the first to give my bounty to my master to get in the servis of my cuntry Secntly the toils and sufrings of upwards of three years in the servis of my Cuntry within that time 7 or 8 month as prisner of War upwards one half of that time in close confinement in a British prison Ship almost without any compensation I know there is not much credit to be given to old Solders statements as many are worthless and trifling but there is no genral rule without exception you Sir have known me for many years I should be glad to know if any thing hath ben don for me or in my case or wether any thing can be don plies to inform the Honorable Secretary Mr Rush that I Revoke the power of attorney given to Col Aron Ogden in as much as he hath not thought proper to give me information I know the Revokation is not such as Required by law but as the Secretary hath a controll it may perhaps answer. be so good Sir as soon as you can ascertain wether any thing hath ben don or can be don to give me information any expence you may be at or trouble I shall gladly pay

With Esteem Sir yours &c [signed] Michael Sowers  
Andrew Steward Esq'r [Near union Town, Fayette County PA]

Honored Sir Brownsville 19 December 1828

With thankfulness I have received your communication of the 19 Novbr informing me that nothing can be found among the records in the offices and war department I am truley astonished that nothing can be found to suport my claim or to show that i was in the Servis I expected that the individual States would have made a return to the war department at Washington City if ever a return was made to the State government of Maryland of the Recruits that were inlisted in the year 1780 my name must be on record perhaps my name might be spelled Saur as the germans uneversely called me Michael Saur and I also know that the orderly Sergant frequently at Roll call called me Michael Saur so that by misspelling my name my name might be recorded Michael Saur the Justices before whom I was Swore in was a german you have the goodness to propose to furnish me with a list of the surviving officers of the Maryland Line wether any can be found at this day that have a knoledge of me is doubtfull as the privat soldier is skearsly known out of the limits of his Company or his Rigment the officers that I have reason to believe that had a personall knowledge of me have left the shores of Mortalaty Col Othey Williams Col [John Eager] Howard Major Hartman [sic: Henry Hardman] of the Sixt Regement are no more Capt Williams Capt Dobson Capt Truman are the Captens under whos Command I was are gon) you know that there is no intamasy between the officers and privat Soldier The Solders knows many officers that dont know him there was a great number of officers besid what I have mention that I knew as fare as I can swer the are gon to there long home You also reffered me to the Rchives of the State. I am truley at a loss to know ware to apply in what offices or department the may be found however should the evidence now furnished not be sadisfatory I have requested the Honourable Andrew Stern[?] and Members of Congress for Fayette and Green County to obtain information he hath anticipated my wishes before I made the request I have forward the deposition of Mr George Montle [sic: Mundle] a fellow sufrer and Soldier that served in the same Rigement and Company I know that sercumstansel evidence will not answer otherwise I could furnish several deposition of old pepal that lived in Royerstown at the time of my enlistment that knew that I did enlist and ware among those at the time of my return from the Army I know it would be nothing more than coroberating Testimony still should it be thought of any ues I can and will furnish it I hope my Name and Servis will be found at Anapoliss I do not claim it as an act of Carrety [charity?] but as an act Justices from my cuntry to me I have never before under former laws claimed a pension believing the did not imbrase my case as to situation of life but the present Law imbrase all that come under that law if I have not furnished such proof as contiplate by law I hope I have furnished sufficent to show that I am not an imposter that it self will be some sadisfaction to me the power of attorney given to Col Aron Ogdden I do hereby and here with revoke at the same time any trouble or evidence that he may have ben at I am willing to mack recompence  
With Esteem I am Respectfully yours &c [signed] Michael Sowers  
Hounorable Richard Rush

Washington County Penna. SS.

Personally appeared, before me John Wilson Esq one of the Commonwealth Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, George Montle [George Mundle, pension application S41904], and being duly qualified according to law, deposeth and saith, that he was well acquainted with Michael Sowers, before and during the revolutionary war. That he cannot state precisely the time of his enlistment, but recollects distinctly his joining the Army at Petersburg in Virginia. He was then under the command of Capt. Smith who belonged to Col. Otho Williams; Regiment of the Maryland Line. That this deponent cannot state from his own knowledge the nature of Sowers' enlistment; but always heard him say that he was enlisted "for and during the war" - and always when the men were mustered he was claimed, and anonsed by his officers, as one of the "during the war men". That he was discharged together with this deponent, in the summer of 1783, at the end of the war, at Annapolis Maryland — That said Sowers was taken prisoner by the British at Sumpters defeat and remained a prisoner some time. He then escaped from the British and joined the American Army at "Ninety Six."

This deponent further states that said Sowers was transferred from the company recruited by Capt. Smith to Capt. Dobson's company to which this deponent belonged. That when Capt. Dobson was killed, they were both under the command of Capt. Truman. That when Col. Williams was promoted, Col. Howard took the command.

And further this deponent saith not.

George hisXmark Montle

[4 Dec 1828]