

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Saunders S6048

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/12/12

[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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

Virginia Hanover County

On this 23 day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the court of the County aforesaid, now sitting, John Saunders a resident of said County and state aged seventy-two 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, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the militia of his own State of Virginia in April 1776, several days before he was sixteen years old – was drafted but was countermanded did not march [was drafted] again in May 1777 or 1778 in Captain John Thomson's company from Hanover and served a tour of two months at the least – marched to Williamsburg and served there and thereabout as a guard for the place against the enemy then in the waters of the Chesapeake. Colonel Goodale, he thinks, commanded there was no other Regiment of Militia that he recollects, and that one half of the barracks was filled with regulars though he cannot recollect whom – that about the time of the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] he volunteered from the same County in a company raised by the same Captain, and served a tour of three months in collecting and forwarding provisions to the Continental Army, and that this stood for a draft in the militia – that he furnished his own horse – marched into North Carolina – collected beeves – drove them northward – swam the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg, when the ferry man would not cross on account of the flood – crossed the Potomac at Noland's ferry and left the beeves near Fredericktown [Maryland] in a pasture and returned home – no regulars, but several companies of militia in the same pursuit – that when Arnold [Benedict Arnold] invaded the state, he was again drafted and served a tour of three months in Anderson's company of militia from Hanover but afterwards commanded by Lieutenant Underwood, Anderson having returned was at Chickahominy when the magazine near Westham [8 miles upstream from old Richmond] was blown up [January 5-7, 1781] – marched to the instant [?], saw much destruction of cannon and powder, crossed the River at Westham – marched through Manchester to Osborne's and there saw the shipping destroyed by the enemy – crossed the River again, marched to Williamsburg thence to York, thence to Rich neck, and remained there some time – thence up the River and crossed over to Cabin Point, and was there stationed till discharged – that Colonel William Fleming commanded, saw some regulars but forgot where – frequently saw other regiments of militia but served with none – saw General Nelson at Williamsburg and was in no battle but was at Charles City Court House the day after some men had been slaughtered by a party of the enemy's horse – that when Cornwallis was in Hanover in the summer of 1781 he was again drafted from the same County, and served a three month tour – marched down to the Mobury Hills [Malvern Hills] under Ensign Bingham and was attached to the Regiment of Major Campbell who had been in the regular Army, and was a Presbyterian minister, marched up to

Richmond thence to Probers [?]¹, thence to Hanover Court House, supposing the enemy would attack Fredericksburg, but at that place the route was changed, and he marched thence down by New Castle, and in New Kent his Regiment was detached from the Army, and crossed at West Point to Gloucester and continued to serve in those places till discharged, sometimes retreating from the enemy and Gloucester town across Danger Swamp [?]² into Essex and then returning to Hulbard's [?]³ and sometimes to Sowell's old field, and at the latter place made a small redoubt – first Major Campbell commanded his Regiment then Colonel Taylor and afterwards General Weden [George Weedon] sometimes called General Gourde, that when with the Army he served in General Stevens' [Edward Stevens'] Brigade and Lafayette commanded – that he saw General Muhlenberg & Major DeCloman [Christian Charles de Klouman] and the regulars of the Army under Lafayette and many militia but recollects none in particular – that he was in no battle but the cannonade at York had begun before he was discharged – that he was always a private – that he was born in the upper end of Hanover in 1760 May 4th and sends a family register – that he had no written discharge and has no documentary evidence – that Robert Snead⁴ and John Williams can testify to some part of his services and to the rest he can procure no testimony and that he refers to Parson Bugby and Charles Thompson Junior Esquire for his character and reputation. 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 or Territory –

To the 1st Question he replies may 4th, 1760 on the new found river in Hanover

To the 2nd I send a family register the only record I have

To the 3rd I have always lived in the same neighborhood

to the 4th I was always drafted except the ones under Thompson when I volunteered.

To the 5th answered to the satisfaction of the court

to the 6th I never received a written discharge

To the 7th James M. Bugby and Charles Thompson Junior

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Saunders



[James M. Bugby, a clergyman, and Charles Thompson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Robert Snead a citizen of the said County do hereby Certify that John Saunders who at has sworn to the above declaration was with me in the revolution in the militia from Hanover first at Williamsburg a tour of two months in the winter 1778 or 1779 again as it appears to me at Cabin

¹ Probers,

² Danger in Swamp.

³ Hulbard's.

⁴ [Robert Snead \(Snead\) R9891](#)

Point in 1781 a three months tour, though of this I am not sure, and again as I verily believe in the same year and Gloucester, a three months tour officers recollected –

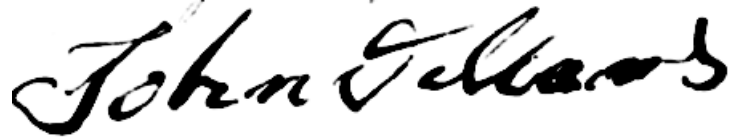
S/ Robt Snead



I John Williams a citizen residing in the County of Hanover hereby certify that I perfectly recollect that John Saunders who has made the foregoing affidavit served in the revolution in the militia of Hanover the tour at Cabin point and that I believe he served till discharged.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Williams



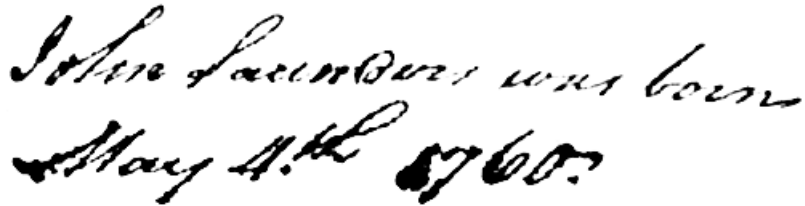
[f p. 4: family register

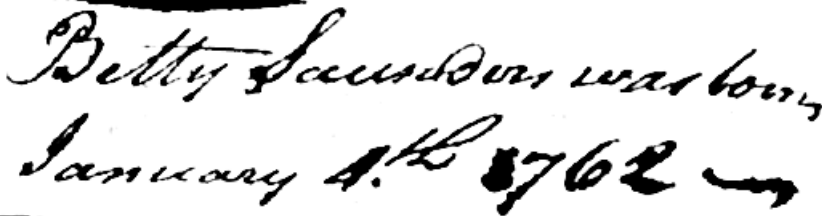
John Saunders was born May 4th 1760

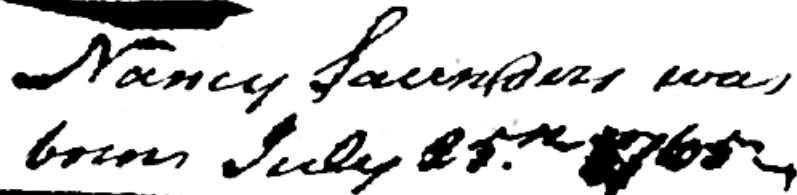
Betty Saunders was born January 4th 1762

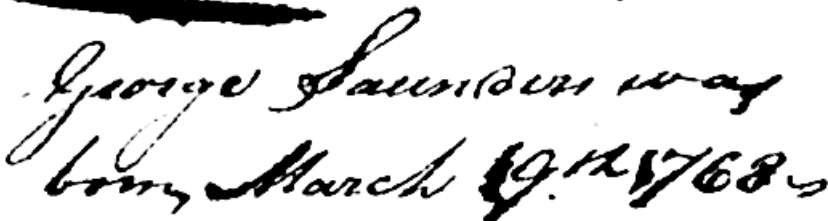
Nancy Saunders was born July 25th 1765

George Saunders was born March 9th 1768 [could be March 19th 1768]









[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the Virginia militia.]