

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Sorrell S6137

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 Dec 2014.

Westmoreland County State of Virginia 16th of April 1818

The Affidavit of Thomas Sorrell aged about Sixty years, who declares upon Oath That he enlisted under a Capt Thomas Downing of Northumberland County about the year 1780 and was marched from thence under a Capt Curl to Williamsburg and delivered up to Capt Thomas Drew [Thomas H. Drew, pension application R13852] and Joined a Regiment under the Command of Colo Charls Porterfield [sic: Charles Porterfield] and was marched from thence to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina. from thence he was marched to near a little Town Called Camden in South Carolina where they met with the Army under the Command of Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis], in the battle generally called Gate's defeat [Gen. Horatio Gates's defeat at the Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] – he then with the rest of the Army according to order, fell back to Hillsborough in North Carolina – at which place the continued untill his Term of Service expired which was for 18 months he was then marched from thence under a Capt Man [probably Mann] to the City of Richmond in Virginia at which place he was discharged and returned to the Northumberland. this was in the Spring of the Year Shortly after this Cornwallace appeared at little York in Virginia he was drafted and served a Three months Tour at that Seige [28 Sep -19 Oct 1781] from which service he was discharged and shortly after returned home This affiant states that when discharged at Richmond, he received his discharge in writing, but from the length of time and believing it would never be of any use to him it was lost or destroyed This affiant states that he is old and infirm, has worked hard to support and raise a family of six children and stands in need of assistance from his Country.

Thomas hisXmark Sorrel

State of Virginia County of Westmoreland.

On the 27th day of April in the year 1818 came before the said Court being a Court of Record. Personally appeared in Open Court Thomas Sorrell aged about sixty years, Resident in the said county who being first sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following statement and declaration, in order to obtain the provisions made by the late Act of Congress entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War That he the said Thomas Sorrel enlisted under a Capt Thomas Downing of Northumberland County in the said State about the year 1780 for eighteen months in the Continental Service and Virginia line and was marched from thence by Capt Curl to Williamsburg and delivered up to Capt Thomas Drew and joined a Regiment commanded by Colo Charls Porterfield The said Regiment march'd thro North Carolina to Camden in South Carolina where they met with the enemy under Cornwallis and was in the Battle of Gate's defeat. And returned with a Capt Man to the City of Richmond and was regularly discharged in writing some time in the spring 1782 [sic] after serving this full term. after his return home he was drafted for three months and was at the seige of York (his discharge has been long since lost or destroyed) That he is now old and in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support.

State of Virginia Westmoreland County

The deposition of Alleck Saunders and William Thomas of lawful age taken this 9th day of August 1819 before me Samuel Templeman one of the Commonwealths Justice of the peace and Judge or presiding Magistrate of the County Court of of Westmoreland (being first sworn) Alleck Saunders deposeth and sayeth That he knew Thomas Sorrell as a Soldier in the Revolutionary War. That in Williamsburg he was in the Company Commanded by Capt Thomas Drew and was attached to a Regiment commanded Colo. Porterfield, and in the said Company and Regiment was marched to the southward, and was in the Battle of Gates's defeat at Camden. Afterwards saw him at Hillsborough where the army retired, and that the said Thomas Sorrell, he is certain he served over nine months, as he

was acquainted with him longer than that time in the Army. And that Colo. Porterfield did Command the said Regiment and was wound at Camden in Gates's defeat & died of his wounds at Camden after being a prisoner some time in Charls Town [sic: see endnote]

William Thomas deposes and says, That he was in the same Company with Thomas Sorrell Commanded by Capt Thomas Drew and that the Regiment was Commanded by Colo by Colo Porterfield and that in the Battle at Camden – Gates's defeat Colo. Porterfield was wounded and died, (after his Release from Charls Town as a prisoner) Whether the said Colo. Porterfield was on Continental establishment or not he does not know, but he certainly knows that he marched the Regiment out of the State of Virginia thro North Carolina and into the State of South of South Carolina

State of Virginia. Westmoreland County

Thomas Sorrell whose declaration and proof of service are herewith filed Came before me Samuel Templeman a Justice of the peace and Judge or presiding Magistrate for the County Aforesaid and made Oath, That instead of enlisting under Capt Thomas Downing in 1780 (as Ignorantly) stated in his former declaration; That the said year there was a Draft for 18 months on Continental establishment to march to the defence of Charls Town [sic: Charleston], That the militia of Northumberland County was laid off in divisions of 16 men, each to find a man or to stand a draft. That he agreed to take the place of the 16 men, or the division to which he belonged and was examined and sworn in by Capt Thomas Downing (who was a Justice of the peace) and with the rest of the drafts and recruits was delivered to a Capt Curl, and marched to Williamsburg and put into a Company Commanded by Capt Thomas Drew and Regiment Commanded by Colo. Porterfield, and marched to the southward and was in the Battle of Gates defeat where Colo. Porterfield was wounded and afterward died. afterward the Company he belonged to was Commanded by Capt Mann and he thinks the Regiment by Colo. Dabney [Charles Dabney R13624] and was discharged in Richm'd. by Capt Mann after serving 18 months or more. Sworn to by me this 6th day Sep'r. 1819.

District of Virginia Westmoreland County

On this [blank] day of [blank] 1820 personally appeared in Open Court being a court of Record agreeably to the Laws of the State of Virginia, Thomas Sorrell aged about Sixty two years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th march 1818 and the 1st May 1820 That he the said Thomas Sorrell enlisted about the year 1780 for eighteen months under a Cap Curl who was a recruiting officer, and by him (with other recruits) was marched to Williamsburg and delivered up to Capt Thomas Drew who commanded a company of Continental Troops of the Virginia line, which company was attached to a regiment – whether of Continental or State Troops he does not perfectly recollect, But always believed (as he enlisted) he was on Continental service and regiment said (as he now thinks) was commanded by Colo. Porterfield with other Troops marched to the southward and was in the Battle of Gen'l. Gate's defeat at Camden here Colo. Porterfield was wounded and afterwards died. and altho' Colo. Porterfield might have commanded a State regiment, yet the company which I then was in after the Battle of Camden was commanded by Cap'n. Mann and that I continued to serve in said company until the expiration of eighteen months when I was discharged in the City of Richmond by the said Capt. Mann – and that he has no other evidence of his services now in his power—

And in pursuance of the act of the 1st May 1820 I do Solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the united States on the 18th day of March one Thousand eight hundred and eighteen, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for Certain persons engaged in the Land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war,” passed on the 18th day of March One Thousand eight hundred and eighteen, and that I have not, nor has any person in Trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me, nor have have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me

subscribed.

Schedule viz't.

no real estate whatever Occupation a Farmer Rents Land and pays \$[this and following values left blank] p'r year. Personal estate viz't. 2 Cows & calves worth \$ 2 yearlings worth \$ Hogs 1 sow worth \$ and ten Small Shoats worth \$ household property supposed to be worth \$ Family- himself aged 62 years infirm painful and but little able to pursue his calling. his wife, about 45 years not able to contribute much to her support 1 Daughter now residing with me 11 years old not able to support herself.

NOTE: Charles Porterfield is said to have died at Camden several days after the battle, or in October 1780, or on 10 Jan 1781 while on his way to Charleston to surrender as a prisoner of war.