

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Saunders S7454

f16VA

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.]

State of Virginia Goochland County: Sct.

On this 11th day of January 1837 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of the said County, now sitting, John Saunders a resident of the County aforesaid and State of Virginia, aged Seventy-three 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 in the winter of the year when he was sixteen years old, he was mustered, and marched as a private in the militia from the said County of Goochland, in a company of which Thomas Hatcher was Captain, Lieutenant not recollected, Joseph Lewis he thinks Ensign to the lower part of Virginia, crossed James River at the Rocky Ridge, at the commencement of the falls near the [indecipherable word] the River, and crossed the River again at Shirley Hundred, marched thence to New Kent Court House thence to Holt's Forge, thence to Sandy Point where they again crossed the River to Cabin Point, where they met with a Regiment of militia under Colonel William Fleming, and there he continued to serve until he was discharged and that in this tour he served at least eight weeks as a private in the militia. That he heard of no enemy, saw no regular troops, or any other militia Regiment and was in no battle. That when Arnold [Benedict Arnold] came to Richmond he was again drafted from the militia of the same County, and marched under Captain Nat. Morris [Nathaniel Morris], who he heard had been a Colonel in the northern Army – reached Richmond while the warehouses at Manchester were still burning [April 30, 1781], though the enemy were gone. Marched thence to New Kent Court House where he saw blood on the staircase and saw a hat split through the crown, and heard there had been some fighting between the enemy and the Americans. Thence to the neighborhood of Williamsburg, thence to Malvern Hills – thence to Farrar's Island [?]¹ and while there the British formed on the opposite side of the River, and fired some cannon at the Army, and a magazine ship was blown up, either by the enemy or by the Americans. I served some time in these places. Then marched up to Richmond and continued to serve at a place called Gilley's Crock [Gilley's Creek?]² and in the neighborhood until he was discharged – And that in this tour he served at least two months as private in the militia. Armistead was a Major whom he saw, though he is not sure he was Major of his Regiment, and Pleasants was Colonel. Saw no regulars and no other

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Farrar's Island,

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Gilley's Crock,

militia Regiment that he recollects. That in the summer of the year of the siege of York he was again drafted and marched in the militia of the same County in a company of which Duke [perhaps Edward Duke] was Captain and Thomas Bates Lieutenant Rollard [?]³ he thinks Ensign to the lower country. Halted at several places and when within two miles of Williamsburg we were overtaken by General Washington and his aides. A few miles below Williamsburg day halted and remained for about three weeks. And were then attached to General Stevens [Edward Stevens] brigade and marched down to Yorktown, where he continued to serve during the Siege – found the Army encamped around the town, and the enemy in the town and in small forts around. He assisted in making a way for the cannon to be drawn up from the water. Afterwards assisted in repairing the forts which were left by the enemy and in building the batteries and entrenchments. He remembers that a party stormed a small Fort, under the command of Colonel Washington, which was afterwards retaken by the enemy, and then again by Colonel Washington. And this he heard from his brother who was one of the party and who is now dead, for 15 or 16 days the firing was so constant that they could not see the sun and could not tell whether it was clear or cloudy. Was present at the surrender [October 19, 1781] and was then discharged and that in this tour he served at least three months as private in the militia. Cannot remember his Colonel or Major or any officer in particular except those already mentioned. Saw many regular troops and recollects the Rhode Island troops in particular. Saw any militia, and the French troops. They were encamped near Williamsburg when he passed. And he could also see the French fleet whenever he went down to the Works. That he can prove some part of his services by Joseph D Watkins⁴ and the rest owing to the lapse of time he is unable to prove. That he has been prevented heretofore from claiming the benefit of a pension by living out of his native County, and not understanding that he could make his claim in any other County, but that now he has returned to his former residence, and having met with his former Conrad is enabled to obtain his testimony. And that he has no documentary evidence. And that he makes reference to the Reverend Matthew Webber and Richard McCall and William Woodson

To question 1st he replies I can't say when I was born, but I am seventy-three years old – on Janet's Creek Goochland County

To Question 2nd – it is in the Parish register in the clerk's office of the County of Goochland as I believe.

To question 3rd I lived in Goochland when called in the service – since then I have [lived] in Louisa County about 40 years & I now live in Goochland –

To Question 4th – I served my own Tour every time

To Question 5th Answered in conformity to the statement in the declaration –

To Question 6th I never did –

To Question 7th Reverend Matthew Webber, William Woodson

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Saunders, X his mark

[Matthew Webber, a clergyman, and William Woodson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Joseph D Watkins hereby certify that I was raised in the neighborhood of John Saunders who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, and have known him intimately since my

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⁴ [Joseph D. Watkins S18266](#)

childhood. That we were both in the service in the Revolution, but being both very young my recollection is not so distinct as I can wish in relation to the events of the War. But I distinctly remember that said Saunders was in the service before the wild goose chase as it was called, for I recollect him well at Farran's Island, and also that said Saunders served at the siege of York where I also served a Tour.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph D. Hutchins". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

I David Saunders⁵ of the County of Logan and State of Kentucky do hereby certify that John Saunders of Goochland County State of Virginia served with me 3 Tours of duty in the Revolutionary War under Captain Hatcher & Nat Morris. Given under my hand this night day of February 1838

S/ David Saunders, X his mark

[f p. 3: Samuel H Saunders a resident of Goochland County gave testimony in support of his father's application stating that he, Samuel, had tried to obtain supporting testimony from his father's comrades in arms but found that Amos Moore was deceased and another veteran was entirely ignorant of the services of John Saunders.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel H. Saunders". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$22 and 89 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 26 days in the Virginia militia.]

⁵ FPA S31348 transcribed and filed in this database 1/12/12