

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of David Saunders W3872 Lockey Saunders VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 Dec 2014.

State of Virginia Bedford County SS

On this 31st day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Bedford in open Court the same being a Court of record, Colonel David Saunders a resident of the said County of Bedford and State of Virginia 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the army of the United States about the commencement of the year 1778 as a substitute for John North who had either enlisted or had been drafted into the service for the term of twelve months in the County of Charlotte and State of Virginia. He was marched under the command of Capt. Morton to Carters ferry [now Cartersville] on James River, at which place Capt. Mayo Carrington took the command of the company and marched it to the valley forge in the State of Pennsylvania and there joined the 4th Virginia regiment in the Continental line in which regiment he served upwards of twelve months under the following named officers Gen'l. LaFayette commanded the division. The Brigade was commanded by Gen'l. Charles Scott. The Regiment to which he was attached at the time he joined it at the valley forge was commanded by Maj Bell [sic: Isaac Beall] and afterwards by Col [John] Nevill. For a time after joining the regiment the company was commanded by Capt. Reddick [sic: Jason Riddick] but afterwards and during the greater portion of the time it was commanded by Capt. John Steed. Immediately after he joined the regiment at the vally forge he was made an orderly sergeant by Maj Bell, in which capacity he acted during his whole tour of service and was discharged as such. he was discharged he thinks about the first of April 1779. At the time the British evacuated Philadelphia in June 1778 [18 Jun 1778], he was marched from the vally forge to the deleware [sic: Delaware] river, where turning sick, he was sent to the general hospital at Trenton. after recovery he served as a sergeant at the Gen'l. hospital for about two months, after which he rejoined the army at the white plains in New York, from thence he was marched to West point, and from thence to middlebrook in New Jersey, where he was honourably discharged. his discharge was signed by Col Nevill but has been lost. during this tour of service he was engaged in no battle, but on the march from West Point to middlebrook, when crossing the river at Kings ferry the army was fired upon by the British ships of war. The said David Saunders further declares that in the year 1780 in the County of Hanover and State of Virginia, where he then resided he was drafted and did serve three months in the Militia of the State of Virginia, in the regiment commanded by Colo. James Enniss [sic: James Innes]. The company to which he was attached was commanded by Capt. John Thompson. he was marched from Hanover Court house to Williamsburg from thence to little York, and from thence back again to Williamsburg, where he was honourably discharged but his discharge has been lost. he entered this service as a sergeant and continued to act as such during his term of service. He further states that in the spring or summer of the year 1781 He was again drafted in the said County of Hanover to serve in the militia of the state and did serve three months in the regiment commanded by Colo. William Dandridge. the Company to which he was attached was commanded by Capt. Isaac Winston. He was marched from Hanover Courthouse to Westham and was near that place when the Cannon foundry there established was blown up by the British [5 Jan 1781]. from westham he was marched through several Counties in the lower part of Virginia and was honourably discharged in the County of Charles City. He was a sergeant at the commencement of the tour of duty and continued to act as such until its termination. he has lost his discharge. During this term of service he was detailed with a number of men under his command to procure some arms which had been sunken in James river a short distance below Westham by the order of Mr. [Gov. Thomas] Jefferson He performed this service and procured out of the river sufficient number of arms for the use of his company. The said David Saunders further declares that he was born in the County of Hanover in the year 1760 That since the revolutionary war he resided in the County of

Amherst until the year 1784 since which time he has resided in the County of Bedford. He is well known to almost every person in his neighbourhood and is extensively known out of it. During the late war [of 1812] for about 7 months he commanded the 7th Regm't of Virginia Militia stationed at Norfolk and he served the County of his residence for more than 40 years as a Justice of the Peace.

These services are not mentioned in constituting any claim to the provision made by the act of Congress but he is aware that the establishment of his claim to its provision must rest so far as it regards his services in the militia mainly upon the credit given to his own declaration by persons to whom he is a stranger. He knows of no person now living who has a personal knowledge of his services and these circumstances are mentioned only with a view of showing that his statements are entitled to confidence. 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.

David Saunders

[Certified by Rev. William Harris and Joseph Wilson.]

NOTE: On 28 Aug 1843 Locky Saunders, 70, applied for a pension stating that she married David Saunders on 4 Sep 1788, and he died 28 Sep 1842. With her application was a copy of the minister's return for the marriage by James Mitchell of David Saunders to Locky Leftwich on the date stated. On 28 May 1844 still at age 70 she appears to have signed her name Lockey Sanders.