

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Saunders (Sanders)¹ W5985

Anna f48VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/13/12

[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 Scott County: SS

On this 13th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court of the County Court of Scott County now sitting Thomas Saunders a resident of the County of Scott and State of Virginia aged 75 years who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of the 7th day of June 1832.

That is to say, he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated that is [to] say, at the battle of Burgoyne [Battle of Saratoga , October 7, 1777] as this Applicant always heard it called, there were taken by the Americans 1000 Hessians and 500 of the red coats, and this Applicant then a citizen of Louisa County Virginia, but he cannot mention the precise year, he was called out by draft on a three months tour to guard the prisoners, and we were put under General Gates in Albemarle County Virginia where the garrison was kept, and the prisoners were kept there in the garrison under our guard during this Applicant's tour there, and the prisoners remained there as this Applicant thinks something like a year before they were taken to red stone [Redstone], and exchanged for our prisoners, this Applicant does not recollect certainly how long he remained there, but prisoners were exceeding scarce [? secure?] ²and he thinks he was relieved by another Regiment coming sometime perhaps before his three months was out, but he got no discharge and returned home sometime after this Applicant returned home, there was another draft, and this Applicant was again drafted as he thinks but of this he is not certain, he may have been a volunteer, he left home in the same County sometime in the summer of the same year as he thinks in a company under Captain Phillips, rendezvoused at one Johnston's in Louisa [County] and from there we marched to James Town through the Chickahominy swamps and guarded about James town for some time but this Applicant does not recollect how long he was out on this second tour nor can he recollect what officers he was under except Phillips nor can he tell whether he got any discharge. This Applicant then being about 18 or 19 years old has forgotten the particular circumstances of this tour. And he thinks that the circumstances of the third tour hereafter mentioned being more important than any other part of his services withdrew his recollection from almost all the other facts and circumstances of his service in the war.

That some short time afterwards he being drafted, entered the service of the United States on his third tour of three months, under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that is to say, about the same year in which Cornwallis was taken [1781], this applicant then a

¹ BLWt39500-160-55

² *scarce*

Citizen of Louisa County commenced his March from Louisa for Richmond Virginia under Colonel Ennis [probably James Innis] and Captain Phillips [perhaps Captain Richard Phillips] and marched on to Richmond where they remained about three weeks before the regular troops came there from the South and then that the militia in which he was were put under Major Migill [perhaps, Charles Magill] and MrClemon [perhaps, [Christian Charles de Klauman] both of home were French officers of the Continental line, that the whole Army then marched under the aforesaid Majors as he recollects from Richmond down to Cabbin point [Cabin Point], and from there down to Portsmouth where the British were landed under Cornwallis the British then took water again and left there for Little York and the American Army then crossed the River over to the side where Big York was, and their 4000 French troops came and joined us, that these 4000 troops were a part of 12,000 French troops that came to Washington's aid, another 4000 of them joined Washington and the remaining 4000 lay in the River to keep the British from making their escape from the Town in their vessels until they were starved out and compelled to give up. Washington's Army lay in the fork of the River the French troops lay in the River and our troops lay on the other side of the River from Washington's near the town, so that Cornwallis could not escape and was taken by Washington. But a few days before Cornwallis was taken [October 19, 1781], Washington sent word over to have all the militia discharged when this applicant as one of them was discharged, as he thinks a few days before Cornwallis gave up, so that on the road home this Applicant heard that he was taken. The British Light Horse tried twice to break through our lines, before this Applicant left there, but they were prevented, this Applicant there got a written discharge signed by Colonel Ennis and Captain Mosby as this Applicant recollects which discharge he lost as he did not know that it would ever do him any good, this Applicant returned home to Louisa County having served his 3 months tour; this Applicant cannot describe the particular time of his entry into the service, nor his discharge from it more particularly than he has done above. This Applicant cannot describe his marches more fully than he has, he does not recollect being under any other officers than above mentioned, this applicant has no documentary evidence by which he can prove any of the facts, he does not [no] anybody now living by whom he can prove them, having lived in Western Virginia about thirty years and been very much confined at home from old age and infirmity. He hereby relinquishes all claim whatsoever to any pension or annuity except the present And declares that his name is not on any pension roll of any agency of any State whatsoever nor has it been.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Saunders³

[John Strong, a clergyman, and John Broadwater gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 12: On June 28, 1844 in Scott County Virginia, Anna Saunders, 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Sanders [sic], a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in 1779 or 80; that her husband died July 3, 1833 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 16: On June 9, 1855 in Scott County Virginia, Anna Saunders, 90, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Thomas Saunders stating that she married him in Washington County Virginia in 1791 or 2; that they were married by a Minister; that her name prior to her

³ I do not believe the signature at the end of this document is the actual signature of the veteran because it is in the identical hand writing but the balance of the document.

marriage was Anna Spitler⁴

[Facts in file: in other documents the date of marriage of the soldier and his wife is given as September 18, 1792; that they were married by Jacob Sink, a Minister of the gospel; that she lived in Maryland prior to her marriage; that the veteran and his wife had children but none of their names are contained in the file documents.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia. Widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

⁴ This name was interpreted in other documentation as being Anna or Nancy Spidler.