Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to Adrien Provaux SC 1905 & Lavacher de St. Marie Audited Account No. 6149

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/24/20

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5] [undated petition]

To his Excellency William Moultrie Governor of the State of South Carolina

We the underwritten A. Provaux and Lavacher de St. Marie, both Captains in the Continental Service, & attached to this State in particular, from the critical situation of our Affairs, hope your Excellency will be pleased to pardon the Liberty we take in addressing your Excellency in this manner, in soliciting your Assistance in representing our case to the Honorable the House of Representatives.

Firstly, we beg leave to inform your Excellency that we have both served in the Continental Line, and under this State in particular, and that from the beginning of the war to the glorious days of peace and we flatter ourselves that during that period which lasted seven or eight years we have acquitted ourselves with that honor, which the nature of the cause and our station required, Both Strangers, we have supported the Frowns of Fortune to this day, equal to those who are now again in peaceful possession of their properties in many circumstances, we have lost through fire & other calamities what did belong to us, Plundered & made prisoners of War, yet all this we endured for the Glory of our Cause, and without the least complaint.

Far from our native country & Family still the only support we could expect was during the Calamities from that Quarter, but even in this our hopes were frustrated for notwithstanding the repeated efforts of our friends in transmitting us the needful at various Times the British deprived us of these means – The present critical Times have prevented us from making good our losses, at the same time besides our subsistence & clothing, we have from decorum been obliged to support the rank of officers, which has naturally involved us in debt, with those who have been pleased to repose their confidence in us, but who are now continually dunning and threatening us, if we do not immediately settle, and with pain we advance that one of us, has already experienced the mortification of a writ being issued out against him for the Trivial sum of £10 Sterling which was out of his power to acquit;

Humbly we beg leave to observe to your Excellency that all the Foreign officers belonging to the Continental line, who have settled their accounts to the northward have received as a recompense of their services and on account of what is due to them, gratifications which the

¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/. The file number has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

Generosity of Congress and the States in particular to which they were attached thought just to allow them, that they might thereby be enabled to return to their several Homes; But this is not the case with us, who have been honored with the service of this State, on the contrary instead of deriving any benefit whatsoever we have been spending considerable parts of our Fortunes.

At the Time we were prisoners and in the greatest distress we were reduced to draw Bills of Exchange on our relations and Friends at the exorbitant loss of 25 & 30 p ct. [%] since the peace not receiving any further assistance from our friends nor any support from this state, we have been forced to the necessity of contracting debts which amount to more than £200 Sterling each and now labor under the loathsome mortification of appearing before a Tribunal. Many other circumstances we could allege the effects of which may be attended with very disagreeable consequences to us, were we not under the apprehension of intruding on your Excellency's goodness, we shall therefore finish this humble request in most respectful soliciting your Excellency's Protection, in representing and supporting our cause by a particular message to the Honorable House of Representatives, now sitting in this City, that it may be so ordained by that respectable body, that in consideration of our Misfortunes & services more particularly so as strangers, or Sufficiency may be allowed us to extricate ourselves from our present difficulties and put it in our power by paying our debts, to evade the grievance, persecution of creditors & enable us once more to return to our family & friends to regulate and settle our affairs, which from so long and absence have considerably suffered. We have the honor to subscribe ourselves with the utmost respect.

Your Excellency's

most Obedient & humble Servants

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