Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Adam Sonday W26495 Mary E. Sonday PA Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Pennsylvania } Centre County Ss }

On this twenty seventh day of August Eighteen hundred and thirty-two personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Centre in the State of Pennsylvania Adam Sonday, a resident of Gregg township in the said County of Centre & State of Pennsylvania aforesaid aged above sixty-eight 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832:

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the month of August in the year Seventeen hundred & eighty-one, with Captain Jacob Bower [pension application W3212] and served in the 2nd Regiment, Pennsylvania line under the following named Officers Viz Brigadier General Anthony Wayne, Col [Thomas] Craig, Majors [James] Hamilton & Edwards [Evan Edwards W10943], Captain Jacob Bower, & First Lieutenant Mackey. The deponent was enlisted by recruiting Serjeant Michael Einigh and John Goodman – he was then a resident of Pettle township in the County of Berks and State aforesaid, and was enlisted in said township, about fifteen miles from the Town of Reading. He was enlisted to serve for the term of Eighteen months. In a few days after his enlistment he was marched to the town of Reading and joined the Company commanded by Captain Jacob Bower – from thence he, with others, was marched to Philadelphia, and soon after arriving there took passage on board a vessel and was landed at Christine Bridge [probably a bridge over Christiana River in DE] – from thence marched over land to Elkton in Maryland – and from thence by water and landed near to Yorktown in Virginia. One or two other Companies of Regular troops left Philadelphia for the same destination at the same time. Deponent recollects one of these Companies was commanded by a Captain Christy [Christie]. After landing near Yorktown, Captain Bower's company, of which the deponent was a member, was united with the 2nd Regiment of the Pennsylvania line aforesaid, Commanded by Col. [Thomas] Craig & Majors Hamilton & Edwards. The first company of said regiment was commanded by a Captain Henderson or Anderson. The 2nd Company by Capt Jacob Bower aforesaid. The third company by Captain [William] Lusk. The fourth company by Capt Zeeland. The fifth company, the Captains name he does not recollect, but he remembers the name of two other Captains belonging to the Regiment, viz Baker & Sudsberry. The 2nd Regiment with others was under the command of Brigadier General Wayne. After landing near Yorktown aforesaid, the deponent was immediately engaged in active service, in aiding as a soldier to beseige Yorktown then in possession of the British troops under Lord Cornwallis – and he continued actively engaged in the performance of all the duties belonging to a soldier until the surrender of the whole British troops engaged in the defence of Yorktown aforesaid. The surrender took place on the 19th day of October 1781. Soon after the surrender aforesaid a portion of the army was detailed for service in the South, commanded in Chief by General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] – but the Regiment to which this deponent belonged, with others, was under the command of Brigadier General Wayne. The army (or the detachment aforesaid) marched from Yorktown, thence to Williamsburg, thence to Richmond, thence to Petersburg, thence through North Carolina to Camden in South Carolina, thence to Jacksonbury [Jacksonboro], thence to a place about 10 or 12 miles above Charleston, called Ashley hill River [sic: Ashley Hill on Ashley River, 7 mi S of historic Dorchester, beginning 7 Jul 1782], as the deponent believes, where the army encamped and remained about 12 months. About two months after the encampment [sic], the Brigade under General Wayne was ordered to the neighborhood of Savannah [arriving by Jan 1782] to disperse some irregular forces, consisting of British, Indians and Tories. The Regiment and Company to which the deponent belonged were among those despatched on that particular duty, and the deponent marched with his Company. After having performed the service required, the Brigade returned to the encampment aforesaid,

where this deponent remained until near the expiration of the term of his enlistment, or perhaps until the full time had expired. After orders had been received to march the Pennsylvania line home, or after it had been determined to break up the encampment, the troops were drawn up in Rank, and as many of them unaccustomed to a Southern climate had been sick, and remained debilitated from fevers and agues, the Physician belonging to the Regiment (whose name the deponent does not recollect) passed along the front of the line and selected such of the soldiers of each company as he thought unfit from sickness and debility to endure the fatigues of marching – and among others this deponent and Captain Lusk had to remain, and did remain for two or three months until able to direct their steps homewards. The deponent after his return home to Berks County aforesaid, after a service, including the time he remained sick, of about 21 months, called on Capt Bower, who resided in the Town of Reading aforesaid, and received his discharge from the service. The paper purporting to be his discharge as aforesaid the deponent took in person to the City of Philadelphia, as he was directed by Captain Bower, and called on an Officer in the service of the United States, whose name and rank he cannot recollect, but who on presentation of the discharge signed by Captain Bower, gave the deponent a certificate for the arrearages of pay due him for his services aforesaid. This Certificate the deponent sold at a great discount. The paper purporting to be his discharge the deponent verily believes he left in the possession of the Officer who gave him his Certificate for arrearages of pay. The deponent should have before stated that Col. Craig, before the detachment marched South from Yorktown, returned home, and the Regiment on the march, and afterwards, was under the command of Majors Hamilton & Edwards. The deponent further recollects that Col. [Walter] Stewart commanded the first Regiment, and marched to the South in command of the same. Colonel Minches (or Minges) [sic: Francis Mentges] commanded the third Regiment. These Regiments were also of the Pennsylvania line. General [Arthur] St. Clair the deponent recollects as one of the Regular Officers who marched with the detachment to the South. General LaFayette the deponent also well recollects – as also Count De Grasse the French Admiral – also Col. [Daniel] Morgan in command of a Regiment of Riflemen. He also remembers a Captain Ricketts [or Picketts] a regular Officer He thinks it unnecessary to state that he remembers, and shall while he lives the immortal General George Washington. This Deponent says he has no documentary evidence to prove the facts set forth herein before, except the deposition attached to this declaration, of Godfrey Settlemier [Godfrey Settlemyer S46343], taken on the 17th day of March 1829 before the Honorable Jacob Kryder. It may be proper to state that the said Godfrey Settlemier was enlisted in the Company of Captain Jacob Bower, but after arriving at Yorktown he was transfered to Capt Zeeland's Company. This fact the deponent states in explanation of Settlemier's testimony, as on the rolls of the regular troops existing in the War Department, Settlemier's name, it is probable, will be found annexed to Captain Zealands company. The deponent knows no other person whose evidence he can at this late day procure who can testify to his service. He does not know that Godfrey Settlemier is now living, or if alive where he at present resides. He will name, for the information of the proper Officer, a number of his fellow soldiers, belonging or who did belong to Captain Bower's Company, viz – David Billman [probably Dewalt Bilman S39993], John McNaughly, John Shorb, George Morgan [W1635], John Kroner, George Herring, Jacob Hetrick, Cornelius Hoffman [S39709], Adam Koch [S4484] — Cooley, — Eighorn, — Brandt, — Peacock, and he might name a number of others. The name of the orderly Serjeant was — Dorson.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State, except on the Pension list of the State of Pennsylvania, he being allowed by the Legislature of his native State forty dollars per year for his services as a soldier during the revolutionary war. He never before applied for a pension under any act of Congress.

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To whom this may come State of Pennsylvania Centre County Ss.

Personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common pleas in and for said County Godfrey Settlemier of the County of Cambria in said State, and on his Solemn Oath according to Law doth depose and say that a Certain Adam Sonday of the Township of Gregg in the said Count of Centre enlisted along with this deponant in the United States Army at about the Month of August in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one, that they both enlisted in the Company of Captain Jacob Bower in the Second Regiment under General Anthony Wayn and that the said Sonday served out the full term for which he was enlisted

Sworn and Subscribed before me the 17th day of March 1829 Godfrey hisXmark Settlemier

NOTE: On 23 Jan 1856 Mary Elizabeth Sonday, 82, applied for a pension and bounty land stating that as Mary E. Minick she married Adam Sonday in Berks County PA about 1 Dec 1789, and he died on 24 April 1855 at age 90.