

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Louis DeSaussure BLWt1585-200

fn23SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/1/10

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State of South Carolina Richland District

Personally appeared before me Henry W. DeSaussure, who being duly sworn, saith that the late Louis DeSaussure a native of Beaufort District was a younger brother of his father, the late Daniel De Saussure, and entered the Army of the United States, as a Lieutenant in the Third Regiment of Infantry, originally called Rangers & commanded at first by Colonel William Thompson [sic, William Thomson] & afterwards by Colonel James Mayson --

This Deponent does not recollect or know the year in which his uncle entered the Army; but he believes it was sometime in the year 1777. He is known to have been in active service early in 1778. This deponent further states, that his said uncle Louis DeSaussure, was with his Regiment when General Lincoln, together with the French troops, under the command of the count d'Estaing, made an assault on the lines of Savannah then in the possession of the British Troops on the 9th day of October 1779; and they were repulsed with great slaughter. Lieutenant Louis DeSaussure led a company of his Regiment to the attack on that disastrous day & was wounded. He & the other wounded officers were immediately put on board a transport ship, & sent round to Charleston; But he died on the passage of tetanus or lockjaw [sic, lockjaw] produced by the wound. His body was brought to Charleston, & was buried with military honors, in the sedentary of St. Michael's Church; and a marble slab was erected to his memory, & placed against the inner South wall of the Church, where it still remains.

This deponent further saith that at the time of the death of his said uncle Louis DeSaussure, he was unmarried, & left no children -- nor did he leave any will, and the late Daniel DeSaussure was his Elder brother & Heir, & has been dead many years. This deponent is the only son of the said Daniel DeSaussure & was constituted by him the heir at law of the said Louis DeSaussure.

This deponent has heard, & he believes from some of the officers of the Regiment who were Intimate with his uncle, Louis DeSaussure, that at the time he was slain by the Enemy, he was entitled to promotion, as a Captain in the Regiment, but that he had not then received his Commission as Captain. But this Deponent has no knowledge of the fact himself; and cannot say whether the report was correct; though it is probable from his having been in the service for several years, before he was killed.

Sworn to before me 8th August 1829

S/ James J. Guiguard, Ordinary

S/ Henry W. DeSaussure

Sacred
to the Memory
of
Louis DeSaussure
He was a Native of Beaufort District
and an officer in the 3rd Regiment
of the South Carolina Line of troops
raised for Continental Service
during the War of the Revolution.
Whilst leading on his soldiers
to the assault
made by General Lincoln
on the British Lines at Savannah
on the 9th day of October 1779
he received a Wound
from a Musket Shot
of which he died in a few days
aged 34 years.
His body was brought home
to his Afflicted Friends
and interred in the Cemetery
of this church

I hereby certify that the above is a correct transcript of the inscription on a marble Tablet in St. Michael's Church in Charleston South Carolina and that the said Tablet has been erected for many years.
S/ Wm Simmons, Church Warden

I do hereby certify that the tablet placed on the South wall of St. Michael's Church, and alluded to in the foregoing page has been to my knowledge, erected for upwards of thirty years -- and that the copy given of the inscription is a perfectly correct one.

S/ Alex^r. Garden

Charleston August 21st 1828

This is to certify -- that the Honorable Chancellor William H. DeSaussure is a member of the State Society of the Continentals of South Carolina and that he was elected on the 4th day of July 1807 on failure of lineal descendents, as the eldest Collateral Branch of Louis DeSaussure, who died of his wounds received at the storming of the British Redoubts but for Savannah.

S/ Alexander Garden

President of the State society of South Carolina

J. B. R. Finley, Secretary

Echaw Grove, 22 May 1829

Dear Sir.

Your inquiries relative to your Uncle Lieutenant Lewis [Louis] DeSaussure sooner, but have been Examining Ramsey, Moultrie and my Orderly books, to see if I could find anything mentioned, which would fix the time of his entering the service, or the Regiment he belonged to. -- I knew Lieutenant Louis DeSaussure very well in the Army of the Revolution, while it lay at

Purisburg [sic, Purrysburg], under the Command of General Lincoln in the year 1779. -- the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th (the Regiment I belonged to) & 6th were there. -- I was stationed with Major Huger (of the 5th) at Fort Johnson, till about 3rd January 1779, when I was ordered to Purrysburg, and became acquainted with L. DeSaussure; and am pretty certain he belonged to the 3rd Regiment. Further, he was in the Siege of Savannah, & in the Storming of the Lines on the 9th of October 1779. I was twice wounded, left on the field of Battle, taken Prisoner & never saw him afterwards. -- I saw a return of the Killed and wounded on that day, while I was a Prisoner in some I., & recollect very well his Name was among the wounded. -- I was sent to Charleston in October 1780, then in the possession of the Enemy, where I was told by many of our acquaintances Surgeons & others, that although his wound appeared to be a slight one, it was a mortal one & caused his death, on board the Hospital Ship, on its passage to Charleston, immediately after the Storm. I understood a Musket ball, had just taken the skin of his head, without appearing to have injured the Bone. -- I recollect the circumstance of his Wound & Death was often spoken of, when I got among my old Comrades. -- I hope to be at Columbia about the first July, on my way to Pendleton and we'll if I see you, give you any further information, I may collect from my Orderly Books, as I have not finished overlooking them.

with great regard
& friendship, Dear Sir,
yours,
S/ Sam; Warren.¹

P. S. -- I have found the following (extract) of General Orders Charleston 21 July 1778 -- which I think fully proves I was correct about the Regiment DeSaussure belonged to --
"John Butler also of the 3rd Regiment, for desertion is sentenced to receive 100 lashes but considering the good Character given him by Lt. DeSaussure the court thinks him an object of mercy, & recommends him as such."

South Carolina Richland District: Personally appeared before me Colonel Samuel Warren, and made oath that the statements in the above letter are just and true to the best of his recollection & belief.

Sworn before me 17th of August 1829
S/ Wm A. Brickell, QU

S/ Sam: Warren.
Captain in the Continental Army
during the revolution in the 5th So Ca Regt.

¹ FPA BLWt1859-300