John Ferris

SAR #189969

CASSAR, Orange County

**Henry Sanders**

Henry Sanders was born on the 26th of October 1751, in Perquimans County, North Carolina to parents Joseph and Mary. Henry's family had been Quakers until the time of the Revolutionary War. As Quakers did not believe in fighting, they became Baptists so strong was their belief in the colonies right to independence.

He joined the fight for Independence in 1775 or 1776, volunteering for the Militia in Fairfield County, South Carolina. Henry served at various times as a private under Captains Lewis, Samuel Boykin, and Thomas Starks. He also served under Colonel Taylor with the South Carolina troops.  His service included about two years as a commissary to said South Carolina troops.

He was captured at the Battle of Rocky Mount (*The Battle of Rocky Mount took place on August 1, 1780. Loyalists commanded by Lieutenant Colonel George Turnbull occupying an outpost in northern South Carolina withstood an attack by 600 American Patriots led by Colonel Thomas Sumter*,) while out hunting for supplies. The Tories gave him a choice between allegiance to the King and being shot.  Choosing the latter, Henry was confined in prison. Fortunately, he and a comrade escaped a few days later, while the sentinel slept at night.

He saw General Lincoln at Charlestown. At the Battle of Yorktown, he served under Captains Lewis, Samuel Boykin, Thomas Starke, and Col. Taylor.  His service ended at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781.

On October 18, 1779, while still serving in the Revolution, Henry married Dica Blake, daughter of John Blake and Mourning Dove. Mourning Dove was reputed to be a full blooded Cherokee Indian.

After the War, he traveled to Anson Co, North Carolina where he resided about three years.  He then moved to Cheshire, NC for one year and then to Grange Co, East Tennessee.  From there, he moved to Knox Co. Kentucky and then to Indiana as a result of a land grant for service to his country.

While in Indiana he lived in Orange, Bartholomew, and Monroe Counties.  He was in Monroe County at the time of his application for pension in 1832.  He drew a pension for two years.

Henry was a Baptist minister for about 40 years. He joined the Vernal Baptist Church in 18 Jan 1826.

Henry Sanders died on February 13, 1834.   Henry and Dica had 9 children. Nearly two generations of their children and descendants are buried in Vernal-Mayfield Cemetery, Monroe County, Indiana. (The Vernal Baptist Church is six miles west of Bloomington, IN.)