

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to James Davis VAS3286  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) filed with papers pertaining to a different James Davis (VAS3285).]

Thursday August 15 1776.

James Davis personally appeared before this Board and agreed for the sum of six pounds pr Ton to Build a Row Galley of the following dimention, to wit. eighty one feet keel, twenty feet Beam & seventeen feet moul'd Hold, which said galley is to be finished by the 25th of December next.

From page 38.

Friday 6th December 1776.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to James Davis for two hundred pounds upon account to purchase necessaries for building of a Galley.

From page 131.

Tuesday 29th July 1777.

Ordered that Mess'rs Roane & Frazer deliver unto James Davis on order one thousand pounds of Iron for the use of the Gloucester Galley.

Wednesday the 25th day of February 1778.

Ordered that the Keeper of the Public Store deliver to Richard Hobday Davis for the use of James Davis Carpenter at the South Quay Ship-Yard six yards of Linen, three pair of stockings and a Comb, upon his paying for the same.

From page 358.

Friday the 15th of January 1779.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Mr. James Davis for one hundred and fifty pounds on Acct. for work done for the Navy of this Commonwealth.

From page 531.

The foregoing extracts are from the Navy Journal. there are many more entries in the name of James Davis in that Book.

Jas E Heath Aud./ Aud Off. June 23 1834.

Thursday the 8th day of April 1779.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Mr. Richard Davis for the use of James Davis for one hundred pounds on account, towards Building & fitting the Ship Washington.

From page 14.

Extracted from the Journal of the Navy Board bound in parchment.

Jas E Heath APA

Aud Off 23 June 1834

I John Christian [S15276] of the County of Mathews & state of Virginia do hereby certify & declare that I was well acquainted with James Davis, formerly of the part of Gloucester County called Kingston parish now constituting Mathews County The said James Davis was Called on by the offisers of the navy board in 1776 or 1777 as well as I can recollect to build the ship Galley in the state line on pepercreek [Pepper Creek] as a master carpenter, now Mathews then ordered Cumben [to Cumberland] to the navy yard as a master Carpenter of the said yard and from thence ordered to south kee [South Quay] to work and to repare until the end of the war This was dun under the order of the offisers of the navy board as well as I can recollect as witness my hand & seal this twenty ninth day of April AD one thousand eight hundred and thirty four



Petition for bounty land.

James Davis – Artificer – S. L.

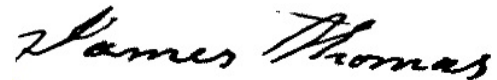
The aff't of John Christian, which has been filed in support of this claim, relates exclusively, to the claim of James Davis a Contractor with the navy Board, and Master Carpenter at the shipyards &c, and who was not, under the Laws of the Commonwealth entitled to Bounty land, for such services as were rendered by him.

The auditors certificate, which is filed with the petition, relates to James Davis [VAS3285] an artificer of artillery. Of this last mentioned Individuals term of enlistment & service, there is no proof. He was certainly in the army, but for how long a time, I cannot say.

To his Excellency Gov'r Tazewell

Resp'y submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &c  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 1834

I James Thomas [S11548] of the County of Mathews and State of Virginia do hereby certify and declare, that I was well acquainted with James Davis, formerly of that part of Gloucester County called Kingston Parish, now constituting Mathews County, that the said Jas Davis of the Virginia State line was called on by the Navy Board Commissioners to build a Galley in 1776 or 1777 on Pepper Creek, that he was afterwards ordered to Cumberland to the navy yard as Artificer Ast. [artificer assistant? or possibly "Artificer Art.: artificer of artillery] Thence to South Key to work and repair until the end of the Revolutionary War. Given under my hand and seal this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord 1834.



[The online image of the following is poor.]

I Isaac Smith [S11427] aged 76 of the County of Mathews & State of Virginia do hereby Certify and declare that I was well acquainted with James Davis formerly of that part of Gloucester County called Kingston parish now constituting Mathews County that the said James Davis enlisted in the state navy as master Carpenter in the year 1776 or begining of 1777 and continued on board the schooner [schooner] Hornet a considerable time that he was afterwards ordered by the Commissioners of the navy Thomas Whiting and others to superintend the building of a galley on Pepper Creek he was also to have the [several undeciphered lines] I do further Certify that the said James Davis was considered a [several undeciphered words] as such by the navy Commissioners was the cause as I believe of his transfer from ship [several undeciphered words] and superintend the building &c of vessels for the state service

As Witness my hand and seal this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 1837 [signed] Isaac Smith

To his Excellency David Campbell Governor of Virginia [27 Nov 1837]

Your petitioners William Davis, Samuel Davis and Humphrey Davis [undeciphered word] are heirs of James Davis deceased late a Carpenter in the navy of Virginia in the War of the Revolution.

Respectfully represents to your Excellency that they have heretofore presented their petition for the Bounty Land to which their ancestor the said James Davis was believed to be entitled, for and on account of his Services in said War, and the evidence accompanying the said petition having left it some what doubtfull whether the said Davis was a Carpenter regularly Enlisted as such into the Service of the state or was an Artificer employd at one or more of the Ship Yards of the State in pursuance of Contracts but not under Enlistment for a term of three years or more.

The said petition was rejected

Your petitioners now offer to your Excellency additional evidence, which proves the enlistment and servises of the said James Davis in the navy of Virginia to [undeciphered word] the affidavit of Isaac Smith who is believed to be a man of truth and petitioners ask a reconsideration of the said Claim, and that it may be allowed.

And your petitioners will ever pray &c &c

Samuel Davis one of the Heirs of James Davis late a ship carpenter in the navy of Virginia

1838 Mar 31/ This claim is rejected DC [Gov. David Campbell]