

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Bounty Land Claim for John Davis BLWt561-300

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The file contains only the typed letter copied below. F. B. Heitman's *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution* has the following entry:

Davis, John (Pa). 1st Lieutenant 1st Battalion of Miles' Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment, 6th April 1776; Captain 9th Pennsylvania, 15th November, 1776; transferred to 1st Pennsylvania 17th January, 1781; retired 1st June, 1783. (Died 10th July, 1827.)

This is apparently the same Capt. John Davis whose diary was published as "Diary of Capt. John Davis, of the Pennsylvania Line" in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (July 1893), pp 1-16. It outlines Davis's march to the siege of Yorktown (28 Sep -19 Oct 1781) and then into South Carolina. It may be viewed on Google Books or JSTOR.

The following other four diaries by Pennsylvania officers cover the same period:

John Bell Tilden. "Extracts From the Journal of Lieutenant John Bell Tilden, Second Pennsylvania Line, 1781-1782." *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol 19, No. 1 (1895), pp. 51-63 and Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 208-233, available through JSTOR at <https://archive.org/details/jstor-20083629> and <https://archive.org/details/jstor-20083645> and also on Google Books.

Walter Finney (Joseph Lee Boyle, Ed). "The Revolutionary War Diaries of Captain Walter Finney." *The South Carolina Historical Magazine*, Vol. 98, No. 2 (Apr. 1997), pp. 126-152. A copy can be downloaded from JSTOR at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27570228>.

William Feltman. "The Journal of Lieut. William Feltman, of the First Pennsylvania Regiment, from May 26, 1781 to April 25, 1782, embracing the Siege of Yorktown and the Southern Campaign." *Historical Society of Pennsylvania* (1853). Free download at <https://archive.org/details/journaloflieutwi00felt>

William McDowell. "Journal of Lieut. William McDowell, of the First Penn'a Regiment, In the Southern Campaign. 1781-1782" in William Henry Egle, ed. *Journals and Diaries of the War of the Revolution with Lists of Officers and Soldiers, 1775-1783*. Harrisburg PA (1893), pp. 297-340. (Available on ancestry.com at https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/33205/flhcan1900_105675__0004-00168?backurl=&ssrc=&backlabel=Return#?imageId=flhcan1900_105675__0004-00168]

[A handwritten note in the margin states that the first part of this letter is in the file of John Marshall S41797, but I did not find it there.]

From the records of this Bureau, it appears that Warrant No. 561 for 300 acres of bounty land was issued August 19, 1789, on account of the services of Captain John Davis of the Pennsylvania Line, War of the Revolution.

There is no further information on file as to his services, and no data on file as to his family, owing to the destruction of papers in such claims, when the War Office was burned in 1814.

Very truly yours,

1 enclosure /letter returned

WINFIELD SCOTT, Commissiner