

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Davison R2694 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Indiana } Ss

Franklin County } On this 11th day of October A.D. 1836 personally appeared before the Judges of the Franklin Circuit Court in open Court Samuel Davison a resident of Ray township in the County of Franklin and State of Indiana aged seventy four 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 provisions of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the servise of the United States under the following named officers and served as herin stated, that is to say under General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and Captain Moon [Jacob Moon pension applications W4691 and VAS722] (which are all the officers whose names are remembered by this applicant) on the [blank] day of [blank] 1781 about two months befor the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] (the precise time not remembered in consequence of age) that he remind in the service just six months from the time he entered the service and this applicant received his discharge from his Lieut. whose name this applicant has forgotten, and has long since lost his discharge, that at the time he entered the service he resided in the County of Bedford Virginia near Lynchburgh [sic: Lynchburg], he was a substitute for his father James Davison, he was in the battle of Guilford in which battle Capt. Moon was mortally wounded having received a ball on the left side which he caught in his hand as it passed through his right side, exclaiming to one Michael Gilbert, his brother in law, that he had received a mortal wound he died the evening following. This applicant marched from Bedford County Virginia to where the main army was, near Hillsborough North Carolina, from thence to Guilford That after the battel of Guilford, this affiant remained near a place called Ramsowers Mills [see endnote], within a fiew miles of the said battle ground for, as well as he can recollect, six weeks, with the wounded soldiers of said battle of Guilford. That he afterwards marched with the detachment with which he was left, to said Mills, and overtook the main Army under General Green, in the borders of South carolina, where he remained with the Army until his discharge; but the precise time of his discharge, this affiant does not recollect, nor does he remember at what particular County, or place the Army was stationed at the time of his discharge, owing to his being then a stranger in that country, as well as to his present advanced age. And this affiant further saith, that he knows of no person living by whom he can prove his said services and that he has no documentary evidence thereof

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not the pension roll of the agency of any state Samuel Davison
Interrogatories.

1st Where and in what year ware you born? Ans I was born in Pennsylvania 4 mile from Tuwny[?] Town.

2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it? Ans I have none.

3rd Where ware you living when called into the service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? Ans. In Virginia Bedford County near Lynchburgh, when I entered the service, I next lived in E. Tennessee next in W. Tennessee, from thence I moved to Franklin County Indiana where I now live.

How ware you called into the service; ware you drafted, did you volunteer, or ware you a substitute? And if a substitute, for whom? Ans. I entered the service as a substitute for James Davison

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who ware with the troops, where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can rcollect, and the general circomstances of your service.

Ans I can state the names of none but Gen. Green, and Capt. Moon, I recollect none of the continetal or militia regiments. I recollect the circumstance of Capt. Moon's being killed at the battle of Guilford as stated in my declaration

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? Ans. I received a discharge from my Lieut. whose name I have forgotten, which has long since been lost

NOTES:

Ramsour's Mills near present Lincolnton were in fact almost 100 miles from Guilford Courthouse. Davison may have meant Ramsey's Mill, to which place Greene's army pursued Cornwallis after the battle, but that was some 60 miles distant. Greene left Ramsey's Mill for South Carolina on 7 April 1781.

A letter to J. Ryman from the War Department Pension Office dated 2 Dec 1836 states that Davison's claim was rejected for the following reason: "He alleges to have entered the service in Virginia about two months before the battle of Guilford and to have served six months. The militia of Virginia did not perform continuous service for so long a period. It cannot there be recognized that he served as long as alleged. The act of 7 June 1832 provides for none who did not serve six months." Numerous successful pension applications state that Virginia militia tours sometimes lasted six months. Most pension applications by soldiers in Moon's company from Bedford, however, state that the tour that included the Battle at Guilford Courthouse was for only three months. Three months – January to April – is also about the length of time inferred from Davison's statement.