

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Joshua Davis R2741  
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn27NC  
rev'd 2/21/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 1843 personally appeared before me William Smith an acting Justice of the peace in and for Claiborne County and State of Tennessee Joshua Davis a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Eighty one 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 act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. He first was drafted a private in Rowan County N. C. some time about the first of March in the year 1780 under Captain Richmond Pearson his Colonel was Locke [Francis Locke] and his General Griffey Rutherford [sic, Griffith Rutherford]. He was marched to South Carolina and Joined the troops under General Gates [Horatio Gates] and was at the Battle at Camden where Gates was defeated on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1780 – General Gates left his situation on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> of August in order to surprise the British under Earl Cornwallis but the advance guard of the American Army met the advance guard of the British who were came out from Camden and the guards commenced firing at each other in the night the Main Armies rested on their arms until morning when the Main Battle was fought and Gates was defeated General Rutherford was taken prisoner but was afterwards exchanged and resumed his Command. After the Battle, the American Army got leave to bury their dead and he was one of the soldiers who was sent to bury them and he helped to put as many as eleven men in one grave together.

Some time after this and he thinks in the month of September the time he was drafted for expired he was discharged by his Captain (Pearson) having served upwards of six months.

He returned home and after some time he Volunteered a private under Captain Jesse Nighting Col. Locke and General Rutherford again in command to go against the Tories who had risen in great numbers down about Wilmington and was marched there. But before the troops not there the Tories dispersed and there was not one to be found and he having taken the small pox was discharged on account of his inability to do duty as a Soldier. After he had returned home having been in service five months he again went into service as a private under Captain Joseph Sharp and was with a small detachment of troops and in hearing of the Guns at the Battle of Kings Mountain.

His discharges for all his services as a Soldier would show he was in actual service in the Revolution in all twenty one months but he unfortunately got his house burnt and all his discharges with the record of his age &c was destroyed by the fire.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State. That he now has not any documentary evidence and knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his service.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year first above written before me

S/ W. Smith  
Justice of the peace for Claiborne County

Joshua Davis, X his mark

Questions propounded by the Justice

Q: When and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Baltimore County Maryland in the year 1762

Q: Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Ans: I had a record of my age but it was earned with my house many years ago

Q: Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: When called into service I lived in Rowan County NC. I since lived in Iredell County N. C. then in Hawkins County Tennessee and now in Claiborne County Tennessee

Q: How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Ans: I was first drafted and then volunteered

Q: State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

[blank in original]

Q: id you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Ans: I did receive discharges they were given by my Captain's and was burned in my house many years ago

Q State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans: Hugh Graham, Esq., Colonel Jacob Shultz, Colonel William Houston, Gray Garrett, Michael Pearson, George Barnard and George Shultz, Esq.

[Jacob Shultz and John Davault gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Grainger County: Personally appeared before me Henry Williams an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Joseph Ellis<sup>1</sup> resident in Grainger County aged eighty-one years & a Revolutionary Pensioner and makes oath in due form of law that he is acquainted with Joshua Davis of Claiborne County Tennessee who has filed a declaration for a pension. That said Davis in time of the Revolutionary War lived in Rowan County North Carolina & was in the Army of the Revolution two or three tours one I think 1776 against the Scotch Tories at Cross Creek but cannot tell how long he served that time, he was again in service in the year 1780 for six months was at Gates defeat, his officers was General Rutherford, Col. Locke and Capt. Richmond Pearson and that he served out his time and was honorably discharged sometime in September after Gates defeat.

Sworn and subscribed this 23rd day of September A.D. 1843 Before me

S/ Henry Williams, JP

S/ Joseph Ellis, X his mark

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<sup>1</sup> The only pensioner of the US who I found by this name who claimed service in the Southern Campaign is [Joseph Ellis R3311](#), but none of the service he describes would put this Joseph Ellis in position to verify the services claimed by Joshua Davis.