

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Davis R2755                      Rachel Davis                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Georgia }  
Early County     }

Early Superior Court/ September Term 1853.

Present His Honor William C Perkins Judge of said court.

Be it known that on this 6th day of October AD 1853 personally appeared in open court Rachael Davis a resident of the county of Randolph and said State aged Seventy one years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed in the year 1848. That she is the widow of Thomas Davis who was a private soldier in a Company in the Revolutionary War of 1776. She does not recollect the name of the Captain or any of the officers Thomas Davis, William Davis & Tolivar Davis three brothers entered the same company at the same time from the same County, To Wit, Hanover County State of Virginia, they were all gone & in the service the same length of time & were all discharged at the same time at, or about the close of the war. She does not know how long they remained in service. William Davis & Tolivar Davis [Tolaver Davis, pension application S37879] her husbands two brothers who were in the same service with her husband both of them drew pensions from the United States for their services in said war; Tolivar Davis was living in the County of Monroe Georgia, at the time; William Davis was living in the County of Baldwin Georgia, they are both dead long since She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Davis on the twenty sixth day of July 1798; that she had ten children by her husband, and that her husband the above said Thomas Davis died on the twenty eighth day of February 1842, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof herunto annexed. She further declares that her & her husband were married in Edgefield District South Carolina, that there is no public or private record of their marriage, She has no record of it herself, & there is no public record kept of marriages in said state of South Carolina as she is informed & believes                      Rachael [her mark] Davis  
[Certified by Esau Davis, age 56.]

State of Georgia }            [26 July 1856]  
County of Bibb    }            Before me William Bone.

a Justice of the Peace in & for said county personally came Jane White, now of the county of Monroe – formerly of Jones, & recently of Bibb county, in the said state of Georgia, who being duly sworn according to law says on oath that to the best of her knowledge & belief, she is now between seventy four & seventy six years of age, that she has always heard from her parents and other persons that she, deponent, was born at the time peace was made with great Britian in the War of the Revolution [Treaty of Paris ratified 3 Sep 1783], & she has never doubted its correctness. She says she is the sister of William Davis, Tolover Davis & Thomas Davis, who were the children of Tolover Davis & Elizabeth his wife, lawfully begotten, (as she has every reason to believe) That besides this deponent & the above named persons – children of said parents – there were two other children – Jack & David – and all whom, parents & children are dead, leaving this deponent she only one them surviving. That all of said children were born in Hanover County in the State of Virginia. Deponent further says when she was about twelve years of age as near as she can now recollect, her father with all the family moved to the state of North Carolina, & having remained there a short time all the family then moved to Edgefield District, State of South Carolina, where deponents father died. That her mother died in the County of Hanover in the state of Virginia – that the cause of her death, as she heard at the time & has often heard her father & brothers say since then was what was then called the “Camp fever” a disease which she contracted from the three brothers of this deponent, who had been in said Revolutionary War, to wit.

William Davis Tolover Davis & Thomas Davis: she has a distinct recollection of hearing her father & her brothers speak of this circumstance, & has no doubt of its truth. She has also repeatedly heard her father & her last above named brothers say & speak of the last named three brothers being in the War of the Revolution having entered said service in, & whilst the family resided in, said Hanover County, Virginia; that they were in said service with the Virginia Troops; that they were in said service for a good portion of said War serving as privates she thinks, & were all brought home sick with the camp fever, a short time before peace was made but after the “fighting” was understood to be over. She further says that she was the youngest child of the family and that her said three brothers who served in said War (as she has no doubt) were grown up men ever since and as far back as she can recollect, deponent says that she has often heard her brothers speak of being at the battle at Bunker’s Hill [see endnote] & number of other battles (which she cannot now recollect, it has been so long ago. She further says that her brother Thomas Davis afterwards but some forty or fifty years ago moved to Oglethorpe County, State of Georgia, & raised a large family of children there; that deponent has seen said Thomas Davis and his then wife now widow Rachael Davis (formerly Rachael Mosely – often since they moved to Georgia: that the last time she saw him was about ten or twelve years ago, in Jones County, where deponent then resided; he was then a very old man & came to deponent’s with his son Tolover Davis. Deponent further says that said Thomas Davis (who was a revolutionary soldier as aforesaid) was lawfully married to Rachael Mosely aforesaid in Edgefield District South Carolina: She knows this is so because although she was not at the marriage nor witnessed it, yet she recollects distinctly, that the next day after the wedding said Thomas Davis & Rachael Mosely, (that was) came to her father’s home at the “Infair” [infare] (or next-day party) with their friends & acquaintances as a wedding party, & it was then spoken of by the family & friends – that the marriage had taken place the day previous; & that they were married by an old Babtist Minister of the Gospel named Benj. Harry, and that this deponent is well acquainted with said Rachael Davis (formerly Mosely) & has been ever since said marriage – and that she was with her then husband Thomas Davis when he visited deponent at the time before mentioned some twelve years ago, and that said Thomas Davis & his wife were then residing in Randolph county state of Georgia. Deponent further says that said Thomas Davis, as she is informed, is dead & that, as she has heard, the said Rachael his wife survives him & is now his widow. Deponent further says she has no interest in the premis. She further says she has often heard her said brothers speak of their camp life, sufferings in sickness & of many scenes through which they had passed while in said War

Jane herXmark White

#### NOTES:

No Virginia troops were at the Battle of Bunker Hill, 17 Jun 1775.

On 6 Oct 1853 Tolaver Davis, 42, stated that his parents, Thomas and Rachel Davis, had nine children besides himself, four older than himself who lived to maturity, the oldest being Finch Davis, who died in March 1852 at the age of 53 or 54.

On 17 July 1856 Rachel Davis, then said to be about 80, stated that she was married to Thomas Davis in South Carolina on 26 July when she was 17, she believed in the year 1792. She stated that Thomas Davis would not apply for a pension, saying that “none but poor folks applied for pensions and that he could live without it.” On the same date Henry C. Smith, 65, of Randolph County, stated that more than 40 years previously he had heard Thomas Davis and his two elder brothers relate “their sufferings and the skirmishes in which they were engaged,” and that “Thomas Davis drew two lots of land in the land Lottery of the State of George in the year 1827 as a Revolutionary Soldier.” On the same date Tolaver Davis, 46, made a similar statement, and added that he had known Thomas Davis and his two brothers since his earliest recollection, and that Thomas Davis had declined applying for a pension because “he could live without it and that his country was intitled to his services.”

The file includes a copy of a discharge and other papers relating to a Thomas Davis who was a Corporal in Armand’s Legion.