

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Vachel Davis R2770

f13SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/31/10: rev'd 4/17/20

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: the handwriting of the scribe of this application is particularly challenging: use this transcription with more than the usual caution.]

State of Kentucky Harlan County SS

Be it remembered that on the 10 day of July 1837 Vachel Davis aged fourteen years of age the 4th of July 1776 a resident citizen of Harlan County Kentucky before Joseph Bansay [?] a Justice of the peace for Harlan County Kentucky duly commissioned and acting as such upon his oath, subscribed to the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7 of June 1832 for the benefit of the Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary war.

That he volunteered as a private for the time of three months in Ninety Six District in South Carolina Captain Nathaniel Bacon in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Leroy Hammond of the South Carolina militia and under General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] of said State. His Lieutenant was William Covington Ensign's name he thinks was Robert Cahoon his Major was by the name of Purvis [John Purvis] (a Scotchman, also General Williamson). After volunteering his Regiment aforesaid was for some time stationed at Liberty Hill South Carolina opposite Augusta in Georgia, where they marched from there the Army marched under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] to Stono point [sic, Stono ferry] in South Carolina where an engagement [Battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779] took place between our troops under General Lincoln and the British forces. We were repulsed in attempting to storm the enemy's Fort, and retreated to our encampment. We remained there until the new levies arrived, and the term (3 months) having expired he was told (by his Captain) with the balance of the company they were discharged, but he got no written discharge. The Captain accompanied him part of the way home when he was taken sick and his brother came for him and took him home. As to the time of entering this service he does not remember, but refers the secretary to the date of the Battle at Stono aforesaid. After the Battle at Stono he shortly after his return home [several illegible interlined words] thereafter he again volunteered for no definite period, to join General Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] of the State of Georgia. It happened this way, General Clarke laid siege to Augusta,<sup>1</sup> and he with others of this district of Ninety Six associated themselves together to the number of about one hundred and chose for their Captain Rolleigh Robuck [sic, Rawley Roebuck] and marched and joined General Clark at the siege and remained there [several

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<sup>1</sup> Siege of Augusta (first/Clarke) [September 12-18, 1780] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800914-augusta/>

indecipherable words] before General Clarke raised the siege in consequence of a reinforcement to this [indecipherable word] from Ninety Six under Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger]. Clark retreated up the country to the mountains near the head of Watauga River, being at the same time pursued by Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] who fell at King's Mountain [October 7, 1780]. We continued our retreat through the mountains until we arrived on the River Chucky [Nolichucky], near the Greasy Cove in Greene County Tennessee: then North Carolina. General Clarke's encampment was on this River when the Battle was fought at King's Mountain, and after the Battle Clarke marched us back to South Carolina and joined General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], near Blackstocks in said State, where there was a Battle [November 20, 1780] fought under General Sumpter with the British and Tories where General Sumpter received a wound in the shoulder. Sumpter was sent to Salisbury to recover of his wounds. The Army guarded him as far as Foirest [?]<sup>2</sup> Iron Works, where he left the Army, the Army then marched to Long Cane<sup>3</sup> in South Carolina under Clarke aforesaid, where an engagement took place with the British, where Clarke got shot through the shoulder and Major Linsey [sic, John Lindsay] his hand cut off. Our troops were misinformed [?]. We were a detached party (being [indecipherable word or words] from the Army) sent to surprise them (supposed to be 100 Tories) but instead of them being 100, there were about 300 British regulars, near at hand who soon united with the Tories, who were retreating from our fires. He was one of the party under General Clarke. After this defeat, the troops under Clark were about 300 strong starving and almost naked were ordered to disperse through the Country and do the best they could in procuring provisions and clothing. On the last engagement he served he believes some more than ten [could be "two"] months. He volunteered as a private but for no particular time under Captain John Martin of the South Carolina militia under Lieutenant Colonel Purvis of said State in Ninety Six District & when marched by Colonel Purvis into the State of Georgia and was stationed on Spirit Creek to guard the road leading from Savannah to Augusta in Georgia and after remaining there 2 months and a few days, he with \_\_\_ was detached and placed in Captain Bacon's Company to the White House at the mouth of horse Creek 4 miles below at Augusta to guard some Indian prisoners about 20 and that he remained with us stationed one month, when he was discharged by Captain Bacon [one or more indecipherable words] only and he went home. During the engagement of nine months he was in company with 300 detached by General Williamson from Liberty Hill under Colonel Hammond [LeRoy Hammond] into the State of Georgia to relieve a Fort from a siege of savages on the Ogeechee River by the name of Fulton's Fort. We had a battle with the Indians in which he was. In that battle Major Ross [Francis Ross]<sup>4</sup> of South Carolina in Edgecombe District [sic, Edgefield district] was wounded and died in a few days thereafter.

As to his age he refers to his statement to the date of the Declaration of Independence. He states that his name is not on the pension roll of any State or that of the United States, that he never has received anything whatever for his services as a revolutionary soldier and release wishes all claims except the present. He resides in Harlan County Kentucky

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<sup>2</sup> 

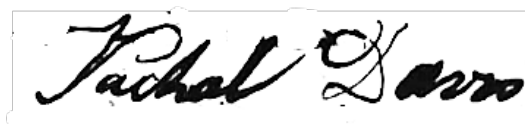
<sup>3</sup> The Battle of Long Cane occurred on December 12, 1780.

[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_long\\_canes.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_long_canes.html)

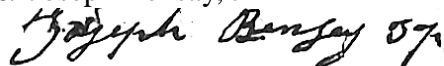
<sup>4</sup> Francis Ross (1744-1779) served as a captain under Col. Thomas Neel on the Cherokee Expedition in the summer of 1776. Moss, *Roster*, p. 831. In the spring of 1779, Ross was wounded in a skirmish with the Cherokees and died from his wounds on March 31, 1779. William A. Graham. *General Joseph Graham and His Papers on North Carolina Revolutionary History*, Raleigh: 1904.

He well remembers General Lincoln and General Cotesworth Pinckney [Charles Cotesworth Pinckney], Captain Nathaniel Perry of the Maryland line, all of the Continental line. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present. He knows of no person now living except those in South Carolina by whom he could prove his services that he has no written discharges, nor ever had. The reason why he has not applied sooner is that he had been informed that unless he had a written discharge or his name could be found upon the rolls it was useless to apply and that he had given out all hope of ever getting anything, until lately informed differently, understanding a few years after the close of the war offices containing the rolls of the South Carolina militia was burnt up with all the rolls. Owing to old age and affliction and want of funds he could not get to South Carolina to search out testimony to prove his services. He does not know that his companions in arms are now living but supposes there are some.

S/ Vachel Davis



S/ Joseph Bensay, JP



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South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>5</sup> relating to Vachel Davis

AA3

Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1813

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/17/20

[p 2]

No. 50

No. 273

Lib. U July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1785

Mr. Vachel Davis his Account of Militia Duty as Private previous to, and since the reduction of Charlestown [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] Amounting to

[old South Carolina] Currency £80.10/

Stg. [Sterling] £11.10/

Ex<sup>d</sup>. W.R. [Examined by W. R. [identity unknown]]

J. M<sup>c</sup>. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 3]

State South Carolina

Dr to Vachel Davis

for Duty per Colonel Anderson's [Robert Anderson's] return [not extant]

£80.10/

Stg. £11.10/

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<sup>5</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.