

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John R. Davis R32 VA Sea Service/ VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Executive Department, Richmond May 4th 1838.

The Heirs of John R. Davis are allowed Land Bounty for his services as a Lieutenant of Marines in the State Navy for seven years [see endnote]

The Register will issue a Warrant accordingly if not heretofore drawn David Campbell
Attest/ Jno. B. Richardson

On 8th June 1838, Warrants No. 8585 for 3111 acres & No. 8586 for 1555 acres issued to Samuel, John & James Davis, Anne E. Brough & Hannah Hansford, the heirs of John Davis, the son & only heir at law of John R. Davis dec'd.

[Certified copy from records of Virginia Land Office.]

[The following documents in the federal file dated before 1840 are copies from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#).:]

Saturday 2nd November 1776.

Ordered that a warrant issue to John R. Davis for fifty four pounds thirteen shillings for disbursements and pay of his company of Marines to the 31st October last. from page 98.

Ordered that Colo. [William] Finnie deliver unto Lieut John R. Davis four pair of stockings two p breeches, one p shoes, and nine coates for the of his company of marines. From page 99

The foregoing entries are truly copied from the Naval Journal.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond this 1st day of March 1838.

Jas. E. Heath

[The file also contains copies of other accounts for Lt. John R. Davis.]

State of Virginia/ Dinwiddie County to wit;

Jeramiah Bishop [sic: Jeremiah Bishop, S6636] an old Reolutionary Soldier, and respectable citizen of the County aforesaid, personally appeared, before me a justice of the peace for the said County, and made oath, that some time in the year 1780, or in the time of the revolutionary war. This affiant was called into service and ordered to meet at Petersburg in Virginia, there he was placed under the command of John R. Daviss, whom he then understood, had been in service five years as an officer in the Virginia State line, and when this affiant was discharged, at Stoners Mill below Smith Field [sic: Smithfield], he left the said Daviss in service; and further this affiant saith, that he knows John R. Daviss now residing in the County of Sussex and State as aforesaid, to be the same John R. Daviss as above alluded to. given under my hand this 29th day of April 1831 Jos Goodwyn J.P.

Dinwiddie Sct

James Bishop [S6637] another revolutionary Soldier equally respectable made oath before me to the correctness of the above affidavit, he having served in the same tower with his Brother Jeremiah Bishop. given under my hand as above. Jos. Goodwyn J.P.

State of Virginia/ Town of Petersburg to wit

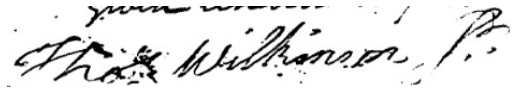
John Crawford [S8256] and old Revolutionary officer, and respectable Citizen of the Town aforesaid personally appeared before me an Alderman of the said Town, and made oath that he was acquainted with John R. Davies early in the Revolutionary War, and intimately acquainted with him, after the war; and he understood that the said Davis, in and during the said Revolutionary War, and that this affiant saith that he thinks John R. Davies now residing in the County of Sussex, and State aforesaid to be the same John R. Davies refered to by the army register, as he never knew any other man by that name.

Given under my hand and seal as Alderman of the Town aforesaid, this second day of May 1831 in the 55th year of the Commonwealth.

Dan'l. Lyon Ald

I Thomas Wilkinson [S41347] of Dinwiddie county & state of Virginia do certify that John R. Davis now residing in sussex county in the state of Virginia, was First Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, and that I have Knowledge of his continuing in office in service in said war, for more than three years. I also well recollect his commanding a company in said war, he belonged to the 1st Virginia State Regiment.

Given under my hand this 17th day of Febuary 1832



Elizabeth City County to wit:

Before me Richard G Banks a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid personally appeared Benjamin Storrs aged sixty seven years and upwards, who being duly sworn deposes that he was well acquainted with Lieutenant John R Davis of the State Navy of Virginia during the War of the revolution. The affiants recollection is very distinct as to the numerous incidents of the revolutionary War, and in the year 1781 entered the service when he had just attained his sixteenth year. The said Davis was in service for two or three years before that time, and he continued actively employed until the close of the war. The said John R Davis died shortly after the peace, or before the year 1784.

Benjamin Storrs

The above affidavit sworn to before me this 11th day of June in the year 1832.

Elizabeth City County to wit:

Before me Teakle Savage a Justice of the peace for the said County, personally appeared John Bushell aged eighty eight years and upwards, and being duly sworn deposes that he was intimately acquainted with Lieutenant John R. Davis of the State Navy of Virginia, during the war of the revolution. The said Lieutenant Davis commenced service on board of the Patriot, in the early part of the war, and continued in active service on board of one or more of the Row Gallies, until the close of it, and deponent has always understood that the said Davis was an officer of merit and gallantry. He died in the year 1784 or 85, or thereabouts, in this County

John hisXmark Bushel

The above affidavit sworn to & subscrib'd before me this 13th day of July 1832

I hereby Certify that i was born and raised in Elizabeth City County in State of Virginia aged Eighty years where i have allways resided. That i was intimatley acquanted with the Davis family of Elizebeth City County in state of Virginia, that i have given Certificate in John R Davis and James Davis [pension application R13595] cases for there Services in the Revolutionary war, That i have every reason to know them having been intimate with the family from my youth up, that John R. Davis was in the Virginia State navy, That James Davis was in Virginia State line and to the best of my knowledge marched to the West that i am fully confident what i stated in my deposition is correct. I know John R Davis was gone from home a long time and was supposed to be Dead and that when he returned there was great rejoying. That James Davis was drowned from on board of a pilot boat belonging to Mr. Roe Cooper. Given under my hand seal this 1st day December Eighteen hundred forty nine

Ann herXmark Payne

There is no Official Roll of resigned and supernumary Officers of the Revolution in this Office. There is a paper however in the hand writing of Mr Jefferson purporting to be such a Roll but not regarded as Official. The name of John R Davis as a Lieut in the State Navy does not appear on that Roll, nor does it appear elsewhere as far as a search has been, or can be made, that he has ever resigned.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 19th day of January 1850.

Jas E Heath/ 1st Audt'r

NOTES:

According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787* (Westminster MD: Heritage Books, 1978), the Virginia Marine Corps was raised in Feb 1776 and disbanded in Dec of the same year.

The federal file contains a power of attorney dated 8 Oct 1849 from Thomas Moore as administrator to obtain land warrants for the services of John R. Davis the Second, a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy, James Davis, a Lieutenant in the Illinois Regiment, and William White [R107.5], who was a Sailing Master. There is a similar power of attorney dated 5 March 1850 from Moore as administrator of John R. Davis and of James Davis.