

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Rice McDavis R6685

Transcribed by Will Graves

Rachel E. McDavis f17NC

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[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 'indecipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina), Buncombe County: 3rd Section Act 4th July 1836

On this the 17th day of August [1850], personally appeared before me the undersigned, an acting Justice in said County; Rachel E. McDavis a resident on Big Ivey in said County and State of North Carolina, aged ninety three 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 an act of Congress passed July 4th 1836: That she is the widow of Rice McDavis, who was a private soldier in the Company of North Carolina Militia commanded by Capt. Silas Martin [Salathiel Martin] whose Company belonged to the Regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleaveland [Benjamin Cleveland].¹ That her husband Rice McDavis was drafted the first time on the 18th day of June in the year A.D. seventeen hundred and seventy-seven (the widow is not certain whether it was '77 or '78 but is of opinion it was seventy seven when her husband entered the service) and was at the time of his being drafted, a citizen of Wilkes County and State of No. Carolina. This term of service (she thinks) was four months, and was expressly for the Cherokee Indian war, and was marched directly into the country inhabited by said Indians, and was gone from the time he entered said service until he returned home [after being absent] four months and sixteen days.² She thinks that his return home was about the beginning of November, and year above mentioned. She further says that her husband, the aforementioned Rice McDavis, was at home something like four weeks when an express again arrived for the men in Wilkes County again to enter the Service. That her husband was again drafted, and served a tour of six weeks under one Captain Allen [Richard Allen], still belonging to Colonel Cleveland's Regiment of Militia which expedition was against a body of Tories, which were then collecting not far from said County. She further says that if he was in any battles this time that she does not now remember it. The said Rice McDavis was at home but a short time when he was again drafted (or, as she says, pressed into service, and under the same officers, being Capt. Allen and Colonel Cleveland) for the term of three months, and was during this period of service in a battle called The Hanging Rock³ but in what County said battle was fought she is not certain, or even the month when it was fought. This time their time expired and the said Rice McDavis again came home and remained there but a short interval until he was again called out.

¹ Captain Salathiel Martin actually served under Col. Martin Armstrong at the time mentioned in the application.

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

³ Possibly a reference to the action on August 6, 1780

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

The applicant further says, that her husband, the aforesaid Rice McDavis, served another tour of three months, and was drafted again, belonging to Captain Lewis [Joel Lewis] Company and belonging to Col. Allen's Regiment; the same Allen she thinks who before a Captain and under whom her husband served his first tour of service: That During this period of service the said Rice McDavis was in another battle called the Gum Springs [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780],⁴ and is of the opinion that this battle was with the Tories, and perhaps a portion of British with them. She further says that her husband was again drafted for the term of three months under Captain Allen, and Colonel Ben Cleveland: That during this tour of service the said Rice McDavis was in the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780],⁵ after which he returned home as did all the men in Capt. Allen's Company who were not killed.

She further says that her husband, Rice McDavis was again drafted (and which was his last tour) for the term of five months, and was under Captain Martin and Colonel Allen. She further states that her husband was away this term of service stationed in the town or Charleston, South Carolina three months and twenty one days; after which the said McDavis finally left the service in the month of March, seventeen hundred and eighty-two. She further says that her husband the aforementioned, Rice McDavis was engaged under the above mentioned Officers at different times and periods the whole time that the war lasted in the Southern States, that the above mentioned towers [tours] or periods are all that she can now remember distinctly, and these officers (Captains and Colonels) she does remember well. The widow further says that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim; but that her husband the aforesaid Rice McDavis had discharges from the officers under whom he served for each of his tours of service which were consumed by fire in his house in the State of Virginia and that was the reason why application has not been made heretofore for a pension. She further says, on her oath that the house of Rice McDavis (in which were destroyed his discharges by fire) was in Russell County and State as mentioned heretofore.

She further declares that she was married to the said Rice McDavis on the 18th day of June in the year A.D. one thousand seven hundred and seventy five and that her husband the aforesaid Rice McDavis, died on the 22nd day of July eighteen hundred and twenty four and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear from the proof annexed.

Rachel E. McDavis, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and the year above mentioned, before me the undersigned, an acting Justice in said County.

S/ N. Blackstock, J.C. B.

State of North Carolina Buncombe County

On this the 17th day of August 1850 personally appeared before me the undersigned, Oliver McDavis, Polly McDavis and Melinda Buckner, three credible witnesses who being first duly sworn according to law say on their oaths, that Rachel E McDavis has remained a widow ever since the death of her husband Rice McDavis, who died on the 23rd day of July A.D. 1824 and that she is now a widow.

S/ Oliver McDavis, X his mark

S/ Polly McDavis, X her mark

S/ Melinda Buckner, X her mark

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

[On October 15, 1850 in Yancey County North Carolina, Elizabeth Randolph, 101 years old, gave testimony that she was present in the year 1775 at the wedding of Rice McDavis to Rachel E McPeters by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland; she thinks all were then residents of Wilkes County North Carolina. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

State of No. Carolina, Buncombe County

On this the 13th day of August, 1850 personally appeared before me, the undersigned, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State above mentioned, Ephraim Elder who being first duly sworn, according to law, says that he was acquainted with one Rice McDavis who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, that he first knew him as a soldier he was drafted out of the neighborhood of the Adkin [sic, Yadkin River] and was under one Captain Martin, and under the command of Colonel Cleveland who had charge of the Militia from that section of the country. He further says that this tour lasted for four or five months, and was against the Cherokee and Catawba Indians.

Deponent further says that the said Rice McDavis was in another expedition for five months, but is of opinion that he was a volunteer, and thinks that he was marched into South Carolina, and perhaps to Charleston, that he left Wilkes County under Capt. Martin, and thinks that he was not under a Colonel until he got below Wilkesboro near 100 miles where the companies from other counties were joined and one Col. Allen took the command.

He further says that the said Rice McDavis served two other tours of three months each, but thinks that he was under said Capt. Martin and Col. Cleveland, both times. He further says that he will not think of mentioning the dates when these different services were performed, as they all were rendered from the beginning of troublesome times in No. Carolina until they finally ceased a peace was made. Deponent further says that he himself was engaged during the war in hauling salt from Virginia and provisions for the people; that he frequently saw the said Rice McDavis in the service, and under the above named officers. He further says that the above named Rice McDavis was engaged in some other small skirmishing parties, and he thinks under the same officers.

S/ Epnin [sic] Elder, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me.

John Keith, J. P.