

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Davis S12738 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Alabama } ss.
County of Jackson }

On this 6th day of July 1842 personally appeared before me at his own residence in said County of Jackson & State of Alabama, (who on account of bodily infirmity is prevented from appearing before me in Open Court,) William Davis, a resident of Mainards Cove [Maynard Cove] in said county of Jackson & State of Alabama aged eighty eight 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, Col Lindsey [sic: Reuben Lindsay], was one. I was in the Company of Capt. Nic Lewis [Nicholas Lewis] in 1776, marched to Burrells Ferry [sic: Burwell's Ferry] five miles below Williamsburg on James River, where I remained until the army became sick

it was in the fall of the same year the same company was ordered out against the Cherokee Indians. In this service I was enlisted as a minute man cant say when the term expired; I entered the service four other times during the revolutionary war. – I joined the army on one occasion in 1781, near Richmond Virginia We retreated before the British army to Charlottesville Virginia. when the British army retreated from the latter place I was with the pursuing army to where the British army took water on the James River, the Genl in command on this service was Marcus De LaFayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette]. And also one Majr McElhany. on this service I was draughted; cannot say for how long a tour or when discharged. was in no battles. During the whole time of the revolutionary war I resided in Albemarle Co. Virginia On an other occasion I was in the service, marched to Hamton, on the south side of James River, near or at a place called Cabbin point [see endnote], can't recollect recollect any of the officers names, nor the time, nor when, or by whom discharged. I always served as a private soldier. I have no documentary evidence of my service in the war of the Revolution, neither do I know of any person living who can testify to the same, except, Col. James Lewis [pension application W303] of Franklin County Tennessee, with whom I was acquainted during the War of the Revolution. We were acquainted in Albemarl Co. Virginia I am informed he yet lives, – and it may be that he can prove my service to some extent. The Reason I have never before applied for a Pension is. – Great loss of property in Slaves and other personal property has rendered my declining years less Independent. My entire service was at least 18 months.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state William hisXmark Davis

Interrogatories propounded to William Davis of Mainard Cove in the county of Jackson & State of Alabama in compliance with the act of Congress (or the regulations under said act) passed the 7th June 1832.

Interrogatory 1st

Where and in what year were you born?

Answer.

In the State of Virginia in the then County of Hanover & in the year 1753.

Interrogatory 2nd

Have you any record of your age; and if so, where is it?

Answer

I have none. I had once, but it is now lost.

Interrogatory 3rd

Where were you living when called into the service ; Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now reside?

Answer. I was living in Albemarl County in the State of Virginia when called into the service Since the Revolution I have lived in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, and now where I reside in Jackson County in the State of Alabama.

Interrogatory 4th

How were you called into the service: were you draughted, did you Volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. In my first Tour, I enlisted as a regular soldier, on an other occasion I was draughted, and on two other occasions I was a substitute and for a man whose christin name I have forgotten. His Farthers christian name was Samuel Stockton, and for a man by the name of Steel, whose Christian name I have also forgotten.

Interrogatory 5th

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.

Answer. I think our Genl officer on one occasion, at the time Cornwallis pursued us up to Albemarl was by the name of Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens], but thinks he was under Genl [Robert] Lawson He was also under Genl [Anthony] Wayne in some of his service

Interrogatory 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it given, & what has become of it? – Answer

I cannot now recollect any thing on the subject of discharges, in any way. I have none now that I know of Interrogatory 7th – State the names of Persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution? Answer.

Charles L. Roach, Thomas Fonden, Robert Proctor, Isaac Bynum, David Larkins, and Joseph P Frazir. Also John A Hancock

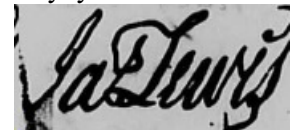
Franklin County Tennessee/ July 8 1842

Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions], I have this day been shewn the declaration of William Davis of Jackson County Alabama made for the purpose of obtaining a pension as a Revolutionary soldier under the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

The great length of time since since the date of the Revolution, together with my own declining years & loss of memory, renders it out of my power to make any statements corroborating the Declaration of Mr Davis as to particular facts connected with his services as a revolutionary soldier, (hence I am unwilling to make my deposition as to those facts under oath.)

Yet I feel constrained to say to you this much in this form, refering you to the Hon'l. H. L. Turney MC [Member of Congress], for any weight it may be entitled to.

I have read Mr. Davis Declaration and believe the facts therein stated to be substantially true. I knew Mr. Davis well in Albemarl Co. Va. We were boys in the same neighborhood, thus, but cannot say positively that he was in the service of the Revolution but most willingly say I believe he was. I knew Col. Nicholas Lewis & believe Mr. Davis served under him as he has stated in his declaration. Mr Davis is my Sen'r. by some 2 or 3 years, and that he was frequently in the service of the war of the revolution I have no doubt. With high regard/ I have the Honor to/ be, most respectfully. your obt. sevt



NOTES:

Hampton is, of course, on the north side of James River and far downstream from Cabin Point in

Surry County.

On 25 Aug 1848 John Holland applied for administration of the estate of William Davis, a kinsman, who died on 19 Aug 1848, leaving no widow.