

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Davis S1509

f30SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/31/10: rev'd 8/3/18

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

State of Alabama County of Madison ss} On this 18th day of October in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable William J. Adair, Judge of the Circuit Court of said County now sitting Thomas Davis a resident of said County of Madison in the State of Alabama, aged about 70 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 provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States for five years or during the War, in Union District in the State of South Carolina, in the month of July or August, but what year he does not now remember but believes it was the year after the Tories broke out of the State of North Carolina, and passed through South Carolina into Georgia. Colonel Thomas Brannum [sic, Thomas Brandon] commanded the Regiment to which he belonged -- he does not remember what Regiment it was, but it was called the South Carolina line. James Stean [sic, James Steen] was the Lieutenant Colonel & the superior Officer was named General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] -- but what his first name was, is not now remembered by deponent. Captain William Grant commanded the company in which the deponent enlisted the Lieutenant was named Joseph Jolly, and the Ensign was named Bill Grant, who was a son of the Captain's. Shortly after his enlistment the deponent was marched to Ninety Six, about 60 miles from Union District, and was in the battle of Ninety Six [November 19-21, 1775]<sup>1</sup> -- after said Battle he obtained a furlough to go home for close. He then enlisted one Bob Glenn to supply his place. He took said Glenn to Ninety Six and delivered him to Captain -- <sup>one</sup> Captain McDuff -- by whom said deponent was then discharged from the service. He received a written discharge from Captain <sup>McDuff</sup>, but he does not know what has become of it. He then returned home having been in the service about 3 months. He understood that said Glenn was killed a short time afterwards.

The deponent was born in the State of North Carolina on Neuse River, but in what County he does not know -- his father when he was very small, removed to Anson County in the same State. The deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court

Test: S/ S. Mead, Clerk CC

S/ Thomas Davis, X his mark

[p 5]

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_ninety\\_six\\_1775.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_ninety_six_1775.html)

State of Alabama County of Madison ss} On this 18th day of October in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable William J. Adair, Judge of the Circuit Court of said County now sitting, Thomas Davis, a resident of said County of Madison in said State of Alabama, aged about 70 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 of June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

The year that the Tories broke out of North Carolina and passed through South Carolina (but what year he does not remember) he volunteered into the Militia, as he believes, for a tour of 3 months, to fight the Tories. He was then living close to the mouth of Pacolet River in Union District South Carolina. He is Officers were, and as well as he remembers, Captain William Grant -- Lieutenant Colonel James Stein [Steen] and Colonel Brannum [Brandon], who were also volunteers. The company of volunteers reached into the State of Georgia to near Briar Creek. At Savannah River they overtook the Tories and had an engagement with them, in which our men were routed.<sup>2</sup> Several of our men were wounded but none were killed. The next day we attacked them at Kettle Creek in the State of Georgia and routed them -- killing about 15 of their number and among them Colonel Boyd<sup>3</sup> -- who commanded them. This volunteer tour lasted three months at the end of which time the men were dismissed in companies (but without written discharges) and so marched back into Union District in the State of South Carolina.

Directly afterwards he volunteered into a company commanded by the same Captain William Grant and was appointed a life Guard to Colonel Brandon and stationed at his house. The times were so perilous that no man was safe at his own dwelling. During this time which lasted 3 months he was not marched to any distance, but scoured the Country around almost every day. At the end of three months, he was dismissed from service -- but without a written discharge.

As soon as he got clear of the regular service as stated in the application for a pension as an enlisted soldier he was again drafted into the Militia, at the same place, and under the same Officers. He was marched 220 miles to Charleston and stationed there 3 months. He was in no battle during the trip here mentioned, and at the end of the time was discharged, and went home. As before stated he was born on Neuse River in North Carolina, but so far as he knows there never was any record of his age. He has no documentary testimony in relation to his services, and he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove the same, or any part of them. After Cornwallis was taken [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] affiant married and removed into Rutherford County, North Carolina from thence (after living there 30 years) he removed to what was then called the County of Randolph (which he has understood is now called Jasper) in the State of Georgia. From thence he removed to White County in the State of Tennessee -- from thence to the State of Alabama, and he has resided in the last mentioned state 18 years in the Counties of Madison and Jackson, and now lives in Madison County. John Fortner, Thomas Brandon, William Baker and Oliver D. Sledge are persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/ S. Mead, Clerk CC

S/ Thomas Davis, X his mark

[Isaac W. Sullivan, a clergyman, and Thomas Brandon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

---

<sup>2</sup> He appears to be describing the Battle of Briar Creek March 3, 1779

<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

<sup>3</sup> The Battle of Kettle Creek occurred on February 14, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/kettle.htm>  
<https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790214-kettle-creek/>

[p 24]

State of Tennessee Lawrence County

Personally appeared before me A. S. Alexander a Justice of the peace in & for the said County Thomas Davis who being first duly sworn according to law says that he was a soldier of the American revolution: that he volunteered in Union District under Captain James Grant in Colonel Brandon's Regiment General Williamson was in command of the troops. The first service affiant saw was in the battle of Kettle Creek in Georgia with the Tories & in this battle the Tories were defeated, but the volunteers fearing an assault from the British light horse then stationed at Briar Creek retired after defeating the Tories into South Carolina. General Williamson after this took protection from the British & Brandon became general & Lieutenant Colonel Steen became Colonel. The next service of affiant as he believes was under the same officers before Ninety Six which place the Americans were compelled to leave by the approach of a superior British force to its aid.<sup>4</sup> Affiant's next service was at Charleston<sup>5</sup> South Carolina where he escaped being made a prisoner by being discharged from that tour a few days before the place was taken by the British. Affiant's next service was in pursuit of a notorious incendiary by the name of Cunningham [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] (or Cunnigin). Affiant served under Brandon at Savannah, Georgia & in Rutherford County North Carolina under Colonel Hampton. This latter service was intended to suppress a rising of the Scotch at Cross Creek in favor of the British but before the troops got to their place of destination news came that peace was made & in a few weeks he was discharged. Affiant entered the Army at the age of about sixteen years and volunteered & continued to make repeated tours as calls for men were made during five years. He is now about eighty-three years old. Affiant further says that on the 15th day of November 1833 he received the certificate of the Honorable Lewis Cass, then Secretary of war that he was a private in the Army of the Revolution & was entitled to receive \$30 per annum during his natural life commencing on the 4th of March 1831. Affiant supposes he is entitled under the law to his full pay as a private & [several words obliterated] above statement not as a complaint but within hope that his claim will be re-examined & a further allowance made to him. Affiant states that at the time he obtained the pension of \$30 per annum above named he resided in the State of Alabama but was, on the 14th of February 1839 transferred from the Roll of Alabama to that of West Tennessee Nashville to take effect from & after the 4th Marched 1838 where he has since resided & now resides.

S/ Thomas Davis, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before made this August 27th 1845

S/ A. S. Alexander, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the South Carolina militia.]

---

<sup>4</sup> The siege of 96 occurred in May and June 1781 under the command of General Nathanael Greene.

[http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ninety\\_six.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html)

<sup>5</sup> The fall of Charleston occurred May 12, 1780. <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>