

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Davis S16751 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Because of poor handwriting this transcript should be used with more than usual caution.]

State of Missouri }
County of Randolph } sct

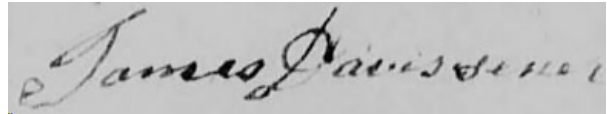
On this 30th day of October in the year of Our Lord 1832, personally appeared before the Circuit Court of the County of Randolph & State of Missouri now sitting James Davis Sen'r, a resident of Prarie Township in the County of Randolph & State of Missouri, aged seventy ni[edge of page] years who being 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 – Ensign John Davis Lietenant Wm. Willoby [William Willoughby] Captain Robert Craig – Major James Montgomery – Colonel Arthur Campbell. The said James Davis Senr entered the service under the said officers, a Spy Commissioned by the Governor of Virginia [Royal Governor Lord Dunmore] in the service of the United States [sic], in the first part of the month of June in the year of 1774 and left it in the last part of November in the year aforesaid receiving 4 months pay for his services – That He resided in the Town of Abingdon Washington County [formed in 1776 from Fincastle and Montgomery counties] – State of Virginia – that he was a volunteer in the service aforesaid – that he was in no battle in this period – that he marched thro' Washington County only in the State aforesaid.

That he entered the Service again in the year of 1775, first day of Aprile in said year with the command of Sergeant in a company commanded by Captain Isaac Shelby of which company James Shelby was Lietenant – regiment perhaps of the number of thirty – Commanded by Colonel Arthur Campbell under whom James Montgomery held the command of Major – which said regiment belonged to the brigade of Gen. Evan Shelby of the Virginia line of Continentals [sic: militia]. That he resided in or near the Town of Abingdon in the County & State aforesaid. That he knew Col. Wm Campbell [William Campbell] a regular officer in the U. States service with himself at the period afd. – That he marched a gainst the tories in Washington County Tennessee then a part of N. Carolina – he marched thro' Sullivan County in the State of Tennessee afd. in going to said Sullivan County [“(Washington Co.)” interlined above] – in no battle – the tories surrendered & were sent home on parole – this last occurrence was in the Spring of 1776 – was confined to the frontiers of Washington County till the middle of July in said year when he was in the battle of the middle fork Holstein river [probably Battle of Long Island on Holston River, 20 Jun 1776] in which he killed to his own knowledge one Indian – then about the first of October 1776 he went into the Cherokee Campaign in then N. Carolina, but now Tennessee, in wich said Campaign he was under Col. [William] Christian – the detachment he was with destroyed the towns of the Cherokees [Tellico, Settico, Chilhowee, and Big Island towns], which were situated on little Tennessee river – and the Indians sued for peace – from the fall of 1776 till the fall of 1780, under the same field officers, he was engaged in guarding the frontiers of Russell & Lee Counties [then Washington County] either with the command of Sergeant or as a spy the whole time – in the year of 1780 he was in Campbell & Seviers [John Sevier's] Campaign acting as orderly sergeant during the said Campaign – Crossed Litt. Tennessee river opposite an Indian village called Toker on said river [sic: Toqua on Little Tennessee River] – the Indians fled – [22-26 Dec] their towns were all burned up except their town called Chota where they held their councils – took 35 prisoners of the Indians, men women & boys – then a detachment of 50 men went about 49 miles to a river called Hiwassee with two Indian Towns on it 12 miles apart – one of which was called Chesterway [sic: Chestowee] – The Indians fled in their cano[edge of paper] & otherwise on the approach of the army – That he never left the service of the U States from 1775 till the Spring of 1781 – was all his time during his service from his first entering it till he left it either a Spy or held the office of Sergeant. That he was a volunteer during the whole time he served in the Contintelal

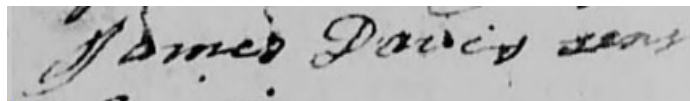
(militia) army of the line of Virginia – and received his discharge at the Town of Abingdon in the state of Virginia aforesaid – And That he has no documentary evidence of his service & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service – that he has lost his discharge – that he has lived in the state of Virginia where he was born till the year of 1827 when he removed to the State of Missouri & shortly after to the County of Randolph afd. – he was living when he entered the service in the State of Virginia – he received his discharge from the service given by Capt. Craig aforesaid – That he served thirteen months as a spy & all the other time as a Sergeant.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Davis".

(1st page of the Amendment)

In addition to his original declaration to which this is attached, the applicant for a pension under the act of the 7th June 1832, James Davis, senr further states deposeseth & says that on his first tour of duty as stated in said declaration he was an Indian Spy the whole tour & served five months in said tour before he left the actual service & in the field the whole tour – And in his second tour as therein mentioned he further deposeseth and saith that he held & exercised the rank & office of sergeant for the whole of said 2^d tour, which was of fifteen & a half months in length – that he was in the field the whole of said tour – and in his third tour of duty as therein mentioned he the said Jas. Davis, senr. further deposeseth & saith that he held the rank & office of a sergeant in said service for the whole of said third tour during the whole of the time thereof – but at times was chosen by the [illegible word] he was with for one of their spies, and that on this third tour he served in the field for the full period & term of four years – And on his third tour he the said Jas. Davis Senr further deposeseth & saith the he served for the full term & period of four months & for all which said time he bore the rank & office of a Sergeant. The said Jas. Davis senr. further deposeseth & saith that the reason he has not produced the affidavit of a clergyman as to his age credibility and his being reputed to have been a soldier of the revolution &c. is in part that as the original directions did not make it indispensable, he thought the certificate of a representative of the State legislature & of the Sheriff of the county sufficient whose certificates he had to his original declaration – and as a further reason why he did not obtain the certificate of a clergyman he deposeseth & saith that he is a new comer to the County & as there was no Clergyman in his immediate neighbourhood of any denomination & as there was none in the County of his own sect (old side Presbyterian) he had not an opportunity to become very well acquainted with one – and as a further reason because all the clergymen who were at court when the certificate was produced had gone home or out of the way before there was an opportunity to produce them to the court – as in his original declaration he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State – (signed)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Davis senr".