

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Davis S16756 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

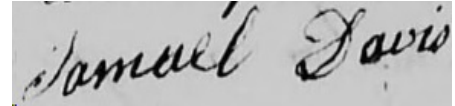
State of Alabama } Circuit Court
Madison County } SS.

On this 8th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before William I Adair the Judge of the circuit court now sitting Samuel Davis a resident of the county of Madison and state of Alabama aged seventy six 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 the 7th day of June 1832 That he entered the service of the United states under the following named officers and served as herein after stated Sometime in the year 1776 (he thinks about the latter part of August) he entered the service under Cols. Christie [William Christian] and was in what has been called Christie's campaign Robert Craig was his captain at the time Christie came on he was in Black's fort the place where Abingdon is now situated Christie told Craig that if he would raise twenty six men he should have the rank & pay of a captain he did so and this applicant was one of the twenty six and served in that campaign against the Cherokee indians three months or thereabouts. In the year 1777 & 78 he was generally engaged in guarding & defending the frontier forts in what is now called Russel [sic: Russell] County it was then called Clinch settlement to prevent the predatory incursions of the Shawnee indians which were very frequent – the several forts in which he served were Moores Fort [sic: Moore's Fort between present Castlewood in Russell County and Dungannon in Scott County] – Glade hollow fort [between Dickensonville and Lebanon] – & Gilmore's fort or Burk's garden [possibly Burkes Garden in Tazewell County] – he was during this time principally under the command of Capt. Mathew Willoughby of Washington county the same county in which this applicant resided. In March 1779 he states that he went to Kentucky to McAfee's station on Salt river [near present McAfee in Mercer County] and commenced a campaign against the Shawnee indians under Colo. Benjamin Logan – his captain was named Josiah Harland & Lieutenant Wm. McAfee [William McAfee] & 2nd Lieutenant John Ellison Ensign John King – mustered into service at Harrodsburg and marched to Elkhorn Station the place or near the place where Lexington now stands – at which place we met with several companies and marched to Reddles Station [sic: Ruddles Station near Lair] at which place after being detained sometime to procure the necessary provision we marched to a new town erected by the Shawnee on the Little Miama [sic: Little Miami] [illegible word] – crossed the Ohio a short distance above the mouth of Licking on a sunday morning the last of June or first of July our party under the command of Colo. Logan made an attack on the town which was defended by a party of British in a blockhouse – we burnt the principal part of the town tho the attack was unsuccessful we lost nine men five of whom were from the company to which this applicant belonged – our party left the town about 9 or 10 OClock and fell back to our boats on the Ohio – the indians followed us about 12 miles during which there were three slight engagements in the last of which an indian gaudily dressed was killed after which they ceased to follow; the indian that was killed was said at the time or supposed to be a chief called the "Blackfish" [see endnote] he does not recollect how long this campaign lasted but it was several months – He returned to Washington county and in the month of November 1780 he entered the service under Colo. Arthur Campbell and commenced a campaign against the cherokee indians his Captain was Joseph Black the Lieutenant was John Davis brother to this applicant the other officers if any are not recollected – We marched to Chota town & took possession the main army remained sometime at Chota – a party was detached to range the mountains & burn Chilhowee town of which this applicant was one. We did not succeed in burning the town not being able to cross the river – on the rout however we came across a party of nine indians all of which we killed or took – we returned from Chota & stationed a part of our men at Tellico plains & fixed a garrison there – a party of which this applicant was one was detached to go to Hiwassa [sic: Hiwasee] with which Colo Campbell also went – after taking & killing some indians we returned to Tellico and from thence

home – this campaign lasted three months –

In the Spring of 1778 a draught took place in Washington County for men to serve one year down about Norfolk this applicant was draughted and was himself willing to go into any service his country might require but his friends & relations were opposed to his going to a country considered so sickly as that to which he was called – he therefore purchased a convict whose term of service had not expired and delivered him to Colo Arthur Campbell and received the annexed discharge. This applicant was always disposed never to shrink from any duty but he always had a preference for fighting indians particularly the Shawnees who killed his father.

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 or Territory. He has no documentary evidence of his services.



Interrogatories propounded to Samuel Davis

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in what is now Rockbridge then called Augusta county state of Virginia – my mother has always told me that I was born 24th day of December 1755.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have no record of my age, it was burnt at the time my father was killed by the indians when I was about three years of age so my mother and eldest brothers have told me

3rd Where were you living when you were called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Ans. I lived in the county of Washington state of Virginia when called into service and lived there untill about the year 1797 when I moved to Blount county East Tennessee and lived there eleven years and in 1818 I moved to the place where I now live in the county of Madison state of Alabama. It was Mississippi Territory when I moved here. I believe I planted the first corn that was ever planted in Madison county by a white man.

4th How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?

Ans. I was once draughted as stated in my declaration – at other times I volunteered – and was sometimes an informal substitute for my brothers who had families before I had one.

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

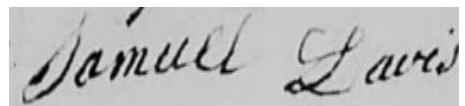
Ans. I have in the body of my declaration answered this question as fully as I can do.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. If I ever did receive a discharge I do not know by whom it was signed or what has become of it. I was raised by my brother John Davis who had it if I ever had one – he has been dead more than twenty years

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Answer Messrs Isaac Welborn & many others

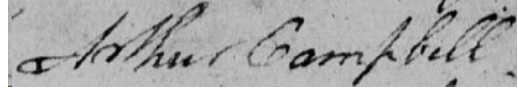


Washington County}

April 2. 1778 Samuel Davies one of the Draughts from the Militia of this County for Recruiting[?] the Virginia Regiment delivered to me Isaac Archer an able bodied Man who has enlisted for One Year in his place

Therefore the s'd. Samuel Davies is hereby discharged as the Act of Assembly directs

Arthur Campbell/ County Lieut.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arthur Campbell". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

State of Alabama } On this 2nd day of November 1832 personally appeared before me Samuel
Madison County } Chapman Judge of the county court of said county John Ammonett [John
Amminet, pension application S16602] aged about eighty years who being first duly sworn according to
law deposes and says that he was in what is called Christie's campainges and altho he has no positive
recollection of the fact yet he is well convinced that Samuel Davis was a soldier in that campaign – he
has no doubt of the fact from the detailed statement of occurrences during that period that said Davis has
given which it is scarcely possible one could give who was not in that campaign – he furthermore states
that he has been a long time acquainted with said Davis and has no hesitation in saying that he has always
sustained the character of an honest man and a man of strict veracity John hisXmark Ammonett

NOTE: Chief Blackfish is said to have died from an infected gunshot wound to the leg during the attack on Chillicothe in the spring of 1779.