

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jonathan Davis S17919

fn36NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/20/10

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South Carolina Greenville District

On this the 19th day of March 1833 personally appeared before me Jonas J. Evans presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Jonathan Davis aged seventy-four years a resident of the district and State aforesaid, 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 seven June 1832. That he entered the service and he was about eighteen or nineteen years of age which was fifty-five or fifty-six years ago. His memory being bad as to dates he can only think dates in this way. He joined the Army as a substitute for one William Statcup [?] in Caswell County North Carolina. The name of his Capt. was Roberts and that of his Col. was Thornton Yancey the latter was from Granville. He was marched into South Carolina near Purrysburg and was encamped in that neighborhood at different places until the spring. He first joined the Army about the first of November and was discharged near the Saltcatchers [sic, Saltketcher River] on the 10th of April he believes that he received a written discharge and has lost it. He thinks that it was in the month of March that the Regiment was ordered from the neighborhood of Purrysburg to join the American Army near Augusta when about to cross the Savannah River below Augusta and near the mouth of Brier Creek -- they were met by the American troops retreating from an engagement at Brier Creek. Thence they marched back to their encampment at the Smoothy Camps [sic, Smokey Camps] near Purrysburg and on the 10th of April were discharged as is above stated.

Sometime early in July he was again drafted and was required by Col. Parks to aid him in pressing wagons and teams and afterwards drove one of said wagons. He loaded at Crossing Creek, crossed Pedee [River] at Cheraw Hills, went on towards Camden and arrived near the battle ground just after Gates defeat and met the Americans flying. After some little time he was ordered by a French Lieut. who had command of the wagons to turn back on the road which they had come. That he did so and when he got as far as Lynches Creek he was stopped by high water and was in that situation continually passed during the night by the retreating Americans. Late in the night Col. Constant Perkins passed along and advised them to fly -- that the British horse were in close pursuit. Taking one of his horses from his wagon he crossed the Creek and shortly after came up with a drove of cattle which had been going up for the use of the Army. He helped to drive the cattle across the Pedee and as far as Cole's Bridge from which place he with many others made the best of his way home. In this last campaign he was in actual service six or seven weeks -- but was at home on furlough and very sick for the whole of the three months for which he was drafted.

He was again drafted and hired a substitute John Elliott giving him a good mare. He was

again drafted and hired another substitute John Jones -- He was twice after this one of twenty who hired a man for nine months. He has no documentary evidence to which he can refer. He hereby relinquishes all claim 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.

S/ Jonathan Davis, X his mark

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

S/ J. McDaniel, CGD

South Carolina Greenville District: Asa Wright¹ makes oath that he was in the regular service during the war of the Revolution and was stationed near Purrysburg for a portion of the time of his service. He has a distinct remembrance of seeing Jonathan Davis the applicant whose name is subscribed on the opposite page in the encampment at the Smokey Camps near Purrysburg.

S/ Asa Wright, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year above written in open Court

S/ J. McDaniel, C. G. D.

[Nathan Berry, a clergyman, and Asa Wright gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

South Carolina Greenville District: On this the 15th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me John Richardson presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Jonathan Davis and applicant for a pension and makes me following declaration in addition to one made on the 19th of March of the present year. The said Jonathan Davis being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear with any greater preciseness [?] as to dates than he has already done, But that he very distinctly remembers that he served the length of time stated in his former declaration. By reference to the history of the Revolution and other assistance he is now able to say that the first of November stated in his declaration as the period when he entered the service was the first of November 1779 -- and that the [illegible] of April heretofore mentioned as the period of his discharge was the 10th of April 1780 -- These dates may be corroborated by adverting to the date of the Battle at Briar Creek commonly called Ashley's Defeat [sic, Ashe's Defeat]. The date of his last service may be fixed by the facts heretofore given to wit that he was on his way driving a wagon to Camden when he was met and turned back by the American troops flying from Gates defeat -- in this last service he was on actual duty for six or seven weeks and was on furlough and sic for the remainder of the term of three months for which he was drafted.

Sworn to in open court the day above written

The said Jonathan Davis also made the following answers to the questions required to be asked and was duly sworn to the same

1. I was born in Prince George County in the State of Maryland, I cannot fix the year with any more certainty than I have already done to wit that I am seventy ___ or seventy ___ years old
2. I have no record of my age I had but lost it.
3. I was living in Caswell County North Carolina when called into service. I removed in the year 1788 to this district where I have resided ever since.
4. My first tour of duty was as a substitute for William Salkup [?]. My last tour under a draft as before stated.
5. I can state nothing more on these facts than I have RD done. I was some time under the

¹ [Asa Wright S18292](#)

command of General Lincoln.

6. I never received any commission all my service was as a private

7. I can name as persons in my neighborhood who will vouch for my veracity every Baety in it I hope and believe I will however name William Johnson Esquire, Col. Thomas B. Brackman, Col. William Austin, Walter Thomas, Austen Thomas Goldsmith &c.

S/ Jonathan Davis, X his mark