

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of John L. Davies (Davis) S2496

fn28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/17/10

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State of Tennessee Wilson County

On this 28th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the justices of the Court of pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County of Wilson now sitting, John L. Davis a resident of Wilson County & State of Tennessee aged about sixty-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 seventh 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

General Griffith Rutherford commanded the brigade to which I belonged. The Regiment to which I was attached was commanded by Colonel Robert Erwin, William Higgins Lieutenant Colonel -- James Harris 1st Major & General William Davidson of the Regular Army acted as our adjutant. I entered in the militia service in the month of April 1780, as well as I now recollect in place of my father who was infirm but did not on that account claimed to be exempted from duty, I was not required by law at that time to bear arms but was a hardy stout youth of 16 years of age and volunteered to serve in place of my father. At the time I entered the service I was a citizen of McLenburgh [sic, Mecklenburg] County in the State of North Carolina. I volunteered to serve a tour of six weeks against the Tories commanded by Colonel John Moore encamped near Lincoln Court-house at Ramsour's Mills -- where there was a very severe action fought between the Tories and a detachment of four Companies commanded by Colonel Locke [Francis Locke] -- the rest of the troops commanded by General Rutherford did not reach the Mills to cooperate with Colonel Locke, in consequence of a sudden rise of the Catawba River the night before -- so that I was not in the battle; I was regularly discharged when my term of service expired -- (six weeks).

I again entered the service as a volunteer about the 29th of July 1780 in the company commanded by Captain John Brownfield of the infantry and in the Regiment commanded by General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] who had raised volunteers to attack the Tories & British who had collected in South Carolina at Rocky Mount, in what is perhaps now known as Chester district. We United with Sumter's troops at Waxhaw Creek after a forced march all day and shortly after our arrival we moved off, and after a march all night we came upon the enemy about Sun rise next morning at Rocky Mount. General Sumpter ordered an attack upon the enemy consisting of British and Tories, the fight continued till evening with but little effect late in the evening General Sumpter ordered a retreat, after having marched about seven miles we encamped near a field of green corn -- which afforded us the first provisions we had to eat from the evening before in that neighborhood till Wednesday after the battle, which fought on Sunday, thence marched to Lands Ford on the Catawba River, & in consequence of high waters remained

there till Saturday evening, crossed the River and marched all night reaching hanging Rock branch about sunrise, where the Tories and British were encamped; the Tories were immediately attacked, and by the time we fired the second or third round they retreated, as several were found killed without their clothes upon them, the presumption was that they were taken by surprise -- the Tories were pursued until the British came to their relief, when we halted and awaited their approach. The British advanced in good order and attacked us in an old field. The contest was severe and of doubtful issue for some considerable time at length the American Troops retreated and occupied a more favorable situation, where undergrowth & brush protected them much from the musketry of the enemy -- they pursued us until nearly all were shot down, when the remainder about 18 in number were taken prisoners -- and I recollect that Colonel Erwin wrenched the bayonet from a Sergeant Major who was the last British officer left on the ground, and then he surrendered. --

General Sumter apprehending an attack from Lord Cornwallis who was reported to be in that vicinity, ordered a retreat, and that night we reached the Waxhaw the neighborhood after a march of about 30 miles -- we encamped at Dr. Harpers & remained there some days until he was discharged -- he was in the service of the United States at this time about 30 days.

In the course of a few weeks, I was again called out and joined the troops under the command of Colonel Locke who was then encamped at McAlpin's Creek [sic, McAlpine Creek] Mecklenburg County North Carolina to keep the Tories in check and to protect the friends of liberty against the depredations of the enemy. I cannot state with certainty the length of time I continued in this service, but to the best of my recollection it was at least two months (say two months).

In the latter part of June or first of July 1780, I entered the service of the United States for a tour of three months in a company of Cavalry commanded by Captain Samuel Hart of Rowan County, in the Regiment of Cavalry commanded by Colonel Davy [sic, William Richardson Davie]; we remained at our encampment on McAlpine Creek for a considerable time until we were at length joined by several Companies of infantry and Colonel Washington's legion of Horse as they were called, among whom were Colonel Morgan & some other field officers. From our encampment at McAlpine Creek we marched to the neighborhood on Waxhaw Creek formed an encampment there & remained at it until I term of service of three months expired; the Company to which I belonged claimed a discharge and much dissatisfaction arose amongst [us] on that account -- at length the company under the peculiar circumstances of the case agreed to stay longer in the service. After remaining one month longer we were discharged and I returned home having received a written discharge from Captain Hart, on which I afterwards obtained an indent entitling me to pay from the public Treasury -- I sold it to Ezekiel Polk for two guineas and this was all and the only compensation I ever drew for my services in the cause of my Country's rights.

Again about the first of February 1781, according to my best recollection, I entered the militia service of the United States in the company commanded by Captain Brownfield, my name was enrolled at Sugar Creek Camp in Mecklenburg County -- the troops at that time & place were commanded by Colonel William Polk of the Regular Army & Colonel Williamson of South Carolina, I think; we marched from Sugar Creek to the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River] formed an encampment there and remained considerable time waiting for reinforcements, until but a few days before the Battle of Guilford Court house -- when our company was discharged & he returned home, at this time I continued about six weeks in the United States service -- So that my services in the Army of the Revolutionary Struggle in all, amounted to about 10

months.

I was a citizen of Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina when I first entered the service of the United States and remained a citizen of that County until the year 1803, when I removed to Wilson County in the neighborhood of the big Spring where I have resided ever since.

I have no documentary evidence whatever to support my petition for being placed on the pension roll, and know of no person by whom my services could be proved except by William Bigham<sup>1</sup> who I learned is living in Bedford County in this State about 60 miles distant. I am intimately acquainted with the Reverend Thomas Calhoun, John Lyon & Alexander Aston old settlers in the Big Spring neighborhood, and I am well acquainted with Esquires Bullard, Provine & Douglass, who are members of this Court & William Steele [?] Esqr. chairman of the Court. His birth is recorded in the old family Bible, which is in the possession of his younger brother William H. Davis of Rutherford County. --

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, to his knowledge.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Josiah S. McClain, Clerk

S/ John L. Davies

[Thomas Calhoun, a clergyman, and Alexander Aston gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

#### Amended Declaration of John helm Davis

This Applicant by way of amendment to his Original Declaration would state that his first service in the year 1780, was in the Company commanded by Captain John Brownfield, the same officer who commanded when he served the second tour, does not recollect the names of his Lieutenant & subordinate officers -- and perhaps a satisfactory reason may be assigned for his want of recollection in these particulars that the Lieutenant & other officers were strangers to him, were not of his company & he thinks of a different County.

He served the second & third campaigns or tours under Captain Brownfield but does not recollect the names of the other company officers --

In the fourth tour mentioned and served under Captain Samuel Hart, James Hart he thinks was Lieutenant and a man by the name of Shallots was the cornet to the best of his recollection.

In the fifth & last campaign Hugh Parks was the Lieutenant in the Company commanded by Captain Brownfield.

In answer to the 13th & 14th queries (although not marked as material objections -- he would state, that when he looks to his, the original declaration, & the language used concerning William Bigham & his residence etc., he finds that he should have said, that said William Bigham a Revolutionary Soldier, who served with him the first & second tours, about seven years since was living perhaps in Bedford County. Yet he is not certain at this time, that it was Bedford County he then lived in, but only states his residence upon information received more than seven years past, to the best of [his] recollection & belief. He does not know at this time, or at the time his Original Declaration was made, that said William Bigham was or is still alive, nor does he know whether he resided in Bedford County or not -- he is too old and infirm to undertake to up said William Bigham -- who was an older man than himself, probably now dead; This Applicant in pursuance of the explanatory note to the fifth Query -- commenced his declaration by making the following affidavit: to wit:

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<sup>1</sup> FPA S1497

"Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace for the County of Wilson & State of Tennessee, John L. Davis, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; for six weeks, he served as a private in the militia of North Carolina in the Company commanded by Captain John Brownfield -- 2nd tour -- I serve as a private soldier in the company of Volunteers commanded by Captain Brownfield, thirty days. -- 3rd tour For two months I served as a private soldier in the militia, Company commanded by Captain Brownfield. 4th Tour -- For four months I served as a private in the Company of horse commanded by Captain Samuel Hart; & 5th tour: for six weeks under Captain Brownfield in the militia & as a private soldier -- So that he served as a private soldier in the Army of the Revolution, according to the best of his recollection and belief not less than 10 months, and all: and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ John L. Davies

the foregoing amended Declaration an affidavit sworn to before made this 15th day of May A.D. 1833

S/ Brinkley Bridges, JP