

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Isaac Davisson S2509

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana } SS.

County of Johnson }

On this twelfth day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Esrael Watts sole Judge of the Probate Court of Johnson County, now sitting, Isaac Davisson of Blue River township Johnson County Indiana, aged eighty 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 June 7 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States (or colonies as they then were) about the 1st of July 1775 as a volunteer ranger under the command of Captain James Boothe [sic: James Booth], Lieutenant Jeelin Tucker, and Ensign John Tucker. That when he entered the service aforesaid he was a resident of Harrison County Virginia [formed in 1784 from Monongalia County, which was formed in 1776 from West Augusta District]; That from said county this declarant marched with the company to which he belonged (the same being a company of Rangers raised to defend the country from the incursions of the hostile Indians & having no field officers or others, but those above named belong to it) across the west fork of the manangahala river [sic: West Fork River, a tributary of Monongahela River], and westward in the direction of the Ohio river, to a place where one Caldwell had previously established a store; at which place they rendezvoused for about two weeks; That at the expiration of said period they marched through various points of the country adjasant to the Ohio river, then an entire wilderness, in pursuit of the Indians. - That after a tour of a bout six weeks through the aforesaid wilderness country, during which time they endured every privation and hardship attendant upon such an expedition at such a time, they returned to Harrison county aforesaid, and were stationed about five miles below Clarksburgh on Boothe's creek [sic: about 12 mi NE of Clarksburg on Booths Creek] in said county; - At which place and a station at Obadiah Davisson' the father of this declarant, they remained, (some times at one and again at the other station as was tho't most advisable) until about the last of December when they were honorably dismissed; - That while stationed as aforesaid Colonel Martin acted as Commissary to said company

That this declarant also in the year 1776 entered the service of the United States as an Indian Spy; Several others were engaged at the same time and in consert with this declarant; all of whom were under the command of Major Daniel Davisson brother to this declarant; That after entering the service this declarant marched westwardly into what is now the Ohio State; - That between the Monongala and Ohio Rivers at a branch of the latter called Hughe's river this declarant and those who served with him as aforesaid, had an engagement with a party of Indians, in which five Indians were killed and five wounded; two white persons who had been made prisoners by the Indians also were released; and sundry horses & a considerable quantity of plunder was recaptured from them. After this affair this declarant returned to Clarksburgh in Harrison County, where he remained a short time, when he again resumed his business of spying; in which employment he continued without any particular occurrence until the expiration of his term of enlistment to wit six months, when he returned to quarters and was dismissed.

That this declarant also some time in may 1777 at Nutter's Fort was appointed orderly or first Serjant of those individuals (for they were not soldiers properly so called) who had sought sad [said] place as a refuge from the merciless depredations of the savages: This Fort was situated in Harrison County a few miles from Clarksburgh [within present Clarksburg]. Major Daniel Davisson above named was principal commandant of said fort at this time. While acting in the capacity aforesaid this declarant endured al the hardships necessarily incident to a station such as he then held, in a Fort daily, nightly, nay hourly treated with assaults from the exterminating enemies of its inhabitants. After six months of almost incessant watching & labor, this declarant and the inhabitants of the Fort were permitted by their savage neighbors, to respire a little, an consequently they emerged from their "Dank abode," and were again

permitted to pursue their ordinary avocations.

That this declarant also about the first of May 1778 entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in a company of Rangers under the command of Captain Christopher Carpenter; the names of the subaltern officers of said company are not now recollected, & there was not regiment or regimental officers belonging to the expedition Nicholas Carpenter was commissary of said company; - After enlistment as aforesaid the declarant and the company to which he belonged marched towards the head of the west fork of the monongahala River, but thro' what particular section of country they passed in unknown to this declarant, the whole country, with scarce a solitary exception west of the Alleghenies [Allegheny Mountains] then being a vast wilderness; After traversing the country for something like 100 miles in pursuit of the Indians and in protection of the defenceless inhabitants, who were daily falling victims to the cruelty of the savages scalping knife; and after killing & taking prisoners several straggling Indians, they having performed a six month tour of duty returned to quarters and were dismissed.

That this declarant hath no documentary evidence of his service aforesaid nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure by whom he can prove his services

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.

And in answer to the interrogatories here now propounded unto him by the court this declarant saith.

1. That he was born in east New Jersey in 1746.
2. That his age is recorded in a family bible which is now in the possession of Isaac Davisson his son who resides on the little Miami in the State of Ohio.
3. That when he entered the service of the United States he was a resident of Harrison county Virginia, where he resided until after the war. Since which time he lived in the state of Ohio, and is now and for the last twelve years has been a resident of Johnson County Indiana
4. That he entered the service as a volunteer.
5. There were no regular officers with the rangers with whom he served.
7. That he is known to John FASTER and Samuel Herriott Clerk of the Johnson Circuit Court who can testify as to his veracity and whose certificate are hereunto annexed

[signed] Isaac Davisson

NOTE: On 25 Feb 1841 Davisson applied to have his pension transferred to Clark County OH where he had moved for the following reason: "he is aged and infirm, he has two sons residing in said Clark County and another living in the neighboring county of Shelby, and that there was not at his late residence any person nearly related to him, whose situation rendered it convenient for them to attend to his necessary wants and that he removed with a view of living with one of those sons..."