

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Henry Davis S30981

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky - Christian County S.S.

On this 3^d day of Sept 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Christian now sitting Henry Davis a resident of said County aged Seventy three years the 28th February next who being 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 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

That he was born the 28th day of February 1760 that he resided in Caswell County North Carolina That he entered the service of the United States as a Drafted Militia man at a place called Leesburgh [sic: Leasburg] in the year 1779 - as he believes in January under the command of of Col [Francis] Locke - he believes who commanded a Regt of North Carolina Drafted Militia in Capt DeWits - or Jewits Company. We Randivazed at Hillsborough under Genl Ash [sic: John Baptist Ashe] - from thence we marched to Purysburgh [SC] about 25 or 30 miles from the mouth of Savannah - and joined Genl Rutherfords [Griffith Rutherford's] troops there — we marched then over the Savanah River to Briar Creek where we had a Battle called Ashs Defeat [Battle of Briar Creek GA, 3 Mar 1779]. We then retreated back again over the River and joined Genl. Rutherford again. We were discharged by Genl Rutherford near Purysburgh - Genl Ash having gone home which ended my six months tour —

at the same time and place there was a call for troops - and Genl Rutherford called for volunteers - I turned out under him for five months in the North Carolina Regt Commanded by Coll James Saunders. I believe Major [John] Nelson in the company commanded by Capt Wm White - Leut Wm Knight & Ensign Young - We remained here for some time in order to keep the Tories in subjection and had frequently to go out in scouting parties against them until the tour expired & then went home —

I did not then remain long at home before it again came to my turn to be drafted - I declined being drafted and turned out volunteer in the year 1780 in Caswell County in a Regt commanded by Col Adam Saunders - Major Geo Oldham & Capt Jno Oldham [see note below]. We marched from thence to near Camden [SC] where we had a general Battle [16 Aug 1780] under the command of Genl [Horatio] Gates Baron De Kalb & others where the Baron was killed, and we met with a severe Defeat by Lord Cornwallis. We then retreated back after which I was again Discharged by Genl Rutherford I believe and went home I then remained but a few weeks at home before I again volunteered under Major Oldham & Capt Oldham who then belonged to Genl Butlers [John Butler's] devesion - in the year 1781 — We Randevouzed at a place called the Reedy fork Bridge in Guilford County. we remained there only a short time before we marched to Guilford Court house where we had a Battle. I was in the Battle and formed one of the front line of the Battle this I believe was in March [15th] 1781. We then marched to Hillsborough from thence to Whitsells Mills [sic: Wetzels Mill] on Haw River. We were then called upon to volunteer to go to Norfolk and was soon informed of Lord Cornwallis being taken [19 Oct 1781] We had marched as far as Roan Oak [sic: Roanoke] River before we heard the news and was then discharged verbally by Major Oldham and went home. He never recd any written discharge from the service — that he always served over his time in each tour — and he is well satisfied that he served fully two years in all — that removed from Chaswell County to Tennessee and from thence to Christian County Kentucky where he hath resided about eighteen years — he was born in Prince George County State of Maryland — he has no record of his age —

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 of the United States

Henry hisHmark Davis

Te Commonwealth of Kentucky

Christian County Sct

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for the County and Commonwealth aforesaid Henry 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 services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grades.

That his first tour in Sept 1779 for Six Months and ended in March 1780 just before the surrender of Charleston [12 May 1780] — that in this his first tour he served fully six months as a private—

The 2^d tour for five months commenced in March 1780 as Volunteer under Genl Rutherford & Capt Whites Company and ended sometime in August of that year that he served the tour fully out —

The 3^d tour for five months as Volunteer in the fall of 1780 in the Regt commanded by Coll A Saunders & Company by Capt Jno Oldham he served this tour for five months fully out —

The fourth tour was for five months as a Volunteer in Capt Oldhams Compy in a Division commanded by Genl Butler his best recollection is that he served this tour fully out before he was called upon to Volunteer his Services to go to Norfolk That he did then Volunteer his services again as a private for four months — that his best recollection is that his four months service fully expired on the tour before he could get home — he would most positively state that he served in all fully two years in the war of the Revolution in the service of the United States for which he claims a pension

He would further state That he never Received a written Discharge from the service that it was not common for the Militia to get a written Discharge. That he has no Documentary evidence in proof of his service — That he is now living at a great distance from where he served his Country and does not know of any living Witness by whom he could proove his actual service except a man by the name of S Warran he believes who the last that he heard of him was living in Warren County Tennessee with whom he served the first tour, and that he does not now know whether the said Warren is now living or not - and if living he would be unable from the distance in all probability to procure his evidence —

and as to the Seventh Interogatory not answered in his former Declaration to which this is an amendment - he would name William McGee, William[?] Davis, James Hutcheon Oliver Cromwell Stephen Mallory William Davenport and many others of his near neighbors by whom he can establish he character for Veracity and their belief of his services and a soldier of the Revolution.

Given under my hand this 8th day of December 1832 Henry hisHmark Davis

NOTE: According to other pension applications, George Oldham was Captain, and John Oldham was Ensign.