

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Davidson ¹ S31639

f31SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/27/10 & 1/2/14 & 4/1/20

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 28]

State of Georgia Jasper County

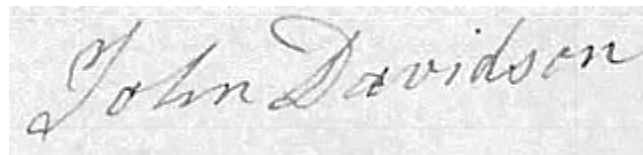
On this Twenty first day of January in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Inferior Court of said County now sitting John Davidson a resident of said County & State aged 73 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in the month of August in the year 1776 under the following officers, and served as herein stated to wit Colonel Thomas Brandon, Major Benjamin Jolly Captain James Crawford -- served a Tour of three months and was drafted several times and was under Colonel Roebuck [Benjamin Roebuck] at Orangeburg sent by General Green [Nathanael Greene] to guard some prisoners in Jail and was in the service in all three years and six months. That he resided in Union District South Carolina at the time he entered the service. That he was under Colonel Pickens [Andrew Pickens] at the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] -- and in an engagement against the Tories commanded by Cunningham [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] -- and that he marched through the adjacent Country -- and that he was in the service almost constantly till the close of the war. That he has no documentary Evidence of the same, but the Certificate of Gilbert Shaw² hereunto annexed his fellow soldier which he offers as evidence of his service.

He hereby relinquishes any 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 in the Union.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Davidson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Davidson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, typical of the late 18th or early 19th century.

S/ Edward Price, JIC

[Jeremiah Lumsden, a clergyman, and Aris Newton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ BLWt26173-160-55

² [Gilbert Shaw W3876](#)

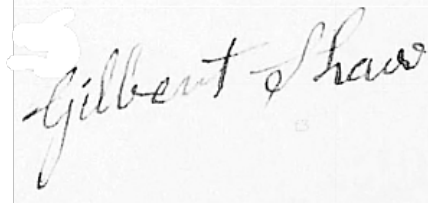
[p 29]

I Gilbert Shaw of said County and State do certify that John Davidson the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served a part of the above specified time with me in the Militia of the State of South Carolina.

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

S/ Edward Price, JIC

S/ Gilbert Shaw

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gilbert Shaw". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

[p 3]

State of Georgia, Jasper County

On this twenty-ninth day of April in the year Eighteen hundred and thirty-four, formally appeared before the Supreme Court of said County, John Davidson, a resident of said County and State, age seventy two years and being first duly sworn according to Law, doth in 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 in the year Seventeen hundred and seventy seven in the month of August, in Union District South Carolina, as a volunteer under the following named officers to wit. Col. Thomas Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon], Maj. Benjamin Jolly and Capt. Robert Pharis [sic, Robert Faris]. That he marched first to Smith's Ford on Broad River and from there down to the place called the Waxhaws and from there to Forsies' Ford on Broad River, all this time he was engaged as a volunteer and employed against the Tories. He returned home to Union District in the month of September having been gone about one month. Shortly after this, he thinks in the month of October following, he was drafted as a militia man in the company of Capt. Faris & Col. Brandon's Regiment and thereupon he marched up to Seneca, The residence of Col. (afterwards Genl.) Pickens [Andrew Pickens], and from that place in company with other troops, viz. the Regiments under command of Col. Roebuck and Col. Elijah Clark. The whole with his own Regiment, commanded by Genl. Pickens marched to Saluda River and was there in detached parties sent about in an uncertain sort of service in order to keep down the Tories between the Broad and Saluda Rivers and were kept engaged in this way until the arrival of General Green [Nathanael Greene] & his army in that part of the Country. And that his Regiment joined the forces under Genl Green then having his Head Quarters at the High Hills of Santee. That Genl Green ordered a detachment to be formed of five men from each captain's company and all under the command of Col. Roebuck & Lieut. Col. Farr to proceed to Orangeburg C. H. for the purpose of guarding with greater security the jail at that place in which were confined a number of prisoners. That he was one of the five men taken from the company of Capt. Faris and was placed under the immediate command of Lieut. Latimer of Capt. Thompson's company and then marched to Orangeburg C. H. where he remained in the aforementioned service for the span of two months. The prisoners having been sent by order of Genl Green to his Head Quarters he was verbally discharged by Col. Roebuck at Orangeburg and then returned home. In the fall of the year 1780 he was ordered out still a drafted militia man to join Genl Morgan's [Daniel Morgan's] Troops on Pacolet River, he serving in the Company of Capt. Faris, Col. Brandon's Regiment, the first Lieut. of said Company being James Crawford and the second John Storey. That about this time he and

fourteen others of Capt. Faris' Company fell in with a detachment of Tories commanded by Cunningham [William Cunningham], the celebrated Tory captain, about Thirty in number, and in their skirmish the following individuals of his company were killed, to wit. Thomas Barrow, Edward Armstrong & Patrick Harberson. That he marched in the Regiment & company above stated to Pacolet River where they joined the army of Genl Morgan and immediately the whole body marched to the place called the Cowpens where Genl Morgan halted and remained until the Battle at that place which occurred on the 17th day of January 1781. That in this battle he received two saber cuts, one on the head and the other on the right hand. He remembers to have seen at this fight Col. William Washington, Genl Pickens (& Col. Howard [John Eager Howard] of the Regular Army). That on the day after the battle the army under command of Genl Morgan proceeded to cross Broad River and marched thence to Salisbury N. C. Here the militia was discharged by Genl Morgan verbally. That he remained at this place after the departure northward of the force under command of Genl Morgan for about one month in which time the wounds on his head and hand were nearly cured and then returned to Union District, South Carolina having been absent about five months. That in the month of September following under Capt., (formerly Lieut.) James Crawford of the company formerly commanded by Capt. Faris, Col, Brandon's Regiment, he marched, Lieut. Col. Farr then commanding the Regiment - & Maj. Young, assistant commander, to Bobo's on Tyger River where they rendezvoused two days and were joined by other Troops and all then marched to a fort on the Congaree River where was deposited some of Genl Green's ammunition, stores & provisions. That they remained at that place 'til the latter part October 1781 when intelligence arrived of the capture of Lord Cornwallis' army at York Town [October 19, 1781] three days after which they were verbally discharged by Lieut. Col. Farr and then returned home to Union District having been absent on this occasion about two months. The whole of his time of service was three years at least. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Davidson

[Jeremiah Lumsden, a clergyman, Aris Newton & William Jones³ (a revolutionary pensioner) gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

To the questions proposed by order of the Pension Office, Department of War,⁴ John Davidson answers.

1. Born in the year 1761 in the state of Pennsylvania on the Schuylkill River near Philadelphia.

³ [William Jones W11950](#)

⁴ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

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

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.

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

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

2. He has a record of his age in a family Bible at his home.
3. Union District, So. Carolina. At the time he was called into service until the close of the Revolutionary War he was residing in Union District South Carolina, then in Greene County, Georgia, and then to Morgan County, and then to Jasper where he now resides making in all a residence in Georgia of 37 years as well as he recalls.
4 & 5 Refer to his declaration for answers.
6. He received no written discharge
7. He refers to Jeremiah Samson, a clergyman, Aris Newton, & William Jones, the last a Revolutionary Pensioner.
Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court this 29th day of April 1834
S/ Lucian Q. C. Lamar

S/ John Davidson

[p 10: On April 9, 1855, John Davidson, 93, filed in Jasper County Georgia for his bounty land entitlement. In this affidavit he states "...that his certificate of discharge was destroyed with other valuable papers & money some 2 years ago by robbers."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts ⁵ relating to John Davidson Jr.	AA16
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1763	
Transcribed by Will Graves	4/1/20

[p 12]

No. 112

[No.] 2793

[Book] X 15 May 86 [1786]

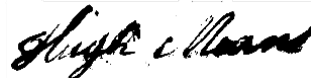
John Davidson Junior for Militia duty, since the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] in Brandon's Regiment per Anderson's [Colonel Robert Anderson's] Return [not extant]

[old South Carolina] Currency £371

Stg. £53

Ex^d. J. M^c. A. G. [Examined by John McCall, Adjutant General]

Received the 15th May 1786 full Satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 2793 X per Order
S/ Hugh Means



[p 13: Repeat of the above information]

⁵ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

[p 15: retake of page 14]

January 14th 1786

Sir/ If my Public account has passed into an Indent Pray let the Bearer Mr. Hugh Means have it
and in so doing you will oblige your Humble Servant

S/ John Davidson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Davidson", written over a horizontal line.

To the Commissioner
of public Accounts
Certified S/ John Birdsong, JP