

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Davis S31641

f12SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/31/10: rev'd 4/17/20

[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.]

State of Georgia Fayette County} SS

On this twentieth day of May 1834 personally appeared in Open court before Finlay G. Stewart, Samuel Swanson & Elbward P. Nixon Justices of the Inferior Court of the County aforesaid now sitting William Davis Senior a resident of the County of Fayette and State of Georgia aged seventy-four 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a soldier of the Revolutionary War under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

In Captain Philip Walker's Company, in the month of March 1778 in Chester District South Carolina he entered the service of the United States, being drafted under the authority of the State of South Carolina, and was marched in Major Ellison's Battalion, under the command of Major Ellison to Orangeburg Court House thence to the Savannah River, and was stationed at Purrysburg on that River, from whence the British who were then in possession of the City of Savannah soon drove us, we retreated towards Charleston, and in our retreat had two skirmishes with a party of British troops one at Papatalago [sic, Pocotaligo], the other at a place called Cooche-hat-chee [sic, Coosawhatchie, May 3, 1779?]¹, and after having been in the service of the United States as aforesaid not less than three months as a private, he was discharged verbally at a place called Dodgester [sic, Dorchester] 21 miles from Charleston by Captain Walker and that he was engaged in no civil pursuit during that time.

In Chester District South Carolina, early in the year 1779, he volunteered, and entered the service of the United States in Captain Alexander Campbell's Company, Major McGriff's [Patrick McGriff's] Battalion and Colonel Lacey's [Edward Lacey's] Regiment under their command, and under authority of the State of South Carolina, and was marched to a place called the "four holes" forty miles from Charleston where we were stationed, frequently in detachments reconnoitering the Country, and once the whole force were marched to Stono ferry near Charleston, where we met some British troops & had a Battle [Battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779], and after having been in service of the United States as a private soldier as aforesaid not less than six months, he was verbally discharged by Captain Campbell at the "four holes" having been engaged in no civil pursuit -- during that time.

In the month of February, in the year 1781 in Chester district South Carolina he

¹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_coosawhatchie.html

volunteered & entered the service of the United States as a private under Authority of the State of South Carolina, in Captain John Adair's Company, Major McGriff's Battalion and Colonel Lacey's Regiment & under their command, and in a short time under the Command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], he was marched to Orangeburg Court House South Carolina, thence to Brown's old fields on Congaree River -- thence again towards Orangeburg Court House and at the halfway swamp fell in with a party of British where we had a hot skirmish, the Main British Army being ahead of us on the road we took a circuitous route to Orangeburg & from thence we were marched towards General Greene's Army and joined him at the Saluda Islands near Ninety Six, and after having been in the service of the United States as aforesaid not less than 6 months & having been engaged in no civil pursuit during that time, he was discharged by Captain Adair near Ninety Six.

In Chester district, South Carolina, and a few days only after his return from the expedition just described, in the month of August 1781, as a private he again volunteered & entered the service of the United States under authority of the State of South Carolina in Captain James Ramsey's Company, Major McGriff's Battalion & Colonel Lacey's Regiment & under their command was marched to Winnsborough thence to Brown's old fields and McCord's ferry on Congaree, thence to the Battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], in which Battle he was, having previously joined General Greene, which Battle he thinks occurred in September 1781, after having parted from General Greene's Army, under the command of Major McGriff we had a severe Battle at Blackstocks Mills which was about Christmas, and after being marched from place to place without any other event of particular importance occurring in the month of February or March 1782 he was discharged by Captain Ramsey having been in the service as aforesaid not less than 6 months and during which time he was engaged in no civil pursuit whatever.

That he was born near the Virginia line in the State of North Carolina according to the record in his father's Bible which is now in his possession on the 18th day of February 1760. -- That he lived in Chester District State of South Carolina when called into service, where he then resided, and where he afterwards resided until the year 1825 when he removed to Fayette County State of Georgia where since that time he has resided & now resides. That he was once drafted, and afterwards volunteered his services, & has stated the names of the officers in this declaration, & was discharged he thinks verbally as he has herein stated. That he now knows of no person except Samuel Houston² of Fayette County, State of Georgia who can testify to his Services in the Revolutionary War. That the Reverend William K. Patton and Andrew McBride all persons residing in his neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief as to his revolutionary services.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Davis Senior

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Davis Senior". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized and slanted.

[William K. Patton, a clergyman, and Andrew McBride gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

² [Samuel Houston W7810](#)

To the 1st Interrogatory³ he answers --

In the State of North Carolina near the Virginia line, on the 18th day of February 1760.

To the 2nd he answers I have now in my possession my father's family Bible in which my age is recorded.

To the 3rd he answers In Chester District State of South Carolina & where he since resided until 1825, at which time he moved to Fayette County State of Georgia where he has resided since that time and where he now resides.

To the 4th he answers In my first tour I was drafted, afterwards in each tour I volunteered.

To the 5th he answers I must refer to the body of my declaration where they in said to this Interrogatory will be found at large.

To the 6th he answers That he was discharged by Captain Walker Captain Campbell Captain Adair & Captain Ramsey, but he thinks that day he gave no written discharges, at the entire companies were discharged by a verbal dismissal addressed to them at the same time.

To the 7th he answers The Reverend William K. Patton & Andrew McBride.

Explanatory affidavit to the foregoing declaration

State of Georgia Fayette County} Personally appeared before me Jesse Ward one of the Justices of the peace in & for the said County, William Davis Senior who being duly sworn deposeseth & saith that in explanation of the foregoing alleged tours of 6 months, he does not know that he volunteered & entered in either of the said tours for any certain length of time, but knows that he was out and served the time specified in his declaration, that at the time he made the declaration he believed & was advised that it was his duty to describe the time, places, manner, officers and the nature & duration of each tour, therefore knowing that he was out in those tours a greater length of time than is therein specified and it so happened name that the most or all the time under the same officers that he entered under but for the sake of certainty he limits those tours to six months each. That from the time he first entered the service until the close of the war, except some short intervals he considered himself in continual service of his Country that from the time of his first entering and during the war he devoted the whole of his time and property and everything in his power for the establishment of liberty, that he had one good horse killed while in service, but except in those tours described in his declaration, he cannot establish his services in accordance with the rules laid down by the war department as he understands them. Sworn to & subscribed before made this 21st day of July 1834

S/ Wm Davis

S/ Jesse Ward, JP

³ 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.

Georgia of Fayette County} Personally appeared before me Jesse Lamberth one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County Samuel Houston who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was a soldier in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war, that in the time of the revolutionary war he was well acquainted with William Davis Senior who is now a citizen of Fayette County Georgia, that at the time of the revolutionary war he was sometimes with and frequently saw the said Davis in the service of his Country -- and particularly he knows that the said Davis belonged & served in Colonel Lacey's Regiment that he knows the said Davis to have been almost constantly out in service during the three or four last years of the war, that he knows that the volunteers of Colonel Lacey's Regiment were frequently out 6 or 8 or more months at a time.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th July 1834

Test: S/ Jesse Lamberth, JP

S/ Saml Houston

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Saml Houston". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Saml Houston".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 21 months in the South Carolina militia.]