

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Snead Davis S32205

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f37SC/GA/NC

rev'd 1/31/10 & 7/6/20

[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.]

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The Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Livingston SS

On this twenty first day of March in the year 1834—personally appeared before me John Smedley a Justice of the Peace for the County in the Commonwealth aforesaid Snead Davis a resident of Livingston County in the State of Kentucky aged eighty one years on the last day of August in the year 1833, -- 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 was born as he has been told by his parents and verily believes in Prince Edward County Virginia. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. While living in Wilkes County on the Yadkin River in North Carolina he volunteered and joined General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] of Charleston, under Captain Richard (familiarily called Dick) Allen [Richard Allen], Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle] commanded the Regiment to which Allen's company was attached, and that he served six months. When he had been in the service as aforesaid in Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780]¹ about three months the British took possession and turned them out; the enemy having a superior force General Lincoln would not hazard a battle; After the expiration of his term of service as aforesaid (six months) he returned home when a Captain John McKenzie came through the neighborhood wanting recruits; and affiant enlisted under him. Captain McKenzie's brother [William McKenzie], whose baptismal name affiant does not recollect, was Lieutenant² of said company. Said company joined Colonel Hill's [William Hill's] Regiment under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] in what were called the State troops who were enlisted for 10 months and wore the U. States uniform. Major Buford [William Buford] was Major of the Regiment; we fought the enemy once at Moncks Corner thirty two miles from Charleston. We also boarded a vessel in Cooper's River [sic Cooper River] in the night and took it [two or three lines of text are completely obscured by what appears to have been an attempt to repair the original document with some sort of tape that has discolored over time]... of the money. It was during this term of service that while stationed at Orangeburg on Edisto River under the command of General Sumter I was sent out with a reconnoitering party of four men besides myself (I being orderly Sergeant and having the command) and surprised a party of Tories consisting of seven, who were in possession of a farmer's house and were drinking and carousing there after having perpetrated outrages. We killed them all and released the old man and his two daughters from them. It was in the course of this fray than I received my first wound from the butt of a musket over the head. It was during this term of service also

¹ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

² sic, actually Capt. John McKenzie recruited men to join the company of ten months State Troops commanded by his brother Capt. William McKenzie.

than I received my second wound. During the investment of Ninety Six³ by General Greene [Nathanael Greene], our Cavalry had a meeting with Lord Rawdon's command on their way to relieve their friends at Ninety Six. I then received the Sabre cut across the side of my head and forehead. I have been frequently told at times past that I was entitled to a pension on account of my wounds, but as my circumstances were good and I was able to labor I did not care to apply. Having now become feeble and paralytic I am disposed to have it if I can. I knew Colonel Lyon and knew his father very well – and have been known to them for 20 years or more. When my term of enlistment with Col Hill expired and my wounds were healed, I went to the high hills of Santee and enlisted with Captain Thurman of Marion's [Francis Marion's] Brigade and was marched soon after to Wombo [sic, Wiboo, Wyboo or Wambaw] swamp, in which Marion was stationed. Our first active service after my arrival there was to surprise a party of the enemy at Georgetown. The party consisted of British and Tories; we rode all night and about day break entered the town; the enemy broke and scattered; some were killed and one officer was dragged down out of a chimney in which he had concealed himself. I quitted [sic] Marion's corps by his permission after five months service and returned home, where I learned that my father had removed from Wilkes County to Burke County. On my arrival in Burke County I learned that volunteers were wanted to go and fight Colonel Ferguson [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson] at Gilbert town in Rutherford County. I volunteered under Captain Becknell [sic, probably Thomas Biecknell or Bicknell] in Colonel Cleveland's [Benjamin Cleveland's] Regiment and marched off in search of the enemy. We met him at King's Mountain [October 7, 1780]⁴ and gained a complete victory. Ferguson was killed and some of his Tory officers were hung. I think thirty two individuals (all Tories) were sentenced to be hung. Col. Mills [Ambrose Mills], a noted Tory, was one who suffered in this way. I remember he made his wife tie the handkerchief over his eyes. Two of his captains also were hung – I think they were brothers and that their names were McFall. We carried our prisoners to Moravian town and thence to Salisbury. Colonel Washington [William Washington] sent us more prisoners to Salisbury. They were Tories who had served under Col. Rugeley [Henry Rugeley],⁵ and we guarded them all to the Virginia line in Henry County and delivered them up. The prisoners from the battle of Cowpens [January 17, 1781] were also under our charge. We were at Salisbury and in this employment for three months. After delivering the prisoners aforesaid to the Virginia troops, we returned and joined General Greene, and continued with him until the battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781]. After that battle our company dispersed and I went home. I stayed there four or five weeks and then enlisted with Captain Wilburn in Col. Clark's [sic, Elijah Clarke?] Regiment in the Georgia line and went into Georgia to treat with McGilluray [sic, Alexander McGillivray] at the Lock Landing [sic, Rock Landing] on Oconee River.⁶ Nothing was done in the way of treating. We were then marched up further into Georgia on Tugaloo River to a place called Major Walton's Station. We had one battle there with the Indians, who attempted to take our Fort but were defeated; after leaving Walton's station, I was employed as a Ranger and occasionally as a Spy upon the Indian frontier; I served in all between four and five years. After my final discharge I returned to Burke County and a few months thereafter, accompanied my father in his removal to Holston River. Three years thereafter I left my father in Powell's Valley and removed to Green River in Kentucky, what is now called Warren County; and six years after to Cumberland River on what is now called Livingston County, and have been here and hereabouts since that time; except that I spend time occasionally in Amite County on Amite River in

³ Siege of 96, May 21 – June 19, 1781

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

⁵ December 4, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html

⁶ This occurred in 1789.

the State of Mississippi with my son John who lives there; I am well acquainted with Solomon Hicks of this County and served with him at Charleston South Carolina. I am acquainted with James McCawly and Henry Wells of Smithland and with almost everybody in my neighborhood. I was acquainted with Col Hill, General Sumter and his son Thomas Sumter who married in France. I knew you Colonel Washington, Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and many other officers. I generally received written discharges and furloughs and they were all "Honorable" and the word to the best of my remembrance was in the discharges; -- My papers however were burnt in my house when I lived at the Dripping Spring in Warren County; and the discharges if not previously worn out shared the fate of the rest; with respect to the precise day and date of my several enlistments it is out of my power to say anything more than I have said or with greater precision.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid presence of the subscriber, a justice of the peace for and in the County of Livingston.

S/ Snead Davis, X his mark

S/ John Smedley, J. P. L. C.

Answers to seven Interrogatories⁷ prescribed by the War Department to Snead Davis given by him to John Smedley, Esq. On the ___ day of March 1834 in his office:

Answers:

1. On the last day of August in the year 1752.
2. None except tradition and memory.
3. In Wilkes County North Carolina where he first volunteered – on Holston, Greene and Cumberland Rivers since the Revolutionary War and in Livingston County Kentucky and now.
4. I never was drafted and never was a substitute – I always was a volunteer.
5. General Lincoln, General Sumter, General Marion, Col. Lee, Colonel Washington, Captain McKenzie, Captain Becknell, Captain Allen, Colonel Lytle, Captain Thurman.
6. I generally received honorable discharges in writing at the expiration of my respective tours of service and was always honorably discharged, but if not previously worn out they perished in the conflagration of my house.
7. James McCawly, the Reverend James Johnson, the Honorable C. Lyon, Representative in Congress, Squire Smedley.

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⁷ 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.

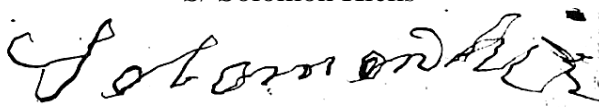
The Deposition of Solomon Hicks⁸ taken at the House of Henry Persons in the Town of Smithland Livingston County Kentucky on the 15th day of March 1834 for the purpose of proving the Identity & services of Snead Davis who served as a private in the revolutionary war
Question 1st At what time did you first become acquainted with Snead Davis now present & at whose request you are now giving your Deposition

Answer -- I served under Captain Courtney Pinckney and Colonel Thomas Pinckney's Regiment in the Continental troops 2 years & got my discharge & came home. I afterwards joined Captain Richard Allen's Company at Wilkes Court house & there I became acquainted with Snead Davis now present who belonged also to Captain Richard Allen's Company of militia under Colonel Lytle

Question 2nd: What services did you know of that was performed by the said Snead Davis

Answer: -- Our Company marched down to Charleston where we joined our Regiment under General Lincoln's Command where we remained until our services expired when we were marched out to Moncks Corner & discharged the said David served the full tour and was there discharged further this Deponent knoweth not.

S/ Solomon Hicks



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The Deposition: Polly Adams taken at James McCawley's house in the Town of Smithland, Livingston County Kentucky on the 15th day of March 1834 for the purpose of proving the identity & services of Snead Davis now present who served in the Continental troops in the Revolutionary War:

Question 1st : Do you know the applicant Snead Davis now present?

Answer: He is my brother I have known more than 60 years.

Question 2nd : What services did you know him to perform in the Continental Service during the Revolutionary War?

Answer: The first Service that I remember was performed at Charleston in the Militia service. He then served under General Sumter in South Carolina he was gone two years I don't know whether he served all the time or not, He was under Colonel Cleavelly [sic, Benjamin Cleveland] at King's Mountain. He afterwards served under Colonel John Clark [sic, Elijah Clark?] in Georgia at the time that the Americans was to hold a treaty with McGilberry [sic, Alexander McGillivray] at the Rock Landing on Oconee River. I think he served four or five years altogether in the Continental Service in the Revolutionary war and further the deponent knoweth not.

S/ Polly Adams, M her mark

[Facts in file: In 1834, the veteran's son, John, was living on Amite River, Amite County Mississippi; there are no other references to the children of this veteran. On October 6, 1837 in Hamilton County, Illinois, the veteran filed for a transfer of his pension payments to the Illinois agency giving as his reason for removing from Kentucky that "part of his connection living in said State which he preferred living with."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$92.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the cavalry and 9 months in the infantry, all in the militia of South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.]

⁸ [Solomon Hicks S31128](#)