Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Davis S3255 VA Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee }

On this 1st day of November 1841 personally appeared before the County Court of said County William Davis a resident of said County and state aforesaid aged eighty 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 Enlisted in the Army of the United States in the month of February in the year AD 1781 at Halifax County Virginia under Captain Conway [possibly Patrick Carnes BLWt2266-300] of the Horse Colnl. Lees Regiment [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion]. That he marched from Halifax County Virginia, to Guilford Court House North Carolina, passing through Caswell and was in the Battle at Guilford on the 15th day of March 1781, and received two wounds, in the head that were slight One from a Ball, and the other from the Cut of a Sword. after the Battle passed through Rowan and Mecklenburgh [sic: Mecklenburg County NC] thence into Cashaw [sic: Kershaw County], South Carolina, and was engaged in a skirmish with the British and Tories at the Wateree, from thence to the Eutaw Springs and was engaged in the Battle on the 8th September 1781, after which I was discharged at Lynches Creek South Carolina under the orders of Gen'l [Nathanael] Greene, at the close of the Revolutionary War, serving under the officers before mentioned. 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 any Agency in any State William hisXmark Davis

Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions], Dandridge Tennessee/ 4th November AD 1841 William Davis, the within named applicant for a Pension appeared in open Court and in answering the questions asked him by the Court relative to his military services was both interesting and satisfactory. he had his head examined and the marks of the wound stated in his declaration were very perceivable.

He was after the close of the Revolutionary War in St Clairs defeat [defeat of Arthur St. Clair by Indians, 4 Nov 1791]. Afterwards was with Gen'l Anthony Wayne, when the Indians were defeated [Battle of Fallen Timbers, 30 Jun 1794], he was at the Treaty [of Greenville] Was also present at the Burial of Wayne [died at Erie PA, 15 Dec 1796], and gave the most satisfactory detail of facts and occurrences that I have ever heard given by any applicant. as there is no Law that I know of making provision for this class of Soldiers. We [illegible word] drafting a declaration. Mr Davis is a very infirm, poor old Man and no doubt Very deserving, and of good Character. If his Claim is allowed please forward his certificate to me at this place

Yours Respectfully/ James Fuller

State of Tennessee }

Jefferson County } This day personally appeared before me Charles F Bruckner a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, William Davis, an aged and infirm man, with whom I am personally acquainted and made Oath in due form of Law, that he enlisted in the Revolutionary War under Captain Conway, Conner, or Connally as well as he recollects, and that he served in Colnl Leas Regiment of Horse, that his Serjeants name was Briden, that he served from the 1st of February 1781 to November sometime between the 20th and last of the month. That his reasons for not making an application for a pension earlier than he did; was because he had no person to support but himself having no family and until he became so afflicted with Rheumatic Pains as to cripple him, he has been always able to support himself. That he never received any pay for his revolutionary services, and that he knows of no person living by whom he can make positive proof as to his services, as alleged in his former, or this declaration.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 18th day of January AD 1842. William hisXmark Davis

United States of America/ District of East Tennessee County of Roane Ss

on this 25th day of October 1846 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Roane in said district and State William Davis aged Eighty nine 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in February 1781 in the State of Virginia in the name of the Capt not recollected but in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Lee and in the brigade Commanded by Genl Greene that he enlisted at Haifax old Court House, marched from there to high rock Ford on Haw River from thence marched to Caswell N.C. from thence to Guilford Court House was in the Battle at this place, where declarant was slightly wounded on the top of his head with a ball and his forehead with a sworn from the enemy from the Batle of Guilford we fell back fifteen miles to Troublesome Iron Works we went back the next day to the Batle Ground the enemy under Lord Cornwallis had left We Burried the dead this was in March 1781 we marched on through Rowan & Charlotte, to Wateree where we had a skirmish with the british & Tories we crossed the Santee at Nelsons old Ferry went on to the the Eutaw Spring was in the Batle at this place which was fought on the 8th day of September 1781 from which place we retired to the Santee or Congaree where we remained the most of the time until about the last of December 1781 or first of January 1782 when he was discharged near the two sister ferry on Savanah [sic: Two Sisters Ferry on Savannah River 2 mi NE of Clyo GA] in South Carolina. Declarant received a written discharge but has long since lost it but served his is prety certain at least eleven months he resided in Halifax County Virginia at the time he enlisted and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Roll of any agency in any State, he furthermore declares that he made an application something over two years since from Jefferson County in this State which Declaration & proof is on file in the War department and which he understood did not pass for want of sufficient proof which together with the Proof hereto annexed he Respectfully asks to be takin together William hisXmark Davis

United States of America District of East Tennessee County of Roane Ss

On this 25th October 1846 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the peace for Roane County Samuel Evans [pension application W7126] a resident Citizen of said County of Roane aged seventy nine years who being first duly sworn according to Law deposeth and sayeth that he became acquainted with William Davis the foregoing declarant in the year 1781 about the time that the Batle at Guilford Courthouse was fought that that Davis was in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Lee that he was in said batle and received two wounds on the head that he is satisfied that the declarant is the Identical same Wm Davis that was in said Regiment and Batle, and that both declarant and affiant was in the Batle at Eutaw Springs which took at the time & int the manner stated by the Declarant that they was both discharged about the same time on the Savanah in S.C about the last of the year 1781 or first of the year 1782. affiant does not know the precise time Declarant served but is fully satisfied he served at least eleven months as he states.

NOTE: On 23 March 1842 Stephen A. Hall stated that William Davis had lived with his family for 12 months previous to applying for a pension and had often spoken of his services.