

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Davis S3257

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } On this 29th day of August one thousand eight hundred & thirty two
Cocke County } Personally appeared in open court before the Court of pleas and quarter sessions
now sitting for the county aforesaid William Davis, a resident of the State and County aforesaid, aged 70
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 year 1775 with James Sherrell under Capt Harrison and
served under the following named officers, after rendezvousing at the Town of Petersburg Virginia –
that he was soon afterwards Marched to Capt. Lawson company under Major adjutant [Samuel] Selden &
Col. Haws [Lt. Col. Samuel Hawes] and that Col. Haws then took the command of the Virginia Troops
and marched from Cabbin point [sic: Cabin Point in Surry County] (after the troops had been reviewed by
General Stuban) near Camden in South Carolina [sic: see note below]. That the British were fortified at
Camden in S. C. That he believes this was in the month of April and that the British he believes, were
commanded by [Lt. Col. John Harris] Cruger at said fort. That Colo. Haws and Col. [Richard] Campbell
commanded the two [Virginia Continental] ridgements at that place viz. near Camden. That he and the
others of those two ridgements lay there for some 8 or 10 days before the British sallied out of their fort,
and that one evening just before the roll was called one of the enemy joined Col. Haws redgiment, and
after hearing the orders for some to clean their fire arms & others to was their cloths that same night
returned to the enemy and on the same night the british came out of the fort & lay clost to our picket
guard unobserved till morning That a battle commenced on the same morning [Battle of Hobkirk Hill
near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781]. That Col. Washington was commander of the cavelry and took about
three or four hundred prisoners and left them with Col. Campbell redgiment. But as soon as Col
Campbells redgiment broke & run the prisoners & the other british commenced firing again at which
time General [Isaac] Huger, discovering great confusion ordered us to retreat. That they then went to
gum springs, where General Gates was defeated [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] – that then they
marched towards Virginia to Haw River, marched thence to Santee River in South Carolina – thence to
the Siege of ninety Six where the siege continued for 32 days [sic: 22 May - 19 Jun 1781], when the British
were reinforced That we then marched towards Guilford Courthouse [NC] thence towards George Town
[sic: Georgetown SC?].

Said applicant further states that some time afterwards he was detached from Col Haws
redgement and was attached to Col. Lee's horsemen [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion] that he belonged to the
s'd company of s'd cavelry That he served under Cap. Agleston [probably Maj. Joseph Eggleston], who
commanded the 3rd troop of horsemen, Capt [James] Armstrong comman[ded] the 1st troop & Capt Oneil
[Ferdinand O'Neal] the second. That he was present & engaged in the battle of Utau Springs under
General Green [sic: Battle of Eutaw Springs SC under Nathanael Greene, 8 Sep 1781]. that he was one of
the sentinels left till others brought in Col. Campbell who was [mortally] wounded in the engagement,
and said applicant states that he was near being taking prisoner by seven men of Tarltons Corpse [Lt.
Banastre Tarleton's Legion], but was relieved by his own men he messed with John Hathaway, William
Bush, Wm. Herbert who in return took the 7 as prisoners that some time afterwards he was discharged at
Storno [sic: Stono?] Church in South Carolina & went home to Virginia Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County
a distance of more than 600 miles making in all a Term of eighteen months

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. That he received a
discharge but lost his discharge when crossing the Rappahannock River together with some other

valuable papers. That he removed from Virginia to N. Carolina & from there to Tennessee Cocke County where he has remained till now. That he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure or who has personal knowledge of his services & that he has no documentary evidence since his discharge was lost.

William Davis

The amended Declaration of William Davis Cocke County Tennessee for a Pension under the act of Congress 7th June 1832
State of Tennessee } SS

Cocke County } May the 29th 1833.

In answer to the 10th question & 1st negative in red ink of the Brief &c

Said Declarant states that the Clerks private seal is affixed having no device or inscription by which it may be distinguished from any other seal

But said Declarant has obtained the certificate of John Blair a member of Congress proving the official character & signature of the clerk

Said applicant states that he was a private soldier

Question 11th 3rd negative Said applicant states that he could not obtain the Evidence of a Clergyman owing to the fact that there is no Clergyman residing in his neighbourhood and that s'd applicant assigns this cause as a reason why the affidavit of a Clergyman has not been obtained & that he had in his original Declaration obtained the affidavits of three reputable men of his neighbourhood who concur in the opinion that he was a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[signed] William Davis

NOTE:

Gen. Baron von Steuben could not have reviewed the troops in Virginia in 1775: he did not go to VA until spring 1781, but he was Drill Master at Valley Forge in 1778.

Lt. Col. William Washington's Legion was not at the Siege of Ninety-Six. If Washington temporarily captured 300 to 400 prisoners it was either at the Battle of Hobkirk Hill or at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Washington, Campbell, and Huger were at both battles. The surprise attack by the British is most consistent with the Battle of Hobkirk Hill.

The retreat toward Virginia to Haw River and Guilford Courthouse occurred after the Battle of Camden. The march to Santee River occurred before the Battle of Eutaw Springs.

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Wm. Davis/ age 18/ height 5' 8"/ farmer/ born and residing in Culpeper County/ brown hair/ black eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 20 Sep 1780 for 18 months.