

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Davis S3259

f44NC¹

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/20/10: rev'd 5/4/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Tennessee Blount County: Second Judicial Circuit July Term 1832

On this 8th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the honorable the Circuit Court of said County now sitting at the Court House in Maryville for the County aforesaid John Davis a resident of the same County and State, aged seventy-three years past 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated -- about the age of 19 years and in 1778,² as he believes, he substituted himself in place of his brother Andrew Davis who was drafted in the Militia of Mecklenburg County North Carolina and was mustered into service under Capt. James Osborn and marched from Charlotte North Carolina to Charleston South Carolina under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], the names of Major and Col., not recollected. Charleston was then under siege³ and applicant was there in its defense, seven weeks, when it was surrendered [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] -- he was eight days a prisoner under Clinton & Cornwallis, they urged him very much to enlist in the British Army offered him \$50 cash, a suit of Regimentals and a share of the Spoils or booty of the City, Applicant refused & was finally paroled on condition he should not take up arms against them, & he returned home, this engagement was for three months as applicant believes -- Some time after, and about the time that the British Army were marching through the Country to Virginia, this applicant volunteered under Capt. James White and joined Col. Phifer's [Caleb Phifer's] Regiment from Mecklenburg County North Carolina, and marched towards Wilmington & on Cape Fear River applicant determined to join the mounted troops, bought a mare and joined Capt. John Carouth's [Capt. John Carruth's] Company under command of General [sic, Col.] Robert Smith & went on to Wilmington & had a skirmish at a brick House [November 15, 1781]⁴ a mile from Wilmington -- Scouted through the Country, driving the Swamps & breaking up the camps & hiding places of the Tories, traveling hard, fasting much and badly supplied. On Cape Fear River this applicant's beast was stolen in the night from their encampment, and was never recovered. Applicant in a short time purchased another, and has never received any pay or compensation for the one lost;

¹ BLWt29748-160-55

² The events of the veteran described occurred in 1780, not 1778.

³ Battle of Charleston <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_brick_house.html

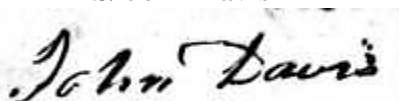
Applicant with the Company was employed in harassing the British and Tories until the three months for which he volunteered had expired, when they were marched home and discharged -- This applicant knows of no person by whom he can prove his services nor has he any discharge or other evidence now in his power except this declaration, if any discharge was given him it is lost and entirely forgotten, but believes none was ever asked for, or received by him. -- he now resides in Blount County Tennessee, where he has lived about twenty-six years, having removed from Cabarrus County North Carolina, which was cut off from Mecklenburg County some time after the war.

He hereby relinquishes every 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Daniel D. Foute, Clerk

S/ John Davis



[Isaac Anderson, a clergyman, and David Delzell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amended Declaration, In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832
State of Tennessee County of Blount

On this first day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me William Tool an acting justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid John Davis a resident of the same County and State aged seventy-three years past who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in addition to the declaration made in the Circuit Court of Blount County at the July Term 1832 dated the eighth day of August 1832, numbered 6521, sent back from the pension office for amendment, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832 -- That he was born in what was then (or at his earliest recollection) called Mecklenburg County North Carolina in the latter part of the year 1759 or early in 1760 as he understood and believes, -- That he has no record of his age, never had any such record, and never saw any record of family ages in his father's family that no such record was kept by his father as he believes, and that all this applicant knows of his age is from the accounts he received from his family and neighbors, and that the ages of some near neighbors with whom he was brought up, and who were his companions in infancy and youth, and who had records of their ages.

This applicant states that he is known in his present neighborhood to the Rev. Isaac Anderson of Maryville & Pastor of New Providence Congregation and David Delzell, an elder there whose certificates and signatures are annexed to his Original declaration that he is also known to Robert Tedford, Robert Detzell, Robert Houston Esquire, William Anderson Esquire, John Houston, Martin Renix, Matthew Harmon, Abram Wallace, John Glass, Col. William Wallace, James Berry, Jesse Wallace, William Tool Esquire Jacob F. Foute, and a large portion of New Providence Congregation, of which Church & Congregation Applicant has been a member about twenty-six years, all those above named and many more of said Congregation can testify as to his Character for Veracity, and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

S/ John Davis

Sworn to and subscribed the first April 1833

S/ Wm Toole

[On October 14, 1852 in Blount County Tennessee, the veteran applied for an increase in his pension stating that he is now totally disabled and unable to gain a livelihood or maintain himself by manual labor.]

[p 14: On the March 20, 1855 in Blount County Tennessee, John Davis identifies himself as the same revolutionary war pensioner who is receiving \$20 per annum as a pension for his services in the revolution and constitutes James W. Newman of Knox County Tennessee as his lawful attorney to pursue his entitlements under the act of Congress of March 3rd 1855 [bounty land act].]

[Information in file: Veteran died January five, 1859; the file contains no family data other than the reference set forth in his original application to his brother named Andrew Davis for whom he substituted in his first tour of duty.]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]