

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Davis S5329 NJ
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } Ss.
County of Harrison }

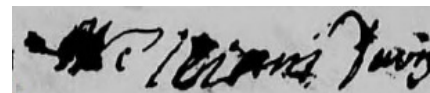
On this 16th day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Harrison County now sitting William Davis a resident of Middle Island Creek settlement in said Count of Harrison aged seventy-five years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the 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. Viz. That in the year 1776 in the month of June he was drafted as a private in the New Jersey Militia in Monmouth County, was placed under the command of Capt. Garret Longstreet Lieutenant Darrick Longstreet, was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. Daniel Henderson – General Messer. was marched to Timton [sic: Tinton] Falls 12 miles from affiants residence, was there stationed, during which stay frequent alarms were given from the British and orders receivd to meet and repel them, some times along the Sea Sore, and at other points, but had no engagement. Served two months and was dismissed by his Capt Garret Longstreet having served the tour for which he was drafted. Then in September following he Volenteered as a private in the New Jersey Militia in the County of Monmouth in s'd State for three months under Captain — Dennis, was again attached to the Regiment Commanded by Col. Daniel Henderson. Gen'l. Messer and marched to said Station at Timpton Falls (the country being in confusion and continual alarm). Was marched as before to meet and repel the enemy on alarms that almost daily occurred to the different places they were reported to be at, viz at rac pond salt works, and Squau Saltworks, along the Sea Shore, which they were trying to destroy by fiering on them &c. Served Tour for which he affiant volenteered for, without coming to an egagement. was discharged and returned home. Then in May 1777 was drafted as a private again in Monmouth County and State of New Jersey in the Jersey Militia, under Capt. Carhart for two months. was marched again to Timpton Falls Station was there attached to the Regiment Commanded by Col. Daniel Henderson, Gen'l. David Foreman [sic: David Forman]; was engaged scouting and guarding through that section of country along the Sea Shore until time of service under this affiants draft was up, was then dismissed and returned home Then in August following Volunteered (in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey State) as a private for three months in the new Jersey Militia under Capt. Bennett was again marched to Timpton Falls Station, was again attached to Col. Daniel Henderson's Regiment, Genl David Foreman, was engaged in the same kind of service as before ennumerated, at s'd Station when Gen'l. Washington orders were rec'd. ordering the malitia &c stationed at Timpton Falls to march to Brandywine which they proceded to do by crossing the Delaware River at Trenton. Marched to Bristol – was not in the engagement at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] – but understood Genl. Washington was defeated with a loss of about 800 or 1000 killed and wounded, that Battle happened in September 1777. affiant was marched from thence under further orders, from Gen'ls Washington through Pennsylvania to Perkimen to Washingtons camp. Their joined Washingtons main army. was marched to Pepper, or Shepper from thence after a few days march, the army marched all night to reach Germantown, done so, and commenced an attack on the enemy about sunrise in the morning [4 Oct 1777] (in the month of October) where the american army suffered a serious loss. Genl. Washington retreated and after a march of one Day, Gen'l. Stephenson [sic: Adam Stephen] had a trial by the officer of the army. Affiant was marched from thence under the command of his Capt Bennett to Freehold the county seat of Monmouth where affiant resided and was discharged by Gen'l. Foreman, having served two months of his tour for which he Volenteered. Then in May 1778 the enemy still hovering near and menacing the inhabitants bording on the seashore affiant again volunteered as a private for three Months in the County on Monmouth State of

New Jersey in the Militia of New Jersey under the Command of Capt Stillwell Col. Daniel Henderson. General David Foreman. was marched through Somerset and Middle Sex [sic: Middlesex] Counties Joined Gen'l. Washingtons army at Sourland Mountains, (Gen'l. Sullivans [John Sullivan's] encampment). from thence to Wood Bridge [Woodbridge] Town Their joined Gen'l. [Nathaniel] Heard from thence the main body being divided, affiants Captain marched to s'd Timpton Falls Station from thence was ordered and marched to Monmouth where, Gen'l. Washington had an engagement with the enemy in the month of June [28 Jun 1778]. was there placed under the Command of Capt. Walton. affiant was one that helped to compose a body that was called the flank guard, in front of the left of the British Army, at which place the British sustained a considerable loss and retreated from thence the army again became divided and affiant was placed under his former Capt. Stillwell and ordered by Genl. Washington to hasten to the Sea Shore which order was obeyed – and after serving his Tour for which he volenteerd, was discharged by his Capt. Stillwell. Then in August affiant was drafted in the New Jersey Militia as a private for two months in Monmouth County in s'd State. Was placed under the command of Capt. Hampton was again stationed at Timpton Falls, attached to Col. Henderson's Regiment. Genl David Foreman, was engaged during time as before related, busily engaged marching to points of alarm along the shore affiant served the tour for which he was drafted was dismissed & returned home to Monmouth county. In the Fall of 1778 he was again cald out under the command of Capt. John Walton march to Timton Falls where he continued in service as before stated under Col. Henderson & Genl Foreman for the term of three Months & was discharged

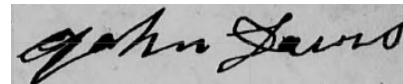
Soon after he volunteer in a company under the command of Capt. Elisha Shepperd [Elisha Shepherd] marched to Sandy Hook on the highland & continued to march up & down the Bay Shore for the time of two Months

he never was engaged directly in any Battle except the Battle of Germantown [sic]. He was born in the County of Monmouth in the year 1758 as appers of record in his possession. he resided in the County & state afforesaid untill after the close of the War from thence he removed to Pennsylvania from thence to Harrison County Va. where he now resides he has no documentary evidence to prove the above services but relies on the statement of his Brother John Davis [pension application W8654] herewith annexed. he hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not inscribed on the pension list of the agency of any state, for his character & the truth of his statement he would refer to Patty Shuttlewort Richard W Moor & Jacob Staly of his neighborhood – he never received a written discharge but was discharged orally by his Company officers – he remembers to have seen Genl Washington Genl [William Smallwood] Genl Lincon [sic: Benjamin Lincoln] & others



[Certified by Rev. Jesse M. Chapman and James A. Fleming.]

John Davis personally appeared before me Jos. Johnson a Justice of the peace for the county of Harrison and state of Virginia & made oath that he is the Brother of Wm. Davis who has signed the within Declaration that he is 77 years of age that he was a soldier in the war of the Revolution that he served with his Brother Wm Davis under Capt. Dennis Capt. Longstreet and Capt. Hampton & that he knows that he william davis was in the service at various other times.



Sworn & subscribed this 17 Aprile 1833

Joseph Johnson J.P.

I certify that John Davis who has sworn and subscribed the above certificate is a credible man and preacher of the gospel in good standing and that his statement is entitled to credit

Given under my hand the date above written Joseph Johnson J.P.

[On 18 July 1833 Davis was issued a certificate for a pension of \$63.33 for 19 months service.]

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report, "Fraud – ex Comparison." The numbers shown underlined are Singleton's tally of the number of months claimed to have been served.]

William Davis draws \$63.³³/₁₀₀

1 Mr. Davis gave the following narrative – he was born in New Jersey in 1758 & resided there during the war, in the Spring of 1777 he was drafted & marched under Capt. Longstreet to Trenton Falls and was in service one month.

he also served two other towers of one month each in the same year, and in the same region of country. his Captains names were Dennis & Carehart.

3 in the year of 1778 he served three other tours of one month each in the same region of country under Captains Tie. Walton. & Bennett – wont be possitive that his memory is correct in the names of his captains.

3 in the year 1779 he served three towers of one month each in the same region of country and probably under the same Captains – he was shifted from one to another. it is hard to recollect their names.

3 in the next year 1780 he served 3 other towers of one month each in the same region of county under same officers. he [one or two illegible words] he served as above, three months in a year in 3 monthly towers until the end of the war [1783], except one year

he also done other service against the refugees – he was at the Battles of Monmouth & Germantown – he was in the towns of Princeton – Bristol. Billet [Crooked Billet]. Flower town. Philadelphia – Brunswick – Shrewsbury & many other towns – he served under Washington at Germantown – he also served under Gen'ls. Linkland [sic], Smallwood, [Charles] Scott & Foreman, Cols. Henderson & Daniel Majors Combs Shaddock & many others – and he served more than nineteen months in all.

Jno. Davis an Elder Brother of William says that William served nineteen months as a Soldier during the war – he proved that fact in court when William made his declaration.

a copy

W. G Singleton.

Note. that John the witness proves that William done more service, than he himself can make out – something wrong. [see endnote]

W. G Singleton/ Nov. 21 1834

Mr. [Nathan] Goff who examined this case says Mr. Davis' memory is very frail – and he thinks him an Honest man, he may be Entitled.

W G Singleton

NOTES:

William Davis's narrative to Singleton differed from his original declaration, but note that Singleton failed to count the two months service mentioned in the second paragraph of the narrative and also possibly six months of service after 1780. Singleton's statement does not appear to have hindered William Davis's pension; he was listed on the 1840 federal census as a pensioner.

In contrast to the case of his brother, John Davis, James L. Edwards, the Pension Commissioner, does not appear to have objected to William Davis's claim that he served tours longer than one month each. In John Davis's case Edwards insisted that no New Jersey militiaman served a tour longer than one month, because in that state militiamen were *drafted* for only one-month tours.