

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Davis S6787

fn19NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/20/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina Caswell County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions April Term 1833

On this the 9th Day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices thereof now sitting, John Davis, a resident of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, aged seventy-six on the 25th September 1832 -- 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated. -- (to wit) -- In the month of September of the year 1778¹ as well as he now recollects he enlisted in the County of Orange (now Caswell) in the Regular Service of the United States for the term of six months under Capt. John Walker of Wilmington North Carolina, Sent out for Hillsboro in said County of Orange, immediately and joined Capt. Walker's Company at that town, remained there about a week, marched from thence to Wilmington, at which Town they joined the Regiment commanded by Col. Moore, Lieut. Col. Nash, Major Clark & Lieut. A. Tatum, remained at this point several weeks. Marched thence to Barnett's Creek about eight miles from Wilmington, near where said Creek empties into the River Cape-Fear, for the purpose of preventing the British from coming up the River to the town of Wilmington, -- remained there but a short time; then returned to Wilmington, marched thence to Fayetteville (then Commonly called Cross Creek) which had been much infested by the Tories, and at this time was in their possession. On the approach of Col. Moore's Regiment they abandoned the Town, proceeding in the direction for Wilmington; Their march was, however, interrupted by General Caswell's Army, by whom they were defeated. Col. Moore's Regiment (with which was this Declarant) was in hearing of the Engagement and hastened immediately to the Scene of War, but before their arrival, the Tories were put to rout: They reached, however, in time to witness the capture of their Leader, was [sic, whose] name was McDaniel, (as well this declarant recollects) -- This Declarant saw him brought in, & surrender his sword to General Caswell, -- Col. Moore's Regiment then leaving General Caswell's Army, marched to Wilmington, where they remained till discharged in the month of March. The term of his enlistment having expired, i.e. 6 months.

In February 1781, this declarant volunteered as a militia man in the County of Caswell

¹ From the events described by veteran, this date must be 1775 instead of 1778 as the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge occurred on February 27, 1776. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/moorescreek.htm>. That veteran was mistaken in his dates is also reinforced by the fact that Caswell County was carved out of Orange in 1777 and would have existed in its own right as of 1778.

aforesaid under Capt. Cole², Col. William Moore's Regiment for a tour of three months Joined General Butler's Army on Dan River. Marched to Red House in said County. Thence to Leasburg, also in Caswell, Thence through the County of Orange -- fell in with Colonels Washington & Lee, and followed in the rear of Lord Cornwallis's Army till about three days before the Battle of Guilford; This Declarant, in said Battle, was in the Regiment commanded by General Butler -- After this unfortunate Battle, which was fought about the middle of March of the year 1781, this declarant returned home.

Again in July 1781, this declarant volunteered for three months in the militia service, under Capt. A. Sanders of General Butler's Army. Set out under General Butler from the County of Caswell North Carolina, and marched in the direction of Wilmington, in pursuit of the Tories who were prowling the Country, taking prisoners the citizens & delivering them to the British Army, -- having reached within about 14 miles of Wilmington they received information that the Tories had left that Section: In this march they fell in with General Rutherford's Army, (recollects no other officer under General Rutherford, then Col. Campbell), about the time of the Junction of Rutherford's and Butler's armies, they learned that about eight hundred Tories had embodied to the North West of Wilmington; the two armies put off in pursuit of them, and having reached the neighborhood in which they had encamped, the Tories fled & were pursued by the light horse, -- We were continued principally in pursuit of the Tories till the news of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis reached our Army, -- which surrender produced a great change in the conduct of the Tories: and such was (in a short time) the quiet condition of this part of the Country, that Gen. Butler's whole Army was discharged, And this declarant returned home, -- reached home about the last of October -- he thinks that at the time of the discharge of the Regiment to which he belonged, the term o three months for which he had volunteered, lacked a few days of expiration, -- Thus this Declarant states that as nearly as he can recollect, he served in all, about ten months & a half -- (to wit six months in the regular Service, & about four one half months in the militia service. --

This Declarant was born in the County of Prince George, & State of Maryland on the 25th September 1756 -- he has no record of his age, it was entered in the Family Bible of his Father, and he knows not what has become of it: he came to North Carolina when quite young with his parents: -- at the time of entering the service he lived in the County of Orange, which was afterwards divided, and that portion in which he has since lived is called Caswell, -- He has no documentary evidence of his services, having long since lost or mislaid his discharges. -- He is extensively acquainted in the County in which he resides having been there before & ever since the War of the Revolution. He is not aware of any one living in this Section knows of his having performed the service herein stated, except James Peterson³ (whose affidavit is annexed) & Peter Smith,⁴ both of whom were regular Soldiers & one now Pensioner, as such, the last of whom is too infirm to attend Court. --

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State. --

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court

Test: S/ Paul A. Haralson, Clerk

S/ John Davis, D his mark

² This MAY be a mistaken reference to Capt. Spillsby Coleman, who is known to have served as a militia captain form Caswell County at the time described by this veteran.

³ [James Peterson W4050](#)

⁴ I think it highly probable that this is a reference to Peter Smith whose pension application is found at FPA S42015.

James Peterson -- a Soldier of the Revolution, and now a pensioner saith upon oath that he was present at a Company muster and saw the Declarant John Davis at this time of his Enlistment under one Capt. John Walker for six months, that he is well acquainted with the said John Davis & has been ever since they were boys, that he believes him to have performed the Service stated in his declaration, And knows that he was absent for at least six months just after the foregoing enlistment -- he states likewise he was with the said John Davis in his second Tour of Militia Service & knows him to have performed the service therein stated.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court

S/ Paul A. Haralson, Clerk

S/ James Peterson, X his mark

[Nicholas Willis, George Stephens, a clergyman, Calvin Graves and John L. Lea gave the standard supporting affidavit.]