

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Davis S8290

f23SC/NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County} Superior Court of Law Spring Term 1833

On this the first day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable James Martin one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity in & for the State of North Carolina, now presiding in the Superior Court of Law for the County of Bladen Francis Davis a resident of Bladen County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-six 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1. In a company of militia in Georgetown district, South Carolina under Colonel Hicks [George Hicks], Captain William Davis who also acted as Lieutenant Colonel, Major Culp; he is not positive as to the time but thinks it was in the winter of 1777 a short time before Christmas and served a 2 months tour as a private and was discharged about a fortnight after Christmas; that when he entered the service he resided in Georgetown district South Carolina; that he was drafted; that he was in no battle in this tour; that he rendezvoused at Mars Bluff on big Pedee River where he remained about a fortnight before he started on his march; that he was marched from thence to Camden, thence he marched across Catawba River to make an attack upon some Tories encamped on the West side of Catawba River, under the command of Captain Fletcher; but Major Mayam [probably Hezekiah Maham] having crossed the Catawba lower down, arrived at their encampment first and took them prisoners upon hearing this, he recrossed the Catawba and marched into Camden that Major Mayam guarded the Tories aforesaid that he had taken prisoners through Camden and on to Charleston; from Camden he marched up the Catawba several days march upon the snow, to rout some Indians and Tories, who was said were collecting up in that section which, however was found not to be so, he was thereupon discharged from this tour of service; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove this term of service. --

2. He was chosen a Captain by a company of militia in Georgetown district South Carolina and received a commission signed by Colonel Hugh Giles he thinks in the summer of 1778 and served as Captain a tour of 3 months under Colonel Hugh Giles and Major John Irwin; that he was drafted for this service; that he was in no battle; that he embodied his company at Catfish, a Creek leading into Pedee River and marched from thence to Nelson's ferry on Santee River; where he crossed over and marched thence to Orangeburg, where he was stationed and remained till his term was out; when he discharged his company being relieved by another company; that

he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove this service. --

3. He took command of a company of militia again in Georgetown District, still under Colonel Hugh Giles, and Major John Irwin, he thinks about the last of 1779 or first of 1780, rather supposes it was the first of the year 1780, that his company was drafted for 3 months and they being unwilling to serve under any other Captain, he volunteered and took command of them as Captain; and continued till the surrender of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780]; that he estimated the length of this service at two and a half months but is content to claim only for two months; that soon after they started on this expedition, he received a commission as Captain from Colonel Hugh Giles signed by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] at Sewee Bay; that he was at the siege of Charleston; that he marched from Catfish Creek to Brittain's Neck, thence to Georgetown, thence to Sewee Bay, where he remained some time, and marched from thence to Charleston, thence he crossed over to James Island, that while he was on James Island 2 or 3 row galleys and a floating battery belonging to the Americans came to where he was stationed, remained till dark and went with the tide up to a British Fort on a small river back of James Island, made an attack upon the Fort and tore it down, three or four men on the part of the Americans being killed; that after the destruction of the British Fort aforesaid, believing the enemy had evacuated it, he crossed back over into Charleston with his company & the other forces stationed there, and in a few days after the enemy took possession of James Island; that he, by order of Colonel Hugh Giles, about the time of the surrender of Charleston, and six others guarded Governor Rutledge from Charleston to Georgetown, from thence he returned home that at the siege of Charleston, there were Continental troops under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]; he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person now alive by whom he can prove this service, but has lately understood that James Lewis is alive & lives in New Hanover County & thinks he can prove his in this time.

4. In the month or two after the surrender of Charleston, he again took command of a company of militia in Georgetown district as Captain, under Colonel Francis Marion, Colonel Giles (who was absent at the commencement of this term of service, in Bladen County North Carolina) and Major Irwin and served upwards of four months but is willing to claim only for that period; that he was a volunteer, that he was in two battles or skirmishes in one day with the Tories under the command of Joshua Barefield [perhaps Jesse Barefield], the Americans commanded by Colonels Marion & Giles & Major Irwin; one on Little Pedee at a place called Blue Savannah<sup>1</sup> at or near the residence of James Barefoot, the attack was made upon an advance forage party of the Tories about day break two of them killed, three wounded, some taken prisoners, and the rest dispersed; that the other skirmish was about two miles higher up Little Pedee, that while the Americans were in search of the Tories they were lying in ambush under a hill near the edge of a swamp, and fired upon us; we returned the fire, whereupon the Tories gave back & took to the swamp -- one of our party was slightly wounded, but none killed on either side; that his marches during this tour were principally confined to Georgetown district in pursuit of Tories to prevent them from doing injury and committing depredations upon the inhabitants, that on one occasion he marched into Bladen (now Columbus County) North Carolina where he was taken sick with the fever and ague and quit the service; that he was a light horseman; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove this service.

5. After he left service under Colonel Marion he entered again in a company of volunteer light horseman in the County of New Hanover North Carolina commanded by Captain William

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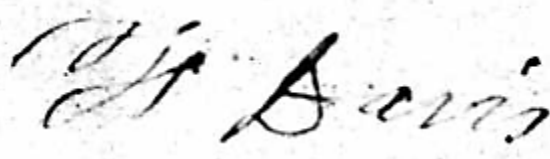
<sup>1</sup> Perhaps a reference to the action on September 4, 1780 described at [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_blue\\_savannah.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_blue_savannah.html)

Wright, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Young [Henry Young] & Bludworth [Thomas Bloodworth], he thinks about the month of November 1780 and served about four months but will claim only for three months; that he was a volunteer and a private, that he was in no battle; that he joined this company at the Big Bridge across the North East River, in New Hanover County, where the Main body of the forces in that section was then stationed and where he remained a while and then marched to Halfway Bluff on Long Creek, thence to Blenon's Bluff; thence back to the Big Bridge; that the evening before a skirmish happened at the Big Bridge, he was detached with five others by Colonel Bludworth to take Rutherford a British Counselor who lived say 10 or 15 miles off; that the detachment took Rutherford and conducted him to William Jones's, where this applicant was discharged from this tour of service under Captain Wright; he has no documentary evidence but thinks he can prove this service by Captain James Devane<sup>2</sup> of New Hanover County.

6. He served a term of service in a company of light horsemen under Colonel James Kenan and Colonel or Captain Charles Ward in the spring of 1781 and served near about two months, at least, six weeks, in Duplin County for the most part, that he was a volunteer light horseman; that he resided in Duplin County North Carolina when he entered this service; that he was in a skirmish with the Tories near Portwints [sic, Portevent's] mills<sup>3</sup> in the upper part of New Hanover County in which the Tories gave way and were pursued 2 or 3 miles; that his marches were principally in Duplin County but at times he was in New Hanover County; that while he was under Colonel Kenan, Cornwallis & his Army passed through Duplin, that he served with Continental troops at the siege of Charleston under General Lincoln; the regular officers he knew you were General Lincoln, & General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter], ~~Gen. Huger~~, Captain ~~Joseph Graves~~<sup>militia</sup>, ~~Captain McAatre~~<sup>militia</sup>; he has no documentary evidence for this term of service, but thinks he can probably prove this short-tour by the aforesaid witness Captain James Devane.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State  
Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ F. Davis



Answers to the questions<sup>4</sup> propounded by the Court aforesaid to Francis Davis the aforesaid

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<sup>2</sup> [James Devane S8317](#)

<sup>3</sup> May 16, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/portevent.htm>

<sup>4</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

applicant, prescribed by the War Department

To the 1<sup>st</sup> : I was born in Britain's Neck in Georgetown District South Carolina as near as I can ascertain in the year 1756.

To the 2nd: I have no record of my age: it was consumed by fire when I was quite young in my Father's house.

To the 3rd: When first called into service I was living in Georgetown district South Carolina; since the Revolutionary war I've lived in New Hanover & Bladen Counties North Carolina; I now live in Bladen County North Carolina.

To the 4th: The two first tours of service I performed I was drafted, and my other services I was a volunteer. --

To the 5th. I can't recollect the names of any regular officers but General Lincoln and Sumter which latter I believe was a regular officer; the Continental regiments I remember were those at the siege of Charleston, General Lincoln being the chief commander; the militia regiments, I recollect our Colonel Giles's, Colonel Oree's [sic, Horry's], General Beard's Regiment or brigade and Colonel Huger; Colonel Young & Colonel Kenan commanded some 2 or 3 companies, though not entire regiments; The general circumstances of my services are related above.

To the 6th. As a soldier I never received a written discharge

As an officer -- I received 2 commissions as Captain one signed by Colonel Hugh Giles which I took no care of and have lost; the other signed by Governor Rutledge which I brought with me to North Carolina and kept a long time: and thought by I still had, searched for it not long since among my papers, but can't find it.

To the 7th. William H. Beatty Esquire, Enoch Howe, Esquire, G W Bannerman Esquire, Thomas Lock, Timothy Rooks and others I could name.

[George Larkins and Benjamin Evans gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County

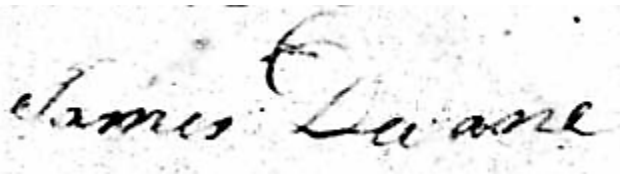
On this the 19th day of [text too faint to decipher] A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me George W. Bannerman one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid in the State aforesaid James Devane a resident of New Hanover County in the State aforesaid aged seventy-six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say that Francis Davis a resident of said County of Bladen in the State aforesaid, an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832 aged about seventy-six or seventy-seven years, came from the State of South Carolina to the County of New Hanover in this State in the fall of 1780 equipped as an officer and was called Captain Davis, had a commission which this deponent saw, signed by John Rutledge, Governor of South Carolina; that about the last of 1780 or first of 1781 when the enemy invaded this section of the Country, said Davis turned out in service as a volunteer light horseman under Captain William Wright; served as this deponent believes as much as four months and was an active good soldier; that said Davis served afterwards, viz. in the spring of 1781 under Colonel James Kenan & Captain Charles Ward as a light horseman in Duplin County, in quest of Tories and overtook them just below Portwint's Mills [sic, Portevent's Mill] near the line between Duplin & New Hanover Counties where they had a skirmish, and the Tories gave back; how long he served under Colonel Kenan this deponent cannot undertake to say, but he knows he was in service under him.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

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7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

S/ James Devane



[signature of attesting officer too faint to read]

[p 13]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County

On this the 11th day of September A.D. 1833 before me John Moore a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared James Lewis a resident of New Hanover County North Carolina aged seventy-seven years who being duly sworn doth on his oath depose and say that he served six months in a company of militia in South Carolina as a private in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Hugh Giles, John Irwin, Major, his Captain was Joseph Graves, that his service terminated just before the surrender of Charleston in April or May 1780, that he is now well acquainted with Francis Davis the aforesaid applicant, and has known him ever since about the year 1778 when he removed to the neighborhood where said applicant then resided, that he has no distinct recollection of seeing said Davis in the service but is confident from the recollection of minute circumstances related by said Davis which transpired while this deponent was in the aforesaid service, that said applicant was also in service at that time.

S/ James Lewis<sup>5</sup>



Sworn & subscribed the day & year last above mentioned before me and I hereby certify that it appears to me that said deponent James Lewis is a credible witness & that his statement is entitled to credit.

S/ John Moore, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$250 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service in the South Carolina and North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>5</sup> [James Lewis S8841](#)