Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Josiah Davisson S8301 VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 20 Feb 2015.

[The original pension application is missing, having been removed as evidence by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, as detailed later. The pension certificate indicates that Davisson lived in Harrison County VA and received a pension of $50 per year for 15 months service as a Private. Written on the certificate is the word "Dropped," indicating that Davisson was dropped from the pension roll as the result of Singleton's report. The following details of Davisson's claim are found on a summary sheet:
Age [at the time of applying, probably in 1832]: 68

May 1781	6 months	Indian Spy	Col John P. Duvall [John Pierre Duval]
1782	6 months	ditto	ditto
Fall ditto	3 months	Volunteer	Capt George Jackson

Resided at Clarksburg VA when he entered the service.
Service proved by traditionary evidence (his own oath and certification of his honesty and reputation as a soldier of the Revolution)

W. G. Singleton investigated hundreds of pension applications, often assisted by Nathan Goff, a pension agent from Clarksburg. See my appendix to the pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth for details. Singleton wrote on the following report "Fraud."]

Josiah Davidson – draws $50

on the 21st July 1834 this Pensioner made the following declaration – is 71 yrs. old October 4th next. in the Spring of 1781 was appointed By Col. John Pierre Duval a Spy for six months. – in the next succeeding spring 1782 was appointed by the same colonel a spy for six months, and afterwards he was frequently spying and scouting, but in in this latter service not longer than one month. – he was married & had a family during his service, but raised no crop. had to spy all the time.

Col. Jos. Johnson wrote his Declaration told him the same he now tells. perhaps not so full. gave him $12.50.

In Witness that this statement is true I hereto subscribe my name. Josiah Davisson
Test/ Nathan Goff.

Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434] has known Davisson before, during and ever since the War of the Revolution. Davisson was married in 1787 then only seventeen years old. [see endnote] Nutter knew his wife before they were married. has Hugged her a hundred times in the night time but carried the Ishue[?] no farther.

a True copy. W. G Singleton
Note this is a great impostur – Send his declaration I will prosecute him – he is worth nothing.
W. G Singleton/ Nov. 17, 1834

NOTES: This Josiah Davisson may be confused with Josiah Davidson or Davisson (S8307) also of Harrison county, who stated that he was born in 1759.
Federal censuses for Harrison County list Josiah Davisson as follows"
1810: over 45
1820: over 45
1830: 60-70
1840: 70-80
West Virginia records show the following two marriages:
Josiah Davisson to Lucrecia Shinn on 7 June 1785
Josiah Davisson to Amy Shinn on 25 Feb 1788