

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Josiah Davidson (Davisson) S8307 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 23 Aug 2013.

[The original application for a pension was destroyed in a fire at the Federal Clerk's Office in Clarksburg (West) Virginia in Aug 1836 after being sent to District Attorney W. G. Singleton as part of his investigation of numerous pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. The first document below is Singleton's report.]

Josiah Davidson draws \$80

on the 8th July 1834 Davidson made the following Declaration. was born October 15, 1759. a native of New Jersey. resided near Clarksburg Harrison county at the commencement of the War of the Revolution

he Enlisted under Capt. George Jackson. (Cant tell in what year.) Went to Nutters Fort near where Clarksburg now stands/ was there stationed and continued for for or five years. – a James Arnold & himself followed Spying. they made a business of it. was in the woods the greater part of the summer. he was one of the head spies. some times he followed scouting – he was in actual service all the while. when he left Nutters Fort went to clarksburg continued there until the war closed. that is made Clarksburg his place of residence. – whilst at clarksburg he [illegible word] continued as a spy. was under the command of Capt. Jackson. in the service above detailed he intends to include a term he performed in Clarks [George Rogers Clark's] expedition – in which (cant say in what year) he marched from Clarksburg under Major Luther [sic: William Lowther] & Capt Jackson to Morgantown thence down the river below Pittsburg, thence to Point Pleasant at the Point himself & some ten others left the army (he wont say deserted) and returned to Clarksburg. when at Point Pleasant had heard that Clarks expedition was unauthorized – and hence it was that himself & the others left the army. (did not desert but walked off like men[?]) in this expedition he was gon three or four months. – he thinks that he was in actual service during the war of the Revolution four or five years.

Jacob Copelan [sic: Jacob Coplin] wrote his Declaration. detailed to him the same service he now details. In Witness that this statement is true he hereto subscribes his name
Witness Josiah hisXmark Davisson

A. Harrisn[?].

Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434] knew that Davidson done a a great deal of service during the war. he also knew that he deserted or left Clarks expedition at Point Pleasant.

A true copy W. G Singleton Nov. [?] 1834

Note the service detailed by this man as haveing been done at Nutters Fort & Clarksburg was I have no doubt a sort of neighbourhood service and unauthorized – he claims to be an Indian Spy – in the absence of proof. I should place no confidence in his statement although he is a man of fair character.

W. G Singleton.

Harrison County to wit

John Harbert [pension application R4585] personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for the county aforesaid & made oath that he has been long acquainted with Josiah Davidson & that he knows he acted as a Indian Spy in the county aforesaid during the Revolutionary War Given under my hand this 3^d day of December 1834[?] Caleb Baggs[?]

War Dept Pension Office Jan 10, 1837

Sir Herewith enclosed are copies of the papers of John Read [pension application S15961] and John Goodwin [S8587]; and transcripts of copies in the cases of Evan Thomas [S16002] and Isaac Shinn

S7505], the originals having been sent to US. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, in order that suits might be instituted for the recovery of the money improperly paid. In the case of Josiah Davison the original papers were also sent, and no copies retained in consequence of the pressure of business in this office at that particular period. The pensions in all these cases except that of Read were stopped because it appeared from an investigation had by the District Attorney that their services were not of that character which would entitle them to pensions, being engaged in protecting the frontier from the incursions of the Indians.

The pension of John Read was suspended because his service was considered doubtful. Before his name can be restored to the roll, it will be necessary for him to produce satisfactory proof of his service.

[Two paragraphs deal with unrelated cases.]

Hon. J. Klingensmith, Jr. H[ouse of] R[epresentatives]

Washington City Jany 11, 1837

Sir In answer to your enquiry made this day, I have the honor of answering that the Pension Declaration of Josiah Davison sent to me (among others) for legal proceedings to be had thereon was burnt in the conflagration of the Federal Clerks office at Clarksburg in August last.

To J. L. Edwards Esq. [Commissioner of Pensions]

Very Respectfully your obt. serv.

Present.

W. G. Singleton

State of Virginia }

Harrison County } To wit

on this [blank] day of november 1837 personally appear Josiah Davisson now a resident of the same County in his 79th year of age in open Court before the County Court now sitting who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declarration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was born near princetown [Princeton] in State of New Jersey in october 1759 as he understood from his parents but has no record of his age that his parents removed to Fayette County in State of Pennsylvania and brought him with them and shortly after they removed to the District of West augusta in the State of Virginia now the present County of Harrison where he has eversince resided that in the year of 1777 he Vonteered under Capt William Lowther at Nutters Fort as a soldier and served a tour of six months and again in 1778 he vonteered under the said Capt Lowther and served a tour of six months and again in the year of 1779 he volunteered under the said Lowther at nutters fort and served a tour of six months that again in 1780 he volunteered under the said Lowther at nutters fort and served a tour of six months and that the said Capt William Lowther was a duley Commissioned officer [on 17 Sep 1777] and Commander of the northwestern District of Virginia during the War of the Revolution and that in 1781 he volenteered under Capt George Jackson in the Company of General George R Clark agains the Western Indians and served a tour of three month and that Capt George Jackson was a duley Commissioned officer and in the Services of the State of Virginia and that in all of his tours he served as a privet Soldier and neaver Rec'd any written Discharge and he nows of [no] one now living by which he can prove his services by Except Christopher Nutter of this County whos Evidence he will try to percur who was a fellow soldier with him during the revolutionary War

Josiah X Davisson

November the 19th 1837

I Christopher Nutter do hereby certify that that I have been well acquainted with the within named Josiah Davisson since the year 1773 and that I and the said Davisson were Messmates in Gen Clarks campain and also that he was a volunteer in Capt Lowther's company of volunteers and that he rendered the within named services.

Given under my hand and seal the above date

Christopher hisXmark Nutter

State of Virginia }
Harrison County } To wit

On this 21st day of February 1838 personally appeared before the Court of the County of Harrison in the state aforesaid Josiah Davison a resident of the said County of Harrison aged seventy nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain and be restored to the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That in the spring of the year 1777 he volunteered as a private under Capt. Wm Lowther at Nutters fort then in West Augusta but now Harrison County for a tour of six months that during said tour he was engaged in ranging and spying in the western part of Virginia that when his six months tour expired he was discharged but received no written discharge. That again in the spring of the year 1778 he volunteered in Capt Wm Lowthers Company at Nutters fort aforesaid for another tour of six months, and served out his tour of six months in spying and ranging in the same section of the Country he spied and ranged the previous year. That again in 1779 at Nutters fort aforesaid he volunteered under under Capt. Wm Lowther for another turn of six months, and served out this Time in the same kind of service of the preceeding years – Again in the spring of 1780 at Nutters fort aforesaid he volunteered under Capt Wm Lowther for another Turn of six months and served out said Turn in the same kind of services of the preceding years. at the end of each Tour he was discharged by his Captain but received no written discharge. That said Lowther was duly commissioned by the state of virginia to raise troops to guard and defend the Western frontier from Indian depredations, that during his services under Capt Lowther he saw no regular officers, and and there was none in the region of Country in which he served. That in the spring of 1781 he volunteered under Capt George Jackson at the place where the Town of Clarksburg is established, and marched from thence and joined the troops under Genl. George Rodger Clark near Fort Pitt, from thence they descended the ohio River, affiant continued in this service three months. That during this service he frequently saw General Clark and other regular officers whose names he has forgotten. That Capts. Lowther and Jackson are both dead and he is unable to prove his services except by Christopher Nutter. he further states that he was born in the State of New Jersey near Princeton Colledge in the year 1759, but has no record of his age. That since the Revolution he has resided in Harrison County. He hereby states that he was placed on the pension roll of the Virginia agency at the rate of Eighty dollars per annum, but that his Pension has been suspended, that his object is to be restored to his aforesaid Pension, that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the one which has been suspended as aforesaid, and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state except as above stated.

Josiah hisXmark Davison

[Certified by David Davison, Clerk of the Court.]

Depart. of War Pension Office Apl 6 1838

Sir [Hon. Joseph Johnson, House of Representatives]

I have rec'd the supplemental declaration of Josiah Davison, of Harrison Co., and have placed it upon our files. This claim after a re-examination, was considered a bad one, and consequently, Mr Davisons name was dropped from the pension roll on the 10th of March 1835.

The original declaration was burnt in the conflagration of the Clerks Office at Clarksburg in Aug't 1836. In that declaration, he claimed for 6 mos service in 1780; 3 mo in 1781; 3 mo. again in 1781; 6 months in 1782 & 6 mo. in 1783.

On his examination before W. G. Singleton Esq. he stated, that he enlisted under Capt Geo Jackson, & was stationed at Nutters fort, five years. Was afterwards in Cool G R Clark Reg't at Point Pleasant and left it without leave, "not thinking that Clarks expedition was authorized".

Mr Davison now alleges that he served 6 months each in the years 1777, 78, 79 & 1780 under Capt Wm Lowther, and a three mos tour in 1781 under Col Clark. Besides his own admission, it is in evidence before the Department that he deserted during this term under Clark.

A comparison of his several declarations will be sufficient to justify the rejection of this claim, without any more serious objections.

The name cannot therefore be restored to the pension roll.

[The following paragraph is Xed out of the copy in the file:]

The foregoing is made from the facts in possession of this office. I understood you to say in a conversation which I had with you a few days since, that these men were in the actual Service of the State. If it could be shewn that they were paid by the State, there would be no objection to their claims, provided six months service in each case [could] be also proved.

[The cover of the above letter is initialed GC, who Mr. David Houchin informs me was George William Crump, Chief Clerk and Acting Commissioner of Pensions.]