

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Davise W19138

Amy Davise

f36VA

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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 33]

State of Virginia, Westmoreland County to wit

On this 30th day of June 1818 before me the Subscriber Judge or Presiding Magistrate for the County court of Record for the said County of Westmoreland, Personally appeared John Davise, Aged about sixty years, Resident in the said County, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in Order to obtain the provision made by the late Act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War."

That he the said John Davise enlisted with Captain Elisha Callender [Eleazer Callender]¹ who commanded the ship of War *Dragon*,² in the year __ for three years, during all which time he served faithfully & that he was on board said Ship when attacked by the British Ship of war called the *Robuck* [*Roebuck*] four days at Sea from the Capes of Virginia. And returned to Hampton Roads – shortly after this the British fleet arrived and the ship went up to Richmond. He returned with Lieutenant Chandler [Thomas Chandler] and others to Chickahominy to fit out the Brigg *Jefferson*,³ where he was discharged – And that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for Support and that he has no other evidence in his power of his said Services, except the oath of John Chalton [John Chilton] who served on Board the Galley. ____ Captain Thomas

Sworn to and declared before me the day and year of above.

S/ William Stork Jett

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Westmoreland County to wit

¹ It appears by a discharge dated October 24, 1783 and filed in the Bounty Land records of the State of Virginia that

this officer actually spelled his name Elieger or Eliezer Callender.

This document appears in the file of David Henderson, Midshipman indexed in [From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

² <http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5BCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5D.html>

³ *Jefferson*. Coggins:102, Paullin:407, 411, Dandridge:186, brig in VA Navy, 14 guns, Capt. Richard Barron, 1779, sent to Chesapeake Bay, May 1780.VANavy:154, 174, Davies XX:143, Capt. Willis Wilson? sank it near Jamestown in Jan 1781.GMB:35, mentioned as repairable in May 1781 for defense of Hampton, VA.Silverstone:20, VA brig. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20J-K.html>



John Chelton [sic]⁴ this day came before me Judge or Presiding Magistrate for the County Court of Record of said County and made oath. That he knew the said John Davise while on Board the Dragon that they were always in Company and cruised together and believes that the declaration which he has made is true. Sworn to before me this 30th day of June 1818
S/ Wm Stork Jett

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State of Virginia, County Court of West Moreland –

On the 25th day of June 1832 Came before the said court being a Court of Record John Davise aged about seventy-four years resident in the said County who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration and Statement, in order to obtain the provisions made by a late Act of Congress entitled an act to provide for Certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the State of Virginia or the United States in the Revolutionary Army & War,;

That he the said John Davise on or about the year __ enlisted with Captain Elisha Calender [Eleazer Callender] who commanded the Ship of war *Dragon* belonging to the State of Virginia (but which thro' ignorance), was stated in a former declaration to be in the service of the United States which declaration and the evidence Accompanying it was made the 18th day of June 1818 together with the necessary forms Required by law and was presented to the Secretary of War by Samuel Templeman the Agent and was rejected in as much as he the said Davise was not on the Continental establishment, as will more fully appear by reference to the said Declaration and evidence then taken and duly Certified, to serve for three years, during all which time he served faithfully. That he was on board of the said ship when he was attacked by the British Ship of War called *RoBuck* [*Roebuck*] four days at sea from the Capes of Virginia and returned to Hampton Roads. Soon after the British fleet arrived and the ship went up to Richmond. He then returned with Lieutenant Chansler [Thomas Chandler] and others to Chickahominy to fit out the Brigg *Jefferson* where and when he was discharged and that he is in very reduced sircumstances, and not able to work and stands in need of the Assistance of his Country for support. And that he has no other evidence in his power to prove his services but John Chilton (who is now dead) who served on board the Galley – Captain Thomas commanded whose evidence was taken in due form, as will appear by reference to the former declaration. Sworn to and declared before the said Court the day and year above –

Test

S/ Wm Hutt

S/ John Davise, X his mark

[p 23]

In addition to my former declaration, made before the County Court of Westmoreland in the State of Virginia and transmitted to the proper Department in Washington; I John Davise of the County of Westmoreland and State of Virginia do hereby declare on oath, that on or about the year 1776 or 1777 I enlisted with Captain Elisha Calender who commanded the ship of War *Draggon* and served three years – The engagement &c may be seen by reference to my said former declaration – given under my hand this 27th day of September 1832.

S/ John Davise, X his mark

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⁴ [John Chilton VAS248](#)

Fred'g [Fredericksburg] September 29th, 1832

Dr. Sir –

I received your favor of the 22nd Instant on Tuesday and have complied with the request contained therein as early as I could – Mr. Henderson was clerk of the *Dragon* and has his original accounts still in his possession which enables him to be as particular in his certificate as he is. He has no doubt, but that he could identify John Davise, should the Department require it, if he come to Fred'g [Fredericksburg] – I hope our luck that the foregoing Certificate will be satisfactory in all respects –

I feel great solicitude about our friend in Washington & have been sometimes almost afraid to open the Intelligence, but I trust now, the danger is pretty well over. I had heard of the indisposition of my Brother, and considering the mortality in your Neighborhood I think we have great reason to be grateful that your family have escaped. – Our Town remains unusually healthy – not the case of malignant Cholera has yet occurred – Mrs. Hanson has been seriously sick and is still confined but is now convalescent. Please remember me very particularly to my Brother, Mrs. A. & all your family

Yrs &c

S/ Thos. H. Harrison

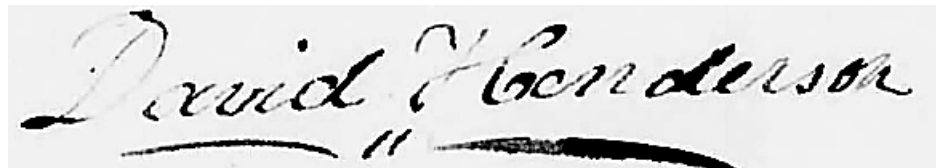
William Hebb, Esq. Washington, D. C.

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Has Midshipman & Clerk of the Ship of War *Dragon*, Eliazar Callander Commander, I do Certify that one of the Crew of said Ship named John Davise entered on Board of her the 3rd day of September 1777 as a Landsman his Wages 2/ per day that on the 1st day of March 1778 his Wages was raised to 3/ per day and that previous to my leaving the Service it appears from the Books of said Ship that the Sum of £9:12 was paid him as a Balance of Wages in full up to the 20th of January 1779.

Given under my hand this 29th day of September 1832

S/ David Henderson⁵

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Henderson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There are some horizontal lines or flourishes at the bottom of the signature.

[p 31]

Alexandria 20th September 1832

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 17 Instant is received. I called on Ambrose Lewis⁶ a Black man (Pensioner) to get the information you asked respecting John Davise, he informs me that when he entered on Board the United States Ship *Draggon*, he found Davise on board & that they Served three years on Board the said Ship, when they were Discharged & Immediately after, say in about six weeks, he, Lewis, entered in the land Service and for which he now receives a Pension, but what year he entered on Board or left the Ship he cannot say. They were enlisted by David Henderson of Fredericksburg Virginia who is now living & can give all the information you

⁵ [David Henderson S5506](#)

⁶ [Ambrose Lewis S36041](#)

want.

Respectfully
S/ Newton Keene

[p 8: On September 23, 1839 in Westmoreland County Virginia, Amy Davise, 74, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Davise, a pensioner of the United States for his service as a Seaman during the revolutionary war; that she was married to him by Parson Smith in 1786 about the middle of December but does not recollect the exact day; she has no record of either the birth or marriage except the bond of her husband; that her husband died March 9, 1838. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 9: copy of a marriage bond dated December 13, 1786 issued in Westmoreland County Virginia to John Davis [sic] and Thomas Butler conditioned upon the marriage of John Davis and Amy Griffis.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Seaman for 3 years in the Virginia State Navy. His widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing March 9th, 1838.]

[Note: Davise gave a very interesting and informative affidavit in support of the bounty land application of the heirs of [James Jennings VAS365](#). In the materials in that file, Davise is referred to as a 'red man' and says his father was a red man and his mother a white person. Anyone interested in John Davise should read the materials in the Jennings file.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 1-page file [image is very poor]

This is to Certify that John Davis has served out his time in the Navy of Virginia. I hereby give him a discharge given under my hand this 4th Day of June 178? [Last digit too faint to discern]
S/ Thomas Chandler, Lieutenant

This may Certify that John Davis entered as a Seaman [several words too faint to discern] Command) on June 30 1777. He entered for three years or during the War
S/ Eleazer Callender Capt.

(A Copy)
[illegible signature]