

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Nicholas Davis W30

Mary Davis

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 June 2019.

State of Tennessee }

Jefferson County }

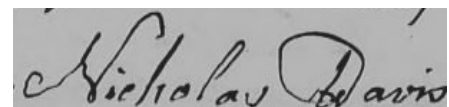
On this 10th day of June 1818 before me the subscriber one of the Justices or Judges of the Court of Quorum for the State and County aforesaid said Court being a Court of record personally appears Nicholas Davis aged fifty nine years the 14th day of February last and resident in said County of Jefferson who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth upon his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision of 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 said Nicholas Davis about the last of March or first of April in the year 1778 at New London Bedford County [now in Campbell County] Virginia enlisted for three years in the regular army of the United States in the Company of Captain Alexander Comings [sic: Alexander Cummins VAS1730] That he was from New London marched to Valley forge Pennsylvania Where Captain Comings resigned and his men were permitted to join any Company in the first Virginia regiment they pleased That this Deponant at Valley forge joined the Company of Captain William Cunningham The first Company in said regiment in whose company he served about a year and the Company being nearly broken up he was put into the eighth Virginia regiment in the Company of Captain Thomas Boyer [sic: Thomas Bowyer BLWt268-300] The first Virginia regiment was commanded whilst said Deponant was in it by Colonel Richard Parker [BLWt525-500] and eighth Virginia regiment by Colonel James Wood [BLWt2419-500] and when said regiment was in 1779 ordered to Charleston Colonel Gest [sic: Nathaniel Gist BLWt1874-500] and Colonel Naval [sic: John Nevill BLWt1595-500] took command of the Troops and General [William] Woodford the Brigade from the time they marched to the south That he said Nicholas Davis faithfully served the United States from the time of his Enlistment until in August or September in the year 1781 When he was discharged at Williamsburgh [Williamsburg] Virginia from said Service by Major Stephens having served faithfully against the common enemy all the time before mentioned except the period he was a Prisoner having been taken in the Seige of Charleston [12 May 1780] which period of being a Prisoner was fourteen months

That he was at the taking of Stoney point in New York State [sic: Stony Point, 16 Jul 1779] and the taking of Powlers Hook [sic: Paulus Hook, 19 Aug 1779] and the Seige of Charleston and several skirmishes

And that he is in reduced circumstances as he believes and needs the assistance of his Country for support That he is too old and feeble to labour much and has in the Indian War in Tennessee been wounded in the right arm so as to have but little use of it and has a wife and eight children dependant on him for support five of his children being Daughters And after the payment of his just debts thinks he is not worth in money or property over the sum as he believes of seven or eight hundred Dollars

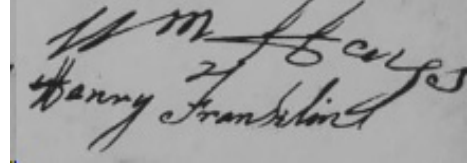
That his discharge is lost and he has no other evidence except the above of his said services and except the Deposition of Henry Franklin [S38713] & Wm Hays [William Hays S38797] nor does he know of any other proof of said service now in his power that he has never been a Pensioner of the United States & only [illegible word] under the provision of said act



State of Tennessee }
Jefferson County }

The date before mentioned before me the Subscriber Personally appeared Wm Hays and Henry Franklin Citizens of said County and made oath they both new the above named Nicholas Davis in the Revolutionary War in the Service as by him stated that he Wm Hays was part of said time said Davis's Mesmate [messmate], and that they are well satisfied that the Statement made by him said Davis in relation to his circumstances and property is true as they both near neighbours of said Davis and know his circumstances.

Jas Doherty
a Justice of the Court
aforesaid



State of Tennessee }
Jefferson County } ss.

On the 10th Day of December 1828 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County, Nicholas Davis resident in said County aged Sixty nine years, who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st May 1820. That he the said Nicholas Davis, enlisted first for the Term of six months on the [blank] day of [blank] 1777 (the month and day not reccollected) in the State of Virginia, in the Company commanded by Capt Dixon, and that he, after a discharge which is lost, again enlisted sometime in the month of March in the year 1778 in the State of Virginia, in the Company commanded by Capt Alexander Cumming in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Richard Parker in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment for the term of three years, that he continued to serve in the said Corps untill he was taken prisoner by the British that he was retained, as such for fourteen months in Charleston, from thence he was transported to Old Jamestown, where an exchange of prisoners was made, that from thence he was marched to Williamsburgh in the State of Virginia when sometime in the month of August 1781 he was discharged from the service, that he hereby relinquishes, every claim whatever to a pension except the present that his name has not been placed on the pension list, that the number of his pension Certificate is 15939 and that he never before exhibited a Schedule of his property, because untill within the last two or three years he felt able by his own exertions to obtain for himself and family a competent support, and was unwilling to apply to any source for charity, however strong his claims might be, or however fairly it might have been bestowed, but that recent afflictions with which he has been oppressed, and the wants of a helpless family have induced him to make this application. And in pursuance of the act 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

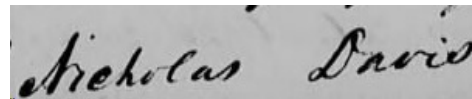
"150 acres of land from which nearly all the timber is cut, all the arable land is in cultivation and much worn worth

	\$150.00
One negro man aged between 55 & 60 years worth	100.00
One mare twenty years old worth	20.00
One other mare 6 years old worth	30.00
One milch cow	10.00
2 yearlings	<u>10.00</u>

\$320.00

Nicholas Davis

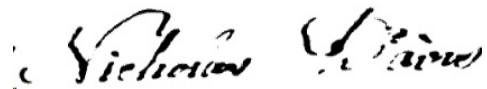
That he is a Tailor by profession, but has not been able to worke any for about Eighteen months that his family consists of his wife aged 64 years and very infirm. Sarah who has been once married, but has been abandoned by her husband, and thrown again on his hands for support. Aley aged 40 years and of weak constitution – Mahala aged 22 years and James aged about 20 years, but contracts and labours for his own benefit. That since the 18th Day of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property Viz. Your declarant cannot recollect every Item of property he owned at that time – that he sold one sorrell horse he then owned to S. Inman for \$70 which sum he applied to the payment of his debts before contracted. One horse sold to Newman for corn. Another colt sold to S. Davis for corn – all the stock has been used for the support of the family in my illness as well as the kitchen and household furniture which is owned by my daughters, in consideration for their contributing to my support. The farming utensils is owned by my son in consideration of the same. Your Declarant represents that he has not been able for two or three years to attend to his business, on the farm or otherwise, and that from that cause the decline in his affairs has probably been more rapid. He feels certain his journey on this earth, is almost ended, and has no doubt it will be shortened by reason of exposure in his youth, in the service of his Country – and he earnestly hopes that his bodily afflictions will not longer be aggravated by daily viewing the wants of a helpless family but that his Country will relieve them. I do further solemnly swear I am not able to attend at the Court of our County to have the foregoing Oath administered to me



[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). This file also contains the rejected claim of Henry Franklin S38713.]

State of Tennessee }
Jefferson County } ss

Be it remembered that on this 12th Day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & twenty two personally appeared Nicholas Davis a citizen of said County aged sixty three the 14th this instant before us Robert Mcfarland Junr and John Fain Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows – In Bedford County Virginia he inlisted in 1777 for six months under Christopher Erwine which term he served & was honorably discharged. In the spring of 1780 The last of March or first of april he again enlisted for the term of three years under Capt Abraham Cumming [sic] who resigned at Valley forge. this Declarant then served under Capt Cunninghams Virginnia Regiment. Col Richard Parker Commandant. Served about one year in that Regiment and was then transfered under Capt Thomas Bowyer of the 8th Va. Reg't. he then with others was marched (In Battallions) to the south. was taken prisoner at the siege of Charleston and so remained a prisoner for fourteen months. At the time of being taken was Commanded by Generals [Benjamin] Lincoln & Woodford Colo Gass & Neville. During his service he was at Stony Point (in 79) also at Paules hook and in several skirmishes Served untill August 1781 and exchanged at Jamestown Virginia Sworn to and subscribed the date above written before us
Robt Mcfarland/ John Fain
Justices of the Peace

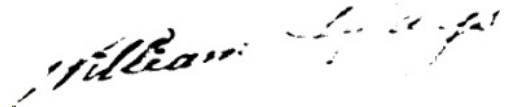


State of Tennessee }
Jefferson County } ss

Be it remembered that on this 12th Day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty two personally came William Hays aged sixty four years, before us Robert Mcfarland Ju'r and John Fain two of the acting Justices of the peace for said County who made oath in due form that he is well acquainted with Nicholas Davis the within declarant, and that said Davis enlisted in Bedford County State of Virginia in 1777 under Christopher Erwine for six months to make a tour on Clinch [River] which term of time said Davis served & was honorably discharged in the year 1778. This Deponant enlisted in the year 1778 I was marched to the Valey forge in the State of Pennsylvania. Shortly after this Deponant had arrived at that place the within Nicholas Davis arrived at that place in service under the Command of Alexander Cummings who informed this Deponant that said Davis was enlisted for three years – this Deponant having been enlisted for twelve months only served out his time & during which time said Davis was still in service. I was marched from the State of Pennsylvania to the South – at the end of three years from the Date of said Davis' enlistment & a little upwards the precise time not recollected, this Deponant hearing that said Davis' time of enlistment was out went to meet him & did so, & conducted him home.

Sworn to & subscribed the day above before us.

John Mcfarland/ John Fain
Justices of the Peace



Dandridge Ten. 17 February 1822

Dear Sir [Governor of Virginia] Enclosing we have transmitted to you our Claim to bounty land for services rendered on Continental establishment during the Revolutionary War. On examination of our Claim we would thank you to let us no whether they are sufficiently authenticated. We refer you to the returns made to you for our names Services rendered &c. Should the proff offered be not sufficient we can in addition to the same offer & give more. Pleas write us on the receipt of this letter addressing to this place – which will be most thankfully received. Your Obt & Humble/ servants/ Nicholas Davis
Henry Franklin

1822 March 13 Both Claims Rejected

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files.]

I do hereby certify that Nicholass Davis a Soldier in Colo. Gist detachment of the Virginia line has served the full time for which he was Inlisted & is hereby Discharged from the Service that he has Received his pay in Continental Curr'y up to the last of Nov'r 1779 since which he has Only received two Dollars in Specie from the D. Com'ry Gen'l [Deputy Commissary General] Prisonners at Charles Town

Given under my Hand at Williamsburg the 25th day of July 1781

Copy/ J Pendleton

John Gillison [W7530] Cap Com'd
3^d Batta'n

D'd Stephenson Major [David Stephenson BLWt2057-400]
Sen'r officer present Virg'a Line

I do hereby Certify that Nicholass Davis enlisted into the Continental Service in Jan'ry 1778

Given under my hand this 17th day of Oct'r 1783

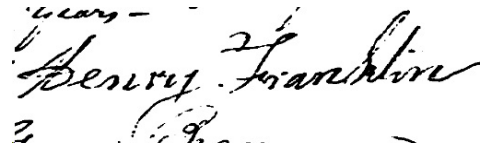
Copy/ J Pendleton

Jas Dixon Capt [James Dixon]
Wm Porter Leut. [William Porter]
Virg'a Continental line

State of Tennessee } [27 Dec 1824]
Jefferson County } Nicholas Davis being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty god doth say that he Inlisted in the [one or two undeciphered words] near New London in the State of Virginia on or about the [blank] day of March 1778 into the company commanded by Captain Alexander Cummings in the first Regiment Commanded by Colo Richard Parker in the Virginia line on Continental establishment for the term of three years, and this deponent remained in said Regiment for about one year and was then transfered into Captain Thomas Boyer Company in the Eighth Regiment Commanded by Col. Wood, and then he this deponent Served in the said line untill a bout the month of August in the year 1781 Three years from the time of his enlistment that this Deponant was taken prisoner at Charleston in the State of South Carolina in May of the year 1780 and was Exchanged at James Town in the State of Virginia in the month of July or August 1781 and shortly afterwards in the month of August 1781 this Deponant was honourably Discharged by Major John Stephenson who was taken prisoner and Exchanged at the same time that this Deponant was. this Deponant was Discharged at Williamsburg in the state of Virginia – this Deponant was in the company commanded by Capt Holman Minnis [BLWt1506-300] & first Battalion in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel John Neville when he was taken prisoner by the British at Charleston South Carolina and that this Deponant sent his discharge to Richmond Virginia by his Father to Draw the arrearages of this Deponant's pay. That the Discharge was left in the hands of the [part missing at bottom of page] that this Deponant never Received any Bounty in Land for his services, that Deponant was Sixty five years of age on the 14th Feby 1824 was at the time of his Enlistment of Fair Complexion, Grey Eyes Fair Hair was Five Feet Eleven Inches and three quarters high And further saith not.



State of Tennessee }
Jefferson County } Henry Franklin being duly sworn on the Holy evangelist of Almighty god doth say that he knew Nicholas Davis in the Revolutionary War, that he served in the Virginia line on Continental Establishment in the first Regiment Commanded by Col. Parker, in the year 1778 and this Deponant says he saw him in the army in the years 1779 and 1780 but Dont Recollect what Regiment he the said Davis was in after he left Parkers Regiment and that he Enlisted for the term of three years – and further saith not.



State of Tennessee Jefferson County 28th Sept 1830

Sir I see by the Late Acts of Congress a Law was passed respecting the Bounty Lands That is due to the Officers and Soldiers that served in the Virginia Continental army of the Revolution. My Father Nicholas Davis served in that war as you will see by the enclosed papers by which he [several illegible words] the hand of a Lawyer to present the business for him But he never done any thing in the Business My father Nicholas Davis Departed this Life 16th June 1829 he [undeciphered word] a will but [undeciphered] a thing about his Bounty land in it he appointed [undeciphered] James Davis and myself his Executors [several undeciphered words] and I have often heard him say that he never got a Land warrant from the State of Virginia his widow [several illegible undeciphered words] Davis is still Living also Eight Children living two sons and six Daughters I have sent to you to know [several undeciphered words] obtain or not on the Enclosed papers if not what other papers will be necessary which you will be so good to inform me (please Direct your Letter To Dandridge Post Office [signed] Nicholas H Davis

I certify that a Military Land bounty warrant, No 3793 for 100 acres issued from this Office, in favor of Nicholas Davis July 1st 1784 for his services as a Soldier in the Continental line for three years and that no other warrant has iss'd to said Davis
Land Office/ Oct 9th 1830

W Selden BL Off

NOTES:

A document in the federal file attests that Nicholas Davis was unable to attend court in 1828 because he had been afflicted with "a disease called the Rheumatism" for the previous two or three years.

On 4 Feb 1839 Mary Davis, about 75, applied for a pension stating that she married Nicholas Davis on or about 15 Aug 1782, and he died on 16 June 1829. Sarah Thornburgh, 72, stated that she was present at the marriage of Nicholas Davis to Mary Hays. On 2 April 1839 Mary Davis stated that the Bible containing the family record was destroyed in the burning of her house, but that to the best of her recollection she married Nicholas Davis about 1781, and her children were born as follows: Sarah in 1783, Peggy in 1784, Aley in 1786, Polly in 1787, Betsey in 1796, Nicholas H in 1798, Samuel in 1800, Nelly 1801, Mahala in 1804 and James in 1809. On 24 May 1843 Mary Davis was said to be 80, and 16 Nov 1848 she was said to be about 84.