

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Davis W4171 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

On this 10th day of December 1839, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Susannah Davis, a resident of said County and State, aged 86 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed July 4th 1836.

That she is the Widow of James Davis deceased, late of the said County and State, who was a private and Sergeant of the Virginia Continental and Militia service in the War of the Revolution. She declares, that she does not pretend to know any thing as coming within her personal knowledge respecting the services of her late husband, (being a woman and not in service with him) except that after their marriage and birth of one child, (who died a baby) he enlisted in the Virginia Continental service for the term of three years, and was absent from his home and family that length of time. She recollects distinctly his stating that during the whole of this service he acted in the capacity of Sergeant. That he was afterwards drafted in the Militia service. That in consequence of bodily infirmity, old age, and the consequent loss of memory, she cannot at this distance of time call to recollection the Regiment to which he was attached and other particulars relating to his service: she recollects that Captain Jas. Foster was the officer under whom he enlisted; she therefor prefers to depend on the statment and testimony of the Army Records, and surviving soldiers who served with him, for more particular information, all of which, are hereunto filed, and prayed to be considered part of her Declaration. She honestly believes that he served altogether, at the least, Three years; for which length of time, she claims a Pension. In support of her claim, she refers to the Public Records of the Army, and the accompanying evidence.

She further declares, that she was married to the said James Davis, in July, 1775 or 1776, (which year, she cannot, at this time, state with certainty) in the County of Dinwiddie, Virginia, by Parson Jarratt of the Established Church, by publication of banns, according to the rites and ceremonies of that church. She recollects distinctly that it was about the commencement of the War. That sometime after the close of the War she and her husband settled themselves in the County of Charlotte, where she has ever since resided. That her husband the aforesaid James Davis, died on the first day of January, 1819. That as stated above, her marriage took place about the commencement of the Revolutionary war, and before the last period of her husbands service expired; and that she has never intermarried, but continues the widow of the said James Davis, deceased: as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Susannah herXmark Davis

Virginia. Prince County to wit:

I do Certify, that James Davis, enlisted in 1776, with me in the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment, for three years, under Capt James Foster of Amelia, which term he served, as coming within my own personal knowledge; I further certify that I was credibly informed that the said James Davis, afterwards enlisted in the Continental service, to serve for and during the war of the Revolution, and that he was taken a prisoner at Charleston, South Carolina [12 May 1780], of which I have no doubt. He was a brave soldier. John Crute [John L. Crute, pension application S24980] Lt late of the army of the Revolution

NOTES:

On 10 Dec 1839 William Davis certified that "James Davis in 1818, and time of his death, was worth in real & personal estate, at the least \$8000," probably as explanation for his not having applied for a pension under the act of 1818. Croxson Green certified that the following children of James and Susannah Davis were still living: the eldest about 61, Priscilla, William, Sarah, Rhoda, James, Nancy,

and Martha.

The file includes the family record transcribed below from the back of the title page of a New Testament dated 1789.

The Register of the Children of James Davis and Susanna Davis

John Davis was Born Oct 28th 1778

Prisciller Davis was Born may 25th, 1781

William Davis was March 16th 1783

Sarah Epperson Davis was Born April 8th 1786

Rhoda Davis was Born November 1st 1788 [last numeral unclear]

James Bees Davis was Born March 23th 1791

Nancy Davis was Born August 7th 1793

Martha Jordan Davis was Born February 1th 1796

I declare the above to be a true Register of the ages of my children – except one, the eldest, who died a baby, not named above.

Susannah herXmark Davis