

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Abraham Davis W538 Polly Davis VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Virginia At a Superior Court of Law Continued and held for Louisa County on Tuesday the 19th
day of May 1818,

This day Abraham Davis a resident of the County of Louisa, aged sixty eight years came into Court, and on Oath made the following declaration to wit. That he enlisted as a private soldier in the service of the United States, in the Revolutionary War, in the year 1775 in the Company commanded by Lightfoot Lee [Philip Richard Francis Lee] in the third Regiment commanded by George Weedon in the Virginia line on continental establishment, that he served from the time of his enlistment till 1778 being a period of three years, when he was honorably discharged by a discharge which he has lost; that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the aid of his country to support him, that he has no other evidence within his power to offer: which is ordered to be recorded

Louisa County Virginia to wit. This day the 28th day of May 1819 Overton Harris [pension application S31107] of said county personally appeared before me, & being by me first sworn in common form saith, that he is well acquainted with the above named Abraham Davis, & knows him to be a very poor man, disabled by a wound received in the Revolutionary War, and that he needs assistance for his support, & I being thus satisfied that the said Abraham Davis is in reduced circumstances & needs the assistance of his country for support do hereby certify the same & sen the additional to the Secretary of the department of War of the United States under my hand & seal Wm. Daniel

District of Virginia to wit:

On this 13th day of June 1820 personally appeared in open court (being a court of record) for the County aforesaid Abraham Davis aged seventy 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 March 1818, and the 1st May 1820. that he the said Abraham Davis enlisted for the Term of three years on the [blank] day of [blank] in the year 1775 in the state of Virginia in the Company commanded by Captain Lee in the regiment commanded by Colonel George Weedon in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment. that he continued to serve in the said corps until 1778 when he was discharged from the said service in [blank] in the state of Virginia; that he again enlisted for the Term of eighteen months on the [blank] day of [blank] 1779 in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Capt Hughes in the Regiment commanded by Colonel [Abraham] Buford in the line of the state of Virginia on the Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said Corps until Buford's defeat [Battle of Waxhaws SC, 29 may 1780] where he was severely wounded and taken prisoner, that he was then paroled, and continued on parole until after the declaration of peace, when he was exchanged.

That in his first engagement he was in the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777], Princeton [3 Jan 1777] and Trenton [26 Dec 1776]. That he has no other evidence now in his power to offer of his services aforesaid.

And in pursuance of the act of the 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.

The following is a schedule of all my estate (necessary clothing and bedding excepted) Vizt. One cow and calf, six pewter plates, half dozen knives and forks, two pewter quart basons, two small pewter dishes, half dozen spoons, two small iron pots, one small dutch oven, one spinning wheel, one pair cotton cards one pair wool cards one small plough, one pair hames and trees three weeding hoes and sixteen acres of land – I am a farmer but owing to my sickness and debility, owing to the many wounds which I received whilst fighting for my Country am unable to pursue my avocation with any prospect of a support. I have a wife named Mary who is about forty one years of age and very sickley also two children namely George Washington Davis and Nancy Davis the former of whom is between six and seven years of age, the latter about five years of age who are able to give me but little assistance and that I have no other income

Abraham Davis

I do with the advice of the Council hereby certify that Abraham Davis, aged about thirty eight years late a private in Bufords detachment and disabled in the service of the United States, is continued on the pension list, with an allowance of twelve pounds per annum from the 1st day of January last.

Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia at Richmond this 4th day of march, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

Beverley Randolph

T. Meriwether

The above is a true Copy of a pension certificate granted to Abraham Davis. Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia at Richmond this 26th day of December 1798. [Followed by a list of dates when paid, the last one being 4 March 1811. Other certificates show payment up to 4 March 1814.]

[The following are among the [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#):]

The Gov'rs Complem'ts to Doct. Foushee & begs the Favor of him to view & report upon the Wounds of Abraham Davis

Find Abram Davis has received two wounds on the left arm near the elbow both of which have injured the Bone & prevent the free use of his Arm – he has also a Rupture, which he says he got in assisting with the artillery – being of no Trade he is certainly in some degree disabled from getting a Living by hard Labour & may with propriety I think be put on the Pension List.

W. Foushee

I DO, with the advice of the Council, hereby certify that Abraham Davis of Louisa, about 35 years of age late a private in Buford's detachment, appears to have been disabled in such a manner while in the service of The United States as to entitle him to the sum of Twelve pounds yearly; which allowance is accordingly made him, to commence from the first day of January 1786

GIVEN under my hand at Richmond, this 30th day of August 1786

P. Henry [Patrick Henry]

Louisa County March Court 1786.

Abram Davis being heretofore summoned to appear before this Court and give an account of the state of his wounds received in the service of the United States, appeared and proved to the satisfaction of the Court, that he belonged to third Virginia regiment of new levies, under the Command of Colo. Buford in Capt. Thomas Catlets [sic: Thomas Catlett's] Company, that he is thirty five years of age and upwards and a resident of Louisa – and also that he received a wound in the Battle Called Bufords Defeat near the Hanging Rock in Carolina. that the said wound is in the same situation it was in when the s'd Abraham was first allowed as a pensioner

A Copy John Nelson Clk

[The following is among the [bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia](#):]

At a Court of quarter session held for Louisa County on monday the 11th day of November 1811. Abraham Davis this day came into court and made oath that he was enlisted as a soldier in the company of Captain Catlett of the continental army of the United States, belonging to the regiment of Colo. Abraham Bluford, that he was enlisted for two years – that he was wounded and taken prisoner in the said Blufords defeat & retained as a prisoner untill after the expiration of the term for which he was enlisted – that he has never heretofore proved or received any compensation for his bounty in land – all which is ordered to be certified to the executive of this state. Teste John Poindexter CLC

NOTE: On 6 May 1853 Polly Davis, 63, applied for a pension stating that she married Abraham Davis on 19 Feb 1818, and he died on 30 May 1839. Thomas B. Harris and James O. Harris certified her statement. On an application for bounty land dated 26 April 1855 Polly Davis stated that the marriage was officiated in Louisa County by Rev. William Y. Hiter, and that her name before marriage was Polly Talley. Nathan Talley and James O. Harris certified her statement. The file includes a copy of the marriage return of Rev. Hiter for 1818 transcribed as follows:

Robert Steward and Eliza Edwards 6th Febry
Abraham Davis & Polly Talley 19th D'o
Thomas J. Meaux & Mary Burnley 18th June
William Bond & Rebecca Grady 23^d July
Jno Brockman & Mary Trice 19th July
William C. Ailstock & Nancy Toler 30th Sept
Fendol Chiles & Martha Beadles 1st Oct
William Chiles & Louisa Fletcher 23^d Dec'r
Christopher Smith & Jane Cosby 24th Dec
John Garden and Jane Grady 30 dec