

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Davis W6965

Rachel Davis PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Ss.

On the fourteenth day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, before me the subscriber one of the judges of the court of Common Pleas in and for the county of Greene, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, personally appeared, Joseph Davis aged sixty four years, resident in the county of Greene aforesaid, and Commonwealth aforesaid, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth, oh his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress intituled 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 Joseph Davis enlisted for the term of one year, some time in March in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, in the town of Chester in the State of Pennsylvania in the company of Captain Frederick Varnum of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Anthony Wayne, in the line of the state of Pennsylvania on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps until the winter next following his inlistment; and just before the expiration of his time of service for which he had inlisted, he inlisted in the same Company and Regiment, still commanded by the same officers; during the war; and continued to serve in the said corps, till the winter after the taking of Cornwallis in York [sic], when he was discharged in Chester county near Chester in the state of Pennsylvania. That he was in the battles of Ticonderoga [6 Jul 1777], the White Plains [sic: White Plains, 28 Oct 1776], Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], and Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], and Yorktown where Cornwallis was taken [19 Oct 1781], that he was wounded at White plains on the head, by the stroke of a cutlass, and was thereby a considerable time unfit for duty was afterwards taken prisoner by the enemy near Kings Bridge and kept in the long church, in New York, was afterwards released and returned to the army in Virginia near Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg]; And that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of his country's assistance for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

Joseph hisXmark Davis

Pennsylvania }

Greene County } Ss On this eighteenth day of June in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty one personally appeared in open Court (the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County) being a Court of Record, Joseph Davis aged sixty seven years resident the said County and State, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows, from March in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six untill the winter of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one and two [sic], in the company commanded by Capt Frederick Varnum, of the Regiment commanded by Col Anthony Wayne, in the line of the State of Pennsylvania, as stated in the original declaration dated the fourteenth day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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; to wit,

One old mare small worth	\$20.00
one Cow	8.00
six Sheep	6.00
six old chairs	2.00
one old broken table	.50

dresser ware	5.00
pots and kettle	10.00
a sow and pigs	<u>5.00</u>
	\$56.50

I am a day labourer and frail. I have five sons, to wit, Greenberry 16 years old Thomas 14 years, Westly 10 years, Thornton 8 years, and Joshua 5 years old. a daughter Nancy 12 years and a grandson Arthur, six years old. A wife aged 50 years, and very frail. Greenberry and Thomas work out among their neighbours and about maintain themselves the other contribute very little to their support

Joseph hisXmark Davis

Greene County } [22 Jan 1822]

Western District } Ss. Before me one of the associate judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and  
of } for said county, personally appeared Joseph Davis. and being first duly sworn  
Pennsylvania } according to law did on his oath declare, explanatory of his former declaration  
to obtain a pension under the Act of Congress of March 18<sup>th</sup> 1818 Entitled, An

Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States during the Revolutionary war, that although he had stated and believed that he was discharged the winter next after Lord Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown in Virginia, yet he very well remembers that he was still in the service in his own Reg't then Commanded by Colonel Friederick Varnum under the command of General Wayne in the State of North and South Carolina, and in Georgia. That while there he was with his Regiment, in Hillsborough [Hillsboro NC], Guildford [sic: Guilford NC], at Dan River and Yadkin River, at Charleston after the British army left it [14 Dec 1782]; and also at Savannah where he was in a skirmish with the indians [probably at Sharon GA, 24 My 1782] one of whom was called Captain George and usually carried a pole on his shoulder strung with american scalps, and that his escape was much regretted. That these facts recurred to him as having passed before the Capture of Cornwallis That when returning from the South with the army he, this deponent, was taken sick near Fredericksburg in Virginia and left at a farm house, of the name of Kennady with orders to go to the hospital at Frederickburg when able. that shortly after, he was taken to said hospital, and remained there till he recovered, which was in the winter, and then went to work in the neighbourhood, to obtain the means to carry him home to Chester county Pennsylvania, and afterwards arrived at home in the summer. That it was the fall of the year when he took sick, and that he had considered himself discharged when he left the hospital but did not receive a written discharge till after he arrived at Chester Penn'a. where he received an Honourable discharge, in writing from Captain Pearce Frazier [probably Persifor Frazer] of the same Reg't in which he this deponent had served. The soldiers of the army having then been some time disbanded. That he must have been mistaken, as to his being discharged the winter next following Cornwallis' capture, because, if, as he the deponent is told, General Wayne was not in any Southern campaign until after Cornwallis' surrender, he this deponent must have served a Campaign in the South after Cornwallis' surrender, and have left the hospital at Frederickburg the latter part of the second winter after said surrender, and arrived at home the second summer after

Joseph hisXmark Davis

NOTES:

On 20 June 1820 James Gardner (pension application S41561) certified that he had known Joseph Davis in the service.

On 22 April 1850 Rachel Davis, 77, of Washington Township in Morrow County OH, applied for a pension stating that she married Joseph Davis on 17 Sep 1793, and he died on 25 December 1835. Sarah Cochran certified that Joseph and Rachel Davis were married in Berkeley County (West) Virginia some time before 1 Jan 1794. Rachel Davis's application was initially rejected, because the Pension Commissioner did not consider the evidence of the date of marriage sufficient. On 23 July 1851 William Shunk wrote to President Millard Fillmore complaining that the decision was in violation of the Pension Office's own rule that "In the absence of written or record evidence of the marriage contract parol proof

by one or more witnesses will answer.” The pension was eventually awarded after receipt of a letter from the former Clerk of Berkeley County stating that there was a record of the marriage of Joseph Davis to Rachel Madden on 14 Oct 1793.

A note in the file states that Rachel Davis died on 4 Dec 1852.