

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Davis W8655

Nancy Davis

f43SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/31/10 & 8/3/18

[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.]

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The State of South Carolina, Chesterfield District }

On this seventeenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty six, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting, Thomas Davis a resident of the State & District aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he was born on the 22nd March 1760 in the District & State aforesaid, that his age was set down first in a Prayer Book & afterwards in a Bible both of which was his father's, that his eldest brother took possession of them after his father's death & this deponent does not know what has become of them.

That he entered the service of the United States under the officers named & served as stated in the following account. That he was drafted a short time before Christmas in the year ___ & served as a Private under Captain Morris Murphy [Maurice Murphy] & Maj. Robert Lloyd [sic, Robert Lide], that he does not recollect the Regiment to which he belonged;¹ that he was marched to a place called the "Long Bluff" on Pee Dee River [Pedee River] in the State aforesaid from there to Sewee Bay from there to Haderal's Point [sic, Haddrell's Point] & from there to James Island near Charleston from which place he returned home having served in this tour nine weeks.

That he was again drafted & marched as a private under Capt. John DeWitt [John Dewitt] & Col. George Hicks to Cheraw in the District & State aforesaid where he remained one month & returned home.

That he was again drafted as a private & then on this 8th day of February (year not recollected) he marched under Capt. Ellerbe [sic, Thomas Ellerbee] & Col. George Hicks crossed Black River at Benbows [sic, Benbow's Ferry?] & crossed Santee [River] at Lanud Ferry [sic, Lenud's Ferry] & proceeded to Charleston - that he was in Charleston at the time it was taken by the British under Clinton where he was taken prisoner on the 11th day of May after his March & was discharged on parole on the 19 of the same month having served this tour up to this time he was taken prisoner three months & four days.²

That he served two tours, of two weeks each, as one of a scouting party.

That he was again drafted & marched as a private under Capt. William Preswood [sic, William Prestwood] to McCord's Ferry on the Congaree River in the State aforesaid where Col. Washington [William Washington] took command - That he returned home from McCord's Ferry

¹ These officers were in the Upper Craven County Regiment of Whig militia.

² Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780.

having served this tour one month & remained at home two months.

That he was drafted again & served as a private under Capt. Benton³ & Maj. Tristram Thomas for one month. That he never received a discharge.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to in open Court the day & year above written.

S/ Richard Gantt

S/ Thomas Davis, X his mark

Presiding Judge

We Lewis Garry a Clergyman residing in the District & State aforesaid & Alfred M. Lowry residing in the same District & State do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Thomas Davis who has subscribed & sworn to the above Declaration; that we believe him to be of the age he states; that he is reputed & believed in the neighborhood where he resides & is generally believed to have been a Soldier of the Revolution & that we concur in that opinion & that he is entitled to credit.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day & year above written

S/ Lewis Garry

S/ Alfred M. Lowry

John Craig, CCP

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State of South Carolina, Chesterfield District }

On this 16th day of February 1853 before me J.C. Craig Judge of the Court of Ordinary in & for the District aforesaid personally appeared William Davis who being first duly sworn according to law say that he is 63 years of age & doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed 3rd March 1843 entitled an Act granting pensions & certain widows. Also the Act 17th June 1844 & 2nd February 1848 & 29th July 1848. That this declarant aforesaid William Davis in behalf of his mother Nancy Davis widow of Thomas Davis late of Chesterfield District deceased states that the said Thomas Davis was a Soldier in the Army of the Revolution as the heirs understand & believe & as such allowed a pension first by the State of South Carolina at the rate of Sixty dollars per annum & was afterwards pensioned by the United States under Act 7th June 1832 at the rate of twenty seven dollars & thirty two cents per annum & that he always understood from his father said Thomas Davis that the principal part of his service was done in the Light Horse or Cavalry under Captains Prestwood, Pegues [Claudius Pegues], & others, General Marion & that the aforesaid Thomas Davis was married to his deponents mother Nancy Davis in Chesterfield District South Carolina in the year one thousand seven hundred & eighty seven or eight (1787 or 1788) & as husband & wife they lived together until the death of said Thomas Davis who died in the District of Chesterfield South Carolina on the twentieth day of March one thousand eight hundred & forty five (1845) leaving his wife Nancy a widow who is still living but from extreme old age & bodily infirmity is unable to attend Court to make her declaration & his said mother has not intermarried since the death of the aforesaid Thomas Davis. This declarant further states that his mother has no record of her marriage or the births of her children that the record of the births of her children issue of their said marriage was carried to the western country by her son Samuel Davis. Some twenty five years past which record is believed to be lost, but that several of his declarant's brothers have transcripts from said record so far as their own ages are

³ Sic, probably a mistake in reference to Colonel Lemuel Benton

concerned which he believed to be correct. He further declares that he makes the above declaration for the use & benefit of his mother said Nancy Davis who as above stated is unable to attend Court to make her Declaration.

In open Court

S/ W. Davis



Sworn before me 16 Feb 1853
S/ J.C. Craig, Judge Court Ordinary

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South Carolina Chesterfield District: Before me personally appeared William Rivers Senior, a resident of Chesterfield District aged 76 years the 25th Instant, who being first duly sworn according to law says that he was intimately and personally acquainted with Thomas & Nancy Davis since his first recollection. That he was raised within one fourth of a mile from the said Nancy Davis, then Nancy Rivers, deponent's aunt, and well recollects the time they were married but was not present at the marriage and to the best of his knowledge and belief would say they were married about the year 1787 or 8 that the said Thomas Davis lived the year before he was married with his deponent's father, and has known them as husband and wife ever since in which relation they were respectable members of the Methodist Church up to the time of his said Thomas Davis death and lived within two miles of deponent where his widow is still living and raised 9 children and had 10 issue of their said marriage the youngest of whom was born in the month of December 1812 which fact he knows from the birth of his own son Malachi who was born the 22nd day of August 1812 which record is now before him.

Sworn to and subscribed this 26th day of February 1852 in Open Court.
S/ J. C. Craig, Judge S/ William Rivers

Rilah Smith a highly credible citizen of said District aged 64 years past 28th last October being first duly sworn on oath says that he was born and raised within 2 miles of Thomas Davis deceased Revolutionary pensioner and wife Nancy now an applicant for a pension: that he was intimately and personally acquainted with both the above named and their family and was schooled-so with their 2 oldest sons Samuel and William issue of their said marriage and has often heard his parents and the parents of Samuel above named speak of their ages, and always understood that he was 3 months older than Samuel the first child of said Thomas and Nancy Davis which statement he always believed to be correct as he & Samuel were near about the same Size: and that he deponent was born as above stated -- a copy from the original family register of deponent's father and mother reads as follows

"Rilah Smith was born October the 28th 1788"

which record he believes to be strictly correct and has always been in deponent's keeping since the death of his father and that the marriage of the said Thomas & Nancy Davis has never been doubted.

Sworn to and subscribed this 16th day of February 1853 in open Court
S/ Rilah Smith

S/ J. C. Craig, Judge

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$27.32 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in 6 days in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁴ relating to Thomas Davis AA35
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1812
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/3/18

[Note: This file contains a number of claims for services rendered during the Revolution. Unfortunately a number of the documents supporting those claims are illegible as posted online. The following are documents I believe to relate to this veteran.]

[p 25]
[No.] 573 [Book] Z 29 Sept. 88 [1788]
Mr Thomas Davis his account of 84 days duty done as Militia man in 80 [1780] Amounting to
Stg [Sterling] £6
Pass A. S.

[p 26]
The State of South Carolina
To Thomas Davis Dr.
To 84 days duty done as footman from the 2nd March to 19th of May including
Five days for marching Home per pay Bill of Lt. Thomas Cochran⁵
Cert'd per Col. George Hicks £42.0.0
Stg [Sterling] £6.0.0

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To the Honorable the President & other Members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina –
The Humble Petition of Thomas Davis Sheweth to your Humble body that your petitioner was in
the revolutionary war a Soldier of Colonel Hicks Regiment on Pedee River & served under
Captain Thomas Ellerbee, C. Pegues, D. Sparks [Daniel Sparks] & L. Benton (afterwards
Colonel Benton [Lemuel Benton]). That at the fall of Charleston he was taken prisoner & paroled
and after the fall of Charleston served under General Marion – Your petitioner was in service
about five years during the revolutionary war & when last called out was confined with the
rheumatism otherwise he might have rendered his country other services in that important
Struggle – Your petitioner in all probability, would have been engaged in the battle of Eutaw
[Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781], had he not been on guard at a place called Big Lake on
Santee [River] about six miles from the Battleground at the time of the battle – Your petitioner
fortunately escaped being wounded during the whole of his services, but made some very narrow
escapes from capture & injury, at one time he had to conceal himself underwater in cold weather
all excepting his head for a considerable time to prevent his being discovered by a party of the
enemy who had decoyed them almost with[in] their power by disguising themselves as friends of
this Country – Your petitioner now humbly begs that that your Honorable body will (as he is old
& infirm & unable to support himself by his own industry) afford him some relief – he further
states that he has raised a considerable family of Children, one of whom was almost certainly
sick for a great while & required a great deal of attention, which necessarily prevented his
attendance to his agricultural pursuits by which alone he made provision for himself & family –
Your petitioner with reluctance comes before your Honorable body at this time with his case –
nor would he ever have done so – did he not feel the absolute necessity of relief from some

⁴ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [ENTER ON-LINE RECORDS INDEX](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Individual" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

⁵ Cochran served as a Lt. under Capt. Maurice Murphy.

Source – & relying on the magnanimity & generosity of the Legislature always [indecipherable word] towards those who aided in the establishment of our present happy governments, he trusts that a due consideration will induce your Honorable body to grant the relief so earnestly (& he trust not unworthily) desired – & your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray –

S/ Thomas Davis, X his mark

[pp 34-35 show receipts for an annuity of \$60 paid to the veteran in 1829 -1834.]