

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Davis W8656

Mary Davis

f58SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/29/10: rev'd 4/9/20

[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.]

State of South Carolina Fairfield District: Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas, Spring Term 1847

On this 24th day of March, 1847, personally appeared in open Court, and before the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas, for the State and District aforesaid, Jonathan Davis, son of the late James Davis, deceased, a resident of the said District aged sixty years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836, "Granting Pensions to certain widows," That this declarant the aforesaid Jonathan Davis, in the behalf of himself and the other heirs of the aforesaid James Davis deceased states, that the said James Davis was an officer & Soldier in the Army of the Revolution as the heirs understood, and as such he served the United States against the Common Enemy. That the said James Davis lived in the days of the Revolution near the mouth of Sandy River Camden District South Carolina but now Chester, and that he entered the Army of the Revolution in the early part of the War, and continued generally in the service till the war ended; during which time he served as Private, Lieutenant & Captain in the Regiments commanded by Colonels Winn [Richard Winn], Bratton [William Bratton] & others of the South Carolina Militia. That a portion of the time he served as Lieutenant in his brother's Captain Amos Davis's Company and that during the Revolution the said James Davis was in the following Engagements viz.: The battle of Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780], Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780], Eutaw Springs [September 18, 1781], and at the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781], -- This deponent further makes oath, that the said James Davis was married in the fall of the year 1782 Mary Edderington in what is now called Chester District South Carolina and as husband and wife they lived together till the death of the said James Davis who died on the 22nd day of October 1822, and that his widow the aforesaid Mary departed this life on the 3rd day of July 1849 having intermarried after the death of her said husband.

This declarant also states that he has no Family Register showing either the date of the marriage of the aforesaid parties, or the births of their children,

Sworn to, and Subscribed on the day and year first above written before the Court
S/ Josiah J. Evans, PJ

S/ Jon. Davis

And the Court does hereby certify that it was proven to the satisfaction of the Court that James Davis above named died at his late residence in Fairfield District South Carolina on the 22nd day of October A.D. 1822, and that his widow the aforesaid Mary died in said District on the 3rd day

of July, 1840, leaving surviving the 2 following named children viz.: Jonathan Davis the declarant, and Elizabeth Boyd who are the only surviving children of the said deceased, and both of lawful ages. It was also shown that Jonathan Davis the above declaration is a clergyman, a man of more than ordinary worth both as a member of the church and State, a man of most irreproachable Morals and of the most unimpeachable veracity.

S/ Josiah J. Evans, PJ

March 24, 1847

State of South Carolina Fairfield District: I Jonathan Davis son of James Davis deceased do make the following statement on oath to the best of my recollection relative to the marriage of James Davis and his wife Mary viz.

I have never paid particular attention to their repeated histories of the war -- But call to mind the following remarks and circumstances -- That they were married about two years before moving from Chester District. That they were married before two of my father's brothers were killed by the Tories on the place where they lived in Chester, that this occurred over a year before moving to Fairfield. I have heard my Mother speaking of her being plundered by the Tories while my father was at the Battle of the Cowpens, when living in Fairfield, of her sending by an old neighbor a pair of shoes to my father while at the Cowpens etc. which neighbor I well remember. I have heard my father telling several anecdotes occurring in Chester one or two years before marriage which my mother was witness to from their conversation. I have the old deed of conveyance in my possession of the tract of land on which my father lived in Fairfield executed February 1782 when paid for about a year I suppose from what I have heard him say after purchasing. My father inherited a Negro woman by my mother which I have heard him speaking of making one or two crops for him in Chester while he was in the Army, as the only laborer he then owned. My father also inherited a small tract or part of a tract of land by my mother below where he lived in Chester, which my grandfather purchased and received a deed from my mother's brother this title was executed in 1780 which is now in my possession. I have heard my mother say she was married three years before her eldest child (my sister) was born and according to the family records of her (my sister's age) my father & mother must have been married about 1780. I have heard my mother and her nephew who then had my mother's family record dispute whether she was married when she was 37 or 39 years of age which I suppose was from the difficulty of distinguishing the figure of 7 from 9 in the record now lost. If she was 39 when married according to her knowledge of her age when she died she was married about 1780, if I recollect correctly. After all my indifference to charge my memory with such things, leaves it uncertain but for the 2 old deeds of conveyance in possession of alluded to, which satisfies me a must have been married previous to 1781.

Sworn to the 24th Marched 1849

S/ William F. Pearson, Magistrate

S/ Jon Davis

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"To the memory of Captain James Davis who served our Republic as a faithful soldier and officer during the Revolutionary War and continued a firm patriot to his death in 1822 aged 68 years."

"In memory of Mrs. Mary Davis break of the late James Davis deceased who was born in march

A.D. 1781, and departed this life on the 3rd day of July A.D. 1840, aged ninety-nine years three months and __ days. This Monument is erected by her only son Jonathan Davis."

In memory of John Davis, son of the Reverend John Davis, Pastor of the second Baptist Church, Boston, grandson of the Reverend David Davis who emigrated from Wales in 1710, and who was pastor of the Welch Tract Church PA. He removed from Loudoun County Virginia, and from thence to this place A.D. 1770. He had seven sons engaged in the war of the American Revolution, but two of whom survived that memorable contest, 3 of his sons were successive Captains in the same Company: He departed this life March 15th, 1785, in the 66th year of his age and died as he had lived a Christian.

State of South Carolina Fairfield District

I William F. Pearson, acting Magistrate for said District, do hereby certify that the above is a true and perfect copy of inscriptions taken from the tombstone in the family burying ground of Reverend Jonathan Davis, in Fairfield District South Carolina showing the death of his father & Mother has also that of his grandfather. Given under my hand this 17th March 1847

S/ Wm F. Pearson, Magistrate

[p 20: Mrs. Rebecca Davis, wife of Col. Jonathan Davis of Fairfield District, testified that she was well acquainted with Capt. James Davis and his wife, Mary; that she (Rebecca), married their son, Jonathan, in 1807; that her husband built his mother a house in the 'family garden'; that her mother in law suffered an unfortunate fall and dislocated her hip; that she often heard her mother in law speak of her husband's service in the war, particularly being at the Battle of Cowpens known as Tarleton's defeat and having hired a shoemaker named William Nelson to make a pair of shoes for her husband which she sent to him at Cowpens.]

[p 25: Mary Pearson of Fairfield District testified that her step father moved from Congaree to Fairfield in 1783 where she found James and Mary Davis living as man and wife; that James and Mary's son Jonathan Davis was born in August 1786, which she recalls because she had a son, Philip E. Pearson, now residing in Matagndes [sic] Texas, born May 4, 1785.]

[p 27: Jonathan Davis testifies that his sister, Elizabeth, was born in March 1784 and is still living.]

[p 28: Elizabeth Hutchinson, 73, testified on April 7, 1851 [could be 1850] that her father, Charles Darnel Bradford was in the service with James Davis.]

[p 51: On December 10, 1847, James Eddington,¹ 105, testified in Trigg County, KY as follows: "That from old age he is unable to give a full statement of all his Service during the revolutionary war. That he lived in South Carolina on broad River Fairfield District, about the commencement of the revolutionary war and was well acquainted with James Davis who was a son of one John Davis, who was a minister of the Gospel. The aforesaid James Davis about the Commencement of the revolution lived in the aforesaid State at the mouth of Sandy River. In a short time after the war commenced, the aforesaid James Davis, Entered the service in the [indecipherable word] of the United States in South Carolina Militia, and served as such for

¹ Sic, [James Ederington R3230](#)

some time, and then was promoted to Lieutenant and served in his Brother's Captain Amos Davis Company, for I think about one year, as Lieutenant -- and was then promoted to the rank of captain and was in company, which was commanded by Colonel Wynn or Wynn's Regt. I was at the Battle of Hanging rock in July 1780 and James Davis, the aforesaid was Captain and the war his sword and commanded, the company to which he was attached, I was also at the battle of Eutaw Springs in September 1781 and the aforesaid James Davis was in said battle, and was then Captain still, and commanded his company. I know the aforesaid James Davis was in service nearly or during the war, and I have often heard him say he was in nearly all of the war and from my own knowledge I believe his statement to be true.

The aforesaid James Davis married a relation of mine, by the name of Mary Eddington in the year 1780 or 81 -- as well as he recollects, and about that date the aforesaid James Davis moved to Mont Sello [Monticello] Fairfield District in the aforesaid state, where he lived until his death.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date aforesaid before me.

S/ Mordecai Fowler, JP

S/ James Eddington, X his mark

S/ John Henderson