

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Surry Davis R2766

fn68SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/31/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of Georgia County of Murray

On this 30th day of August 1843 personally appeared in open Court before the Inferior Court of Murray, now sitting, Surry Davis a Resident of the County of Murray and State of Georgia aged seventy-nine years, who, being first 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated; that he entered the service as a private volunteer under Captain John McGaw in Abbeville District South Carolina in the summer of the year 1780, who joined Colonel Robert Anderson who joined General Pickens we immediately proceeded to General Pickens' plantation and built a block house on the site where Abbeville Court House now stands where we remained until the spring of 1781 making frequent excursions against the Cherokee Indians, to protect the frontiers against the depredations of whom, were stationed there early in the fall of the same year 1780 we took two small Indian Towns on Seneca River five Indians were killed, during our stay at the Block House three families were murdered and their Houses burnt, by the Indians, by the names of Smith, Johnson and the widow Crockett in the month of April 1781. The British & Tories having gained the Ascendancy in our neighborhood we were compelled either to join them or leave, the latter alternative about thirty of us chose and under General Pickens proceeded to meet General Greene, who was approaching Ninety Six about the first May 1781 we joined General Greene, on some water course in North Carolina the name of which I forget, and I am not positively sure whether it was in North or South Carolina towards the last of May we arrived at Ninety Six and laid siege to it, shortly after we delayed the siege the British sallied from the Fort and drove us from our works. We remained two or three weeks and endeavoring to take the Fort without success, when it was understood that the British were coming with a large Army from Charleston to its relief. We made an assault on the Fort without success. We retreated to the Saluda River and thence to the Enoree [River]. When General Greene turned and proceeded to Bacon's Bridge on the Dorchester below Orangeburg. I will here mention that there were good many men killed at Ninety Six somewhere about a hundred, I should think. I will also mention other volunteer Officers to wit Lieutenants Kirkwood [could be Birkwood], John Wilson, I do not recollect any of the regular officers except General Greene. I saw him often, he was rather a large stout man, apparently about 45 years [of age], Colonel Cruger commanded the British at Ninety Six and Lord Rawdon commanded the army which came to its relief. Towards the middle or last of July, General Pickens received orders to proceed with his volunteers and joined General Clarke of Georgia for the purpose of making an inroad into the Cherokee nation. We proceeded by slow marches to Abbeville District where we

remained between 2 and 3 weeks resting; when we resumed our march and joined General Clarke sometime in the early part of the month of September three days march from Sortie [?] Town an Indian village situated where there is a Valley now known by the name of Narcoochie [sic, Nacoochee] in Habersham County Georgia. We approached Sortie Town secretly and arrived there three days after our Junction with General Clarke. We attacked the Town about daylight and killed thirty-seven Indians, and took between forty and fifty women & children prisoners. We remained there three days. I don't recollect the names of any of the Georgia Officers except General [Clarke]. We returned to Abbeville sometime in the month of October 1781 and received permission to go home previous to being disbanded I volunteered, as a minute man and held myself in readiness with my arms and equipments until the close of the war though I was not called upon again. From August 1780 till October 1781, I was in active service with slight interruptions, that is I received occasionally short leaves of absence like other soldiers, though until October 1781, I was never indefinitely absent from my duty. I have no documentary evidence of my services nor ever had and there is no living witness to my knowledge of my services. That there is no minister of the Gospel in his vicinity, that he was born in North Carolina Granville County in the year 1764, that he has no record of his age, that he lived in Abbeville district when called into service. About after the war I removed to Pendleton District where I lived about twenty years. I thence removed to Greenville District where I lived nine [?] years. I then removed to Buncombe County North Carolina where I lived nine years, I then removed to Habersham County Georgia where I have lived in eleven years. I then moved to Murray County Georgia where I now live. That sometime in the month of February 1842, while on a visit to some relations in Roane County Tennessee, he made application through a lawyer by the name of Childers which by some informality proved unsuccessful that during the following summer he employed [illegible] Stone [?] of Murray County Georgia to forward his papers, to which an answer was addressed to Franklin D. Morris Esquire Clerk of the Court of Murray County by J L Edwards dated June 24 1842, enclosing a copy of the Pension Office regulations and directing this Declarant to apply to W. [illegible] Esquire, Comptroller General of South Carolina for information. That at the time of the receipt of the above communication [illegible name, could be "L. P. Waldo"] his agent as aforesaid was sick and unable to attend to any business and that as soon as the said [illegible name, could be "Waldo"] was able to Travel, he left the County and did [not] return until within a few days, which is the reason why the application was not renewed earlier. The Declarant further Deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than one year and two months, as a private, that is to say, that according to the best of his recollection, he entered the service in August 1780, and there in until October 1781, and for such service he claims a pension. That he did not agreeable to the Instructions of the Commissioner of Pensions make any [several indecipherable words] to Wm Laval [?] Esqr., as he was aware that he had no information on the subject in his [office] as this Declarant was a volunteer and did not belong to what were termed the State Troops. He were to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ Surry Davis

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Questions by the court

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In Granville County North Carolina in the year 1764

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have none

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: When called into service I lived in Abbeville District South Carolina in the revolution. I have lived in Pendleton & Greenville Districts South Carolina and Buncombe County North Carolina then Habersham County Georgia and I now live in Murray County Georgia

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I volunteered

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: General Greene is the only regular officer whose name I recollect. I do not recollect any of the state Continental or militia Regiments by name, the General Circumstances of my services will be found in the foregoing Declaration.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I never received a discharge

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: Wesley Mauldin and S. C. Fain. I could mention all who know me, but advised it is unnecessary.

[Wesley Mauldin and Samuel C. Fain gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 13: on August 4, 1853 in Roane County Tennessee, Margarette Stegall executed a power of attorney in which she states she is one of the children of Surry Davis, an applicant for a pension for his services in the revolution.]

[fn p. 14: Isaac Foster wrote a letter addressed to L. P. Waldo and dated Sept. 4, 1854, in which he states that he is the son-in-law of Surry Davis. Fn p. 15, an affidavit in which the affiants state that Lucinda [spelled Lusinda] Davis, now Lucinda Foster, was the daughter of Surry Davis.]

[facts in file: veteran also is said to have had a son named Greenville Davis who was living in Whitfield County, Georgia prior to this father's death, which occurred sometime prior to October 1853.]

[fn p. 60: SC Comptroller General's certificate dated November 20, 1854, showing payments made to Surrey Davis for Militia duty under Capt. John McGaw for 36 days on horse and 45 days on foot since the reduction of Charleston signed for by Surrey Davis with instructions to pay the sums due him to Blake Mauldin.]