

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Davis: S2498

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina} SS
Stokes County}

On this 12th day of March 1833 Personally appeared in Open Court before us the Justices of the County Court of Stokes aforesaid now sitting, James Davis Sen'r a resident of North Carolina in the County aforesaid aged seventy nine years last August 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 the 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein after stated; (towit) The first service he entered as a private in the Militia as a drafted soldier in Surry County North Carolina in Captain Colberts Company the field officer was then Majer Joseph Winston of said County from the infirmities of old age he cannot recollect the date but march'd as a Guard from Surry Courthouse to Chizzels Lead Mines [sic: lead mines at Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County] in Virginia a distance of about seventy miles with waggons after Lead for the use of the public and the United States Militia & return'd as one of the guard to Surry Courthouse aforesaid & still remained in said service guarding the Baggage waggon and provision waggons for the use of the Mllitia under the same officers for the Tower of Service of three months & was released from that service by his officers.

The next service this applicant entered as a volunteer Militia private under Capt. John Henderson & Colo. Rich'd Henderson of North Carolina Commissioners of said State to extend the line between the state of Virginia & North Carolina [see note below] & run said line as one of the guard through the mountains which passed between the tribes of Indians call'd the Cherokees and Shawnees until they reached Cumberland Mountain ran the Kentucky road or gap, and at that place halted and after remaining several days the whole army both Virginians & North Carolinians return'd homewards with very scanty provisions & after a service of three months (& some days) this applicant was discharged by his Capt. Henderson aforesaid. this sevice he entered in the fall or autum the date he cannot recollect. the next sevice this applicant was call'd on & served as a volunteer and private under Capt. Robert Hill, Majer Joseph Winston & Colo. Joseph Williams all of Surry County and march'd in a horse Company across the Big Yadkin River in pursuit of the Tories & British into the main Tory settlements call'd Bryants, in the forks of the Yadkin, from which settlements the Tories had all fled, and from thence our troops returned to Surry old Courthouse, & in this Tower of Service he remained three weeks and was disbanded or discharged

The next service this applicant was call'd on by Maj'r Joseph Winston & guarded the Tories at the old Moravian Town in the then Surry County which Tories were taken prisoners at the Battle of Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780] in this service this applicant remained Ten days & was discharged by his officers & another guard took place;

The next Service this applicant entered into on a call being made to guard [Acting] Governor Alex'r Martin & the General Assembly while sitting at Salem in the then Surry County N.Carolina & served two weeks, & was dismiss'd — the next service this applicant march'd as a private militia soldier in an expedition from Surry County aforesaid against the Tories that had embodied at Green Swamp near little Pedee [sic: Pee Dee] & remained in this service one month & was discharged. and the last of all his services it fell to this applicants lot from his number in the Militia of Surry County aforesaid to serve a tour of three months duty when he hired a certain Berry Stone as his Substitute who march'd from said County to South Carolina & fought in the notorious Battle of the Cowpens or what is call'd Tarltons Defeat [Battle of Cowpens SC where Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton was defeated, 17 Jan 1781] for which this applicant paid his substitute aforesaid sixty 60 dollars; that he has no documentary evidence of the aforesaid services & that he knows of no person whose Testamony he can procure who can Testafy to his services aforesaid only in part, (that is his Capt Robert Hill of Stokes County — Ques 1st where were you Born?

Ans'r in Augusta County in Virginia

2nd have you any Record of your age

Ans No. But am inform'd I was Born in August 1753.

3rd Where were you living when called into service. where have you lived since the Revolution & where do you live now

Ans'r I lived in Surry County North Carolina when call'd into service and by the division of said County I fell into that part called Stokes County where I have resided ever since

4th how were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volenteer or were you a substitute.

Ans'r the first service of three months I was drafted
the second Do. of three months I was a volenteer
the third Do. of three weeks I was a volenteer horseman
the fourth Do. of ten Day I was ordered to guard prisoners
the fifth Do. of two weeks I was ordered to guard the assembly
the sixth Do. of one month I was a volenteer
Making in all eight months & a half, the different services he rendered were during the Revolutionary War. But from the loss of memory & infirmities of old age, he is not able to state the different dates he performed the same & besides the above services he expended sixty dollars in hiring a substitute three months

5th State the names of the Regular officers if any were with the troops where you served & the Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service.

Answer I do not remember of any Regular officers being with the troops I served and the general circumstances of the services I perform'd were under the Militia officers already named first in guarding waggons for munitions of war to the lead Works 2nd in guarding the Commissioners in extending the Boundary line between Virginia & North Carolina to protect them from the Indians & the other small services when called on by the officers of my County as above named at a moments warning to suppress Tories &c

6th did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given & what has become of it

Ans I think I had only one written discharge that was from my Capt John Henderson but have lost it the other services was performed & a verbal dismissal was given by the officers

7th Tell who you are acquainted with in your County who can Testafy as to your character & veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Ans'r I believe I could produce a numerous train of acquaintances to testafy my veracity &c & will particularly John L. Wilson, a clergyman residing in said County and Joseph Banner sen'r

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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. Sworn and subscribed the day & year above mentioned [signed] James Davis

NOTE: A party led by William Byrd surveyed the eastern part of the boundary reaching Peters Creek at present Patrick County VA and Stokes County NC on 26 Oct 1728. The line was extended 90 miles west in 1749, and to present Bristol TN in 1779. Davis's tour as a guard may have occurred during this last period.