## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Spencer Davis W5261

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia	}
Hampshire County Sct	}

On this 22 day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before John McDowell, Christopher Hinkell, John Stump & Philip Fahy gentlemen justices of the court of Hampshire County now sitting Spencer Davis a resident of Hampshire county in the state of Virginia aged about 71 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 act of Congress passed June 7 1832 that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

That he served three months as a Volunteer under Capt. Daniel Feegins [sic: Daniel Feagan], & Lieut. John Russell commencing about 1<sup>st</sup> December 1780 Marched from Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County Virginia to Richmond, thence to Petersburgh [sic: Petersburg] thence to Nansemond River, thence (he believes) to a place called Cabin point [on James River in Surry County] there were three other companies commanded by Captains Vincent [possibly Adam Vincell], Russell & Lucket [sic: John Luckett] in service at the same time the name of the Colo. he does not recollect.

He also served three months in the year 1781 under Captain Thomas Humphrey as Substitute for a certain Thomas Cannon marched from Loudon County to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg]. He thinks he was under the command of a Major [Samuel] Cox and after being marched to Richmond and to other places returned to Williamsburgh and was then discharged.

He also served another three months in 1781 under Capt. [Simon] Hancock & George Taylor Lieut. was drafted for this term Marched from Loudon County and was under Col. [George] West went to Gloucester and remained there until after the Capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781]. He then marched as one of the guard of the prisoners to Nolands ferry in Loudon county and was then discharged. He also enlisted at Williamsburgh about the 1st April 1782 for a year & served ten months and was discharged his captain's name was William Smith. His Colonel was named Olcot or Wolcot [probably Wolcott] of Connecticut. His Major's name Peas [probably Abiel Pease] – and the general Wardsworth [sic: James Wadsworth] He marched to Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg], thence to Falmouth thence to Dumfries, thence to Baltimore, thence to Fishkill, thence to Boston, thence to Hossack [sic: Hoosick NY] and was then discharge this last service was on continental establishment. that he has no other evidence of his service than his own affidavit

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

Spencer hisXmark Davis

I Nancy Chamblin residing in the County of Loudon & State of Virginia, do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Spencer Davis of the County of Hampshire & State of Virginia (late of the County of Loudon in s'd State) being his sister, & believe him to be seventy three years old. I was a girl at the time he first went into the Army about nine or ten years of age. I have no recollection who was his Captain, but have always understood that he went as a volunteer & served three months. I also remember well his serving another tour of three months, as a substitute for one Thomas Cannon, who gave him a horse for acting in his place. I remember the horse was brought to my fathers & left there.

I remember also some years after (I believe I was about twelve years old) Captain William Moore came to my fathers house & inquired for my brother Spencer observing that he (Spencer) would laugh to see his face. My mother called him out of the house & after some conversation, they went off together. This was in the Spring of the year, & my brother did not return again untill the next summer twelve

months. I knew at the time, that Captain Moore belonged to the army, but did not know what rank he held, or what service he belonged to – but have since understood that he was in the regular army & that my brother enlisted with him for twelve months

I do not recollect any thing more that would be to the purpose Nancy herXmark Chamblin

I, Enoch Furr [pension application W11030] residing in the County of Loudon & State of Virginia do hereby Certify, that Spencer Davis who is now applying for a pension under the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 is a nephew of mine, being a sisters son. I recollect that Spencer was out of the neighbourhood two or three years at that time & it was generally believed that he was in the revolutionary army. After his return, we spent a night together & he gave me an account of of what he had been about – that he had been regular army on to the North, with the French. He told me a great many passages, when he was on his different tours – which it is not necessary to state here, but I have no doubt from what I know of him, & from the general belief of the neighbourhood at the time, that he was in the army of the revolution. I am about eighty five years of age

Enoch hisXmark Furr

[Minor Furr of Loudoun County stated that he recalled Davis, the son of his father's sister, telling his father about his services.]

I George Rust residing in the County of Loudon & State of Virginia do hereby Certify, that I am well acquainted with Spencer Davis of the County of Hampshire (late of the County of Loudon) & believe him to be seventy two or three years of age. I myself am near seventy four & as well as I remember s'd Spencer is a year or two younger. In the fall of 1780 s'd Spencer & I volunteered to serve a tour three months, under Captain Daniel Figgins, who went from the County of Loudon. John Russell was first Lieutenant, my brother Mat Rust 2<sup>d</sup> D[itt]o. We were marched down through Fredericksburg Richmond &c In the neighbourhood of Petersburg we joined General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] – we were watching the movements of Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, which arrived in VA in Apr 1781], but avoided comeing in contact with him. Our term of service expired before the other levies came in & we remained some ten days after. I never served with him afterwards, but know that he was gone out of the neighbourhood a good while & understood he was in the army. S'd Spencer had the reputation of being as brave a man & as good a soldier as any in the army – & in private life, so long as we lived in the same neighbourhood, he maintained the character of an honest & truthful man & I entertain no doubt of the truth of his statements.

[signed] George Rust

## Loudoun County ToWit

I Edward Hall a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid do certify that James Wornal [James Wornell, pension application W2892] this day personally appeared before me and made oath that Spencer Davis did serve with him in a Company of Virginia Malitia commanded by Captain Figgins three months in the latter part of the summer & fall of 1780, and that he performed a second tour of duty with him the said Wornal in Capt. Simon Hancocks company about the same season of the year in 1781. and that he the said Davis was absent about twelve months in 1782 and the deponent says he always understood that he had enlisted and went with the French Troops to the north. Given under my hand this 28th day of June 1833

[On 22 June 1833 in Hampshire County John Quinn (pension application S38322) also certified Davis's tour under Capt. Fegins.]

[Punctuation partly corrected.] State of Virginia Loudon County to wit On this 2<sup>d</sup> day of July 1833 personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the peace for s'd County Spencer Davis, late a resident of the County of Loudon now a resident of the County of Hampshire in s'd. State; aged seventy two 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 — He was born in the County of Loudon, has no record of his birth but thinks he was born in 1761 – Resided with his parents in s'd County, when he first entered Army & after the close of the war, returned to his native County, where he continued to reside until about the the year 1813, when he removed to Hampshire County in s'd State where he now resides –

In the fall of 1780, he served as a volunteer, a tour of three months under Captain Daniel Figgins, who commanded a company of militia from his neighbourhood. John Russell was 1st Lieutenant & Mat Rust 2<sup>d</sup> Do – marched through Fredericksburg Richmond &c to the County south of James River, where he joined the army under Gen'l Muhlenburg & was placed under the immediate command of Col Gibson of the infantry. The American troops were watching the movements of Col Tarlton, trying to restrain his plundering parties, but retreating whenever advanced upon – does not remember exactly where he was when his term of service expired, but thinks it was somewhere near Smithfield - remained with his Company some time after his term of service expired, waiting the arrival of the new levies. In the course of the next spring & summer, he served a second tour of three months as a substitute for one Thomas Cannon, under Capt. Thomas Humphrey, who commanded a company of militia raised in Loudon – several other companies went from Loudon at the same time; he remembers one under Capt Vincent & one from Fauquier under Capt O'Banion [Samuel Obanon] – Major Cox of Loudon had the command [illegible word] a halt of a few days in Williamsburg, where the troops took up their quarters in the old Capitol, where was a full length likeness of Lord Dunmore [the former Royal Governor], cut out of marble & standing on a block of the same & the curls in his hair, the folds of his cloak, the shoe-buckles & every part of a fine dress in those days, all looked so natural, he could not have thought any one could have cut them out of such a hard looking thing. Went from thence to York-Town where he staid perhaps only one night, & returned to Williamsburg & took up quarters in the old Barracks. In the course of a week or two, more numerous parties of militia comeing in, we gave up the barracks to them & moved into Lord Dunmores palace. Here we lay but a short time, before we were driven off by a party of British under Tarleton, who came on us in the night [about 19 June 1781], & beat up our quarters – there was some little fighting & two of my acquaintances, one belonging to Capt Humphreys company killed. The americans retreated about nine miles that night, & saw the light from the conflagration of the Barracks & Lord Dunmores Pallace. The next day they continued the retreat to Ruffins Ferry on the Pamunkey, where they received tidings that the enemy had proceeded up the river toward Richmond. On this intelligence the Americans changed their course & went by forced marches to Richmond, going all night. On arriving there, joined the main army under Gen'l [Anthony] Wayne & Marquis LaFayette. The British under Cornwallis encamped on the opposite side of the river, in the old fields near Manchester – they did not reach there untill some hours after we joined the army. After burning the tobacco warehouses & some few private dwellings in Manchester the British fell down the river again & went into York Town & never came out again untill the Americans brought them out. His term of service having now expired, he was discharged at Richmond, & returned home.

On reaching home he found that he had been drafted to serve his own tour under Capt. Simon Hancock & that the company had already started. He only took time to procure a few refreshments, & followed on after them & joined at Lacy's tavern, the place of rendezvous. Col West of Loudon commanded the regiment. Joined the united Army of French & americans under Washington at York Town & aided in the capture of Cornwallis – The company to which he belonged lay on the opposite side of the river [at Gloucester], untill they were ordered across to march out a body of prisoners whom they conducted to Nolans Ferry on the Potomac River – where they were taken charge of by an other body of militia, & Capt Hancocks Company was discharged.

In March 1782 he enlisted in the army of the United States for twelve months (to go with the French troops) under one Capt William Moore (whom he had previously known, & who promised that he should remain under his command all the time for which he was to serve. However, in Williamsburg, he & two or three other recruits whom Moore had obtained, were delivered over to Capt William Smith, under whom he served out his term — Miller 1st Lieutenant – Major Pease & Col Olcott commanded the Regiment: Capt Crow, Capt Zimmerman & Capt Physic he thinks commanded companies in the same regiment. The Regiment formed an escort to the French army, and accompanied them to Boston, taking charge of their Artillery, keeping it in order, driving the canon, grooming the horses & guarding them at night. The first considerable halt after leaving Williamsburg was in Baltimore, where the remained some time to rest. From thence they marched to Philadelphia & staid a few days - from thence through the Jerseys & crossed the North River at Stony Point, where Washingtons army then lay - the British being in possession of New York. We made no stay at Stony Point, but proceeded some distance further to Crumps Pond, where was an abundance of water & grass for the horses. Here they remained several weeks, probably to refresh the horses, & it was supposed at one time that they would winter there. They dug holes in the hill side & constructed huts for their winter quarter, covered over with earth. The French Officers had very neat huts built of turf. At this place I think Gen'l Wadsworth took the command & continued with us to Boston From Crump pond we proceeded through Connecticut & Rhode Island to Boston. At Boston, took leave of the French & proceeded probably the day after their arrival to Hoosac with the artillery horses – does not know in what state it was, or whether Hoosac was the name of the township or of the stream which flowed by - but it was a great place for grass & meadows & was probably situated for winter quarters on account of the horses. Here the troops & artillery Horses were distributed among the different farm houses & some time in the month of February 1783, after peace was proclaimed [first Treaty of Paris, 30 Nov 1782], he received a written discharge from Col Olcott, which is now lost, but was in existence not more than twenty five years since. He does not know the name of the regiment in which he served, but recollects that the men wore the letter A cut out of red cloth, upon their hats. After his discharge, he hired himself to a farmer in the neighbourhood, with whom he had become acquainted named Oliver Parker, until after harvest, when he started on his return to his native country, with only four dollars in his pocket & these[?] fruits of his earnings with Parker. When enlisted he had the promise of half a dollar for every 2 miles from the place of enlistment to head quarters & the same from the point where he should be discharged to his home – but the last part of the engagement was not performed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state

Spencer hisXmark Davis

## NOTE:

Spencer Davis applied to have his pension transferred from Virginia to Muskingum County OH effective 4 Sep 1837. On 14 Sep 1837 in Muskingum County a Samuel Davis certified the identity of Spencer Davis.

On 14 Apr 1840 Nancy (Ann) Davis of Muskingum County, aged 79, applied for a pension stating that she married Spencer Davis on 26 Dec 1786 in Loudoun County, and he died 6 July 1838 in Muskingum County. Nancy Chamblin stated that she was 72 on 31 Dec 1839 and deposed that she was present when Spencer Davis married Ann Wornell, then about 16 or 17 years old, and that the marriage took place at the home of William Wornell, the bride's father, near Goose Creek, about five miles from Powell's Store, now Middleburg. The file includes a copy of a bond signed in Loudoun County on 23 Dec 1786 by Spencer Davis and Vaun Davis for the marriage of Spencer Davis to Ann Wornell, spinster, of Shelburne Parish. On 29 Mar 1844 Nancy Davis applied under a later act, stating that her age was 82, and that she lived in Rich Hill Township in Muskingum County.