

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Richard Davis VAS3303
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

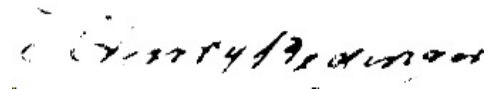
[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I Henry Bedinger [S8059] of the County of Berkeley and State of Virginia aged Eighty five years on the 16th day of October 1838 do Certify and declare that Richard Davis served as a Lieutenant in Volunter Rifle Company in 1775 for One year, at the Siege of Boston [17 Jun 1775 - 17 Mar 1776] and Elsewhere, that he was appointed & Commissiond a Captain on the 10th day of July 1776 in Colo Hugh Stephenson's Reg't of Riflemen, then to be raised, that Colo Hugh Stephenson died in August 1776, and the Command of the Regiment devolved on Lieutenant Colonel Moses Rawlings [VAS683], that Captain Richard Davis raised his Company and joined the Regiment at Bergen [NJ], where he then was in the performance of the duties of Lieutenant in said Regiment, that it was ordered to the defense of Fort Washington on York [Manhattan] Island. That on the 16th day of November 1776 the Garrison including said Reg't. was compelled to surrender to the British forces, that the prisoners were taken to New York, including Captain Richard Davis and myself and there detained and held as prisoners of war until the 20th of January 1777 when the surviving Officers of the Reg't were sent to Graves End [Gravesend], a Small Township on Long Island, billeted on house keepers there, who were Compelled to subsist the Officers, were promised two dollars a week [one or two undeciphered words] subsistence to Officers. That we were respectively held responsible for the payment, but we were paroled to the limits of the Township where we remained as prisoners of war to the first day of November 1780 when a general Exchange took place (except seventeen days Close Confinement on board a British prison Ship) That during the whole time from the date of our Respective Commissions we never received any Monthly pay, or pay on account for extra Rations or pay for the [one or two undeciphered words] Rations for a period of nearly four years while [several undeciphered words] Captivity That during Captivity [several undeciphered words] on very scanty supplies and [seven lines mostly undeciphered] the Officers of that Regiment, (including Colo Moses Rawlings) were left imprisoned or Called into actual, active, service during and to the termination of the war, and were considered supernumerary officers, with all the Claims and Rights of that Class of Officers, who at various periods of the war were compelled [several undeciphered words] of circumstances to retire in the Capacity of Supernumerary Officer

I was personally intimately acquainted with Captain Richard Davis from the period of the Siege of Boston to the time of our Captivity he stood high as an officer of his rank performed the duties of his station with alacrity was never arrested Cashiered or [one or two undeciphered words] misconduct, nor did he resign – nor was he dismissed the service

Given under my hand this 22^d day of March 1839

Henry Bedinger Capt'n
5th[?] Virginia Reg't
Revolutionary Army



[undeciphered] 12th Dec'r 1839

Sir [B Davenport] In answer to your enquiries respecting Captain Richard Davis, as far as my Memory now Serves I answer

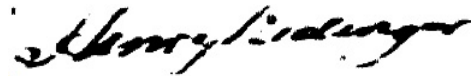
1st question Where did Captain Richard Davis enlist his Company in 1776 for Colo Hugh Stephens (afterwards Colo Rawlings Riflemen)?

Answer I believe he enlisted his Company generally on both sides of the Potomac River mostly on the North branch and adjacent settlements. Recruiting Officers were not restricted to districts or States

2^d question Where did Capt'n Rich'd Davis reside?
 Answer Richard Davis was young probably 22 or 23 years of age in 1775 when he went to the Siege of Boston I do not know where he resided previously.

3 question Where did Captain Richard Davis Reside after he was discharged in 1780
 answer Captain R Davis married and resided sometime in Hagers Town [Hagerstown MD] thence removed to Shepherds Town [Shepherdstown in present West Virginia] where he lived a number of years, but know not how long – his wife died at Shepherds Town and I believe one of his daughters

4 question When and where did he Capt Davis die
 answer I know not where he died, he was poor and afflicted, believe he died at his Brothers
 Your Ob Serv/ Henry Bedinger



To the Governor of Virginia Altona[?] Dec'r 30th 1839

Sir On my way home from Richmond in November I stoped in the city of Washington and obtained access to the libray of Congress, for the purpose of examining the [undeciphered word] of the Congress of the revolution as Col. Stephenson's reg't. upon reference to it you will find that on the 27th June 76 on recommendation of the board of war, the Congress resolved that six companies of riflemen in addition to the three now at N York be raised and the whole regimented, and that a commission be granted to Captain Hugh Stephenson to be Col. of said reg't. of riflemen – that Moses Rawlins be its Col. and Otho H Williams [Otho Holland Williams] be Major – that four companies of riflemen for said regiment be raised in Virginia and two in Maryland.

7th July 1776 The Congress resolved that Abraham Shepherd [W19343] be appointed a Captain to command a company of riflemen in s'd. regiment & subalterns – and it was further resolved, that the delegates from Virginia be empowered (nay requested) to write to the several county committees in that state whom they [undeciphered word] it most proper and probable for the men to be raised requesting said committees to recommend officers for the appointment of Congress, to fill up Col. Hugh Stephenson's reg't.

11th July – The General [Washington] (himself a Virginia [undeciphered word] appointed to command in chief having recommended the following gentlemen to be officers of the two remaining rifle companies of Col. Stephenson's Bata[llio]n at N York – Capt. Philemon Griffith and subalterns – Capt. Richard Davis and subalterns.

As the county committees of Virginia to whom an appeal had been made by the resolve of the 9th could not have acted it is a very fair presumption, in the absence of positive testimony that those commissions emanated from the recommendation of the Virginia delegation in Congress or the knowledge of the General himself, as those two companies were to fill up Col. Stephenson's regiment.

A few days after (the date I have somehow, tho unaccountable, omitted in my memo) the Congress resolved upon the recommendation of Maryland that commissions issue to Capt. Thomas Beall [probably Thomas Bell VAS2473] & subalterns (always pronounced and by many spelt Bell) Thus it would seem from the journals of Congress & they are the best evidence that Capt. Bell and his subalterns were the only individuals in whose appointment Maryland had any agency, and yet, he on the 8th Ap'l. 1783 or 4 when the events of the War were fresh – When the governor of Va. and the Council of state had an entire recollection if not personal knowledge of the regiments or Batt'ns of Virginia, granted to Capt. Bell a military land warrant for 4000 acres for his services in that reg't. Thus granting to all the Capt'ns of the regiment – Stephenson afterwards Col. [Daniel] Morgan [afterwards Gen'l Brady – Long – West – Shepherd – Griffith appointed on the same day that [undeciphered word] Davis was – and Bell who was recommended by Maryland – military land bounty. [see endnote] Stephenson & Morgan commanded two

of the then companies referred to in the resolve of the 27th June 76 and leaving of the nine Captains who belonged to the regiment Richard Davis alone; whose [several undeciphered words] may tell the tale of a republics ingratitude. I am convinced by what I learned from my father in his lifetime, that the entire regiment raised for Col Stephenson was not only considered at the time as a Va regiment [one or two illegible words] Finally such [several illegible words and part missing from bottom of page] my father belonged was enlisted into Capt'n. Bells company of Col Stephensons regiment afterwards Lt. Col. Rawling's, and recruited in Berkeley. My uncle Adrian Davenport [S35874] now residing in Union County Ky was enlisted into Capt. Bells company by my father. This is the family history of the [undeciphered word] My father and uncle both rec'd military land [bounty] from the state of Va. If it should be necessary in prosecuting this claim the affidavit of Adrian Davenport will be obtained as to the fact of Bells company [several undeciphered words] Va.

But I can hardly believe it will, as Gov. & council at so very early a day, [undeciphered] Capt. Bell a warrant for his services in [undeciphered word] reg't.

I enclose you Maj'r. Henry Bedingers original certificate of [several illegible words] – Also a letter to me and a certificate from [several illegible words]

If this testimony is deemed insufficient [several undeciphered words] Capt. Davis, and request a return of the papers [two undeciphered words] before you [two undeciphered words] Sir

Your obd't Serv't./ B. Davenport

Heirs Capt'n Richard Davis app. for bounty land

Col Stephensons regiment was a mixed one, having corps from different States. Proof must be made then that Capt Davis was residing in Va. at the time he entered the service The evidence filed does not prove this The claim therefore cannot be allowed on the proof produced DC [Gov. David Campbell]

1840 Feby 14 Rejected

NOTE: According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution*, the following captains raised companies in Virginia: William Brady (VAS2605), Thomas West, Abraham Shepherd (W19343), Philemon Griffith, and Samuel Finley (W10026). The company of Capt. Alexander Lawson Smith (W4247) company was raised in Maryland. Sanchez-Saavedra does not list Capt. Gabriel Long (VAS970), Capt. Thomas Bell, or Capt. Richard Davis. Capt. Long, at least, was from Virginia.