Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of David Davis R2711 VA Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Indiana } Declaration Pension

Monroe County } On this day the fifteenth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeard in open Court before the Honorable Aquilla Rogers, Sole Judge of the Probate Court of Monroe County aforesaid in the State aforesaid (being a Court of Record with a permanently densed[?] Official Seal) now sitting, David Davis a resident of said County in said state of Indiana 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 7th 1832. He was born in the County of Washington [sic: formed from Frederick County in 1776] in the State of Maryland. He has no record of his age nor was there ever any, he not being able to read and write. His friends inform him that he must have been born in the year 1767, his own impression is that he is near said age but not quite so old. He removed with his father to Wythe County Virginia [sic: formed in 1789 from Montgomery County] when a boy.

1st Tour He states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he can not swear positively as to the date of the commencement of his services, but can state precisely the length of his services and the season of the year when commenced. He was drafted in the militia of the State of Virginia [see endnote] and entered the service of the United States in the War of the Revolution as a private Soldier in a Company of Foot of said Militia commanded by Captain James Newell, he can not state for how long precisely. At the time of the said draft the Officers conducting it stated that it would be for betwixt two & three months. He rendezvoused on the Frontiers of Virginia. He thinks Colonel Lewis commanded the Frontiers at this time. He lived in the County of Wythe in said State of Virginia at the time of entering this service. He can not state the year in which he entered this service by its date, but he well recollects that it was the same year in which Lord Cornwallis was Captured at Yorktown Virginia [19 Oct 1781]. He well recollects also that he entered this service in the fall season of the year. He was with said company employed in scouting the Country in various directions within and about forty miles east from the fort hereinafter mentioned At the end of two months from the time of entering this service (a very heavy snow falling) the Officers dismissed this applicant & comrades in the frontier country. He served in said tour faithfully and to the acceptance of his Officers fully and at least two months. All the services which are herin before or after stated were in the War of the Revolution in regularly embodied troops raised by authority.

2^d Tour He again entered the service, and enlisted as a private soldier in the State troops of the State of Virginia then living in Wythe County in said state in the service of the United States in the War of the Revolution in Company of Foot in the month of March in the year after that in which he served in his said first tour Said year in which this tour was made & served being the year after the year of the Capture of Lord Cornwallis by the French & Americans. He entered this service and enlisted for nine months in a Company of Foot commanded by Captain Robin Crocket in the Regiment commanded by Col. Lewis, whose first name he has forgotten, or never knew it. Immediately after such enlistment he was mustered into the service and rendezvoused in what he thinks is now Tazwell [sic: Tazewell] County in the State of Virginia From this place of rendezvous he was marched in said Regiment and Company to the Frontiers of Virginia, crossing East River [in present Mercer County WV or Giles County VA] Wolf Creek [probably the one in Giles County] & other streams and stationed at a place where a fort was partly built (one side being erected). He and said troops completed said fort. The name of this place and fort he has forgotten although it appears to be on his tongues end. At this fort he was appointed first Corporal and continued to serve as such Corporal during the whole of his service under said enlistment which was

nine months. He thinks said Fort was in what is now Wythe County Virginia. We had been stationed only a few days when the Shawnee Indians having stolen about 30 head of horses, this declarent was ordered to take command of 28 men including himself and scout the neighbourhood which was done, but the Indians not being overtaken, after pursueing them some distance this declarent returned with his command to said fort. Scouts were frequently marched out from said station in various directions. In this manner, in said fort and about it with fifteen days on a furlough to see his father he was employed untill about the end of his said engagement. He was employed constantly & laboriously when he was at the end of his time marched to Head Quarters in what he thinks is now Tazwell County Virginia and was there dismissed and received a written discharge James Taylor was the Lieutenant, and William Adams Ensign of said Company. During a short time of said nine months he acted as Sub Commissary weighing out rations &c. He served in said engagement at least nine months faithfully and to the satisfaction of his Officers. He was constantly in both said tours in an embodied corps called into service by competent authority in field or garrison and was not employed in any civil or other pursuit. In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the War department he states: in Answer to the first. His friends inform him that he must have been born in the year 1767. he thinks himself a little later.

2^d He never had any record of his age.

- 3^r He was living as before mentioned when called into service in said tours in Wythe County Virginia; Since the Revolutionary War he has lived near thirty or upwards years in Wythe County Virginia, then twenty two years in Lee County in said state, then he removed to Monroe County Indiana where he has lived now upwards of four years, and now resides.
- 4th He was called into service in said first tour by a draft. He was called into service in said second tour by an enlistment and was in one sense of the word a volunteer.
- 5th He has no recollection of the names of any Officers besides those mentioned in the body of this his declaration except Joseph Kent said Commissary, who being an acquaintance, employed him as Subcommissary aforesaid.
- 6^{th} He received a written discharge from Captain Robin Crocket and many years ago left it in the possession of Daniel Sheffy Esq'r of Virginia and the paymaster per said Sheffy paid him for his nine months service. He received no further pay for his said services He has no documentary evidence that he knows of, & knows of no person whose evidence he can procure of a personal knowledge of his services. 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
- 7th He is known to James Alexander Esq'r, Shff J B Lowe Esq'r. George Fritz, Hon Aquilla Rogers the Judge of this Court and others in the neighborhood who can testify to his veracity and reputation of having been a Revolutionary Soldier

He states that one of the Judges of the Court in Virginia advised him to apply for a pension, and finding upon examination that the Acts of Congress then in force did not embrace him, he never knew of the existence of the present act untill recently. David hisXmark Davis

The said George Fritz states that he has known the said David Davis fifteen years, that he was well acquainted with George Britton of Virginia who was old enough from his appearance to have been and had notoriously the reputation of a revolutionary soldier and that in frequent conversations said Britton informed him that said Davis & him were in the service together and in the same mess, and that such was the reputation of said Davis in Virginia [signed] George fritts

Bloomington July 3^d 1835

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] I do not wish to be considered troublesome (although such a charge would not be altogether unfounded) but the old gentleman for whom I am writing is very desirous of having a pension believing as he does that he is entitled to it he has a brother by the name of John Davis of Georgia who is drawing and who informs him he is 71 or 2 years of age instead of 67 as he David Davis is 4 years younger that this brother John who is 75. The old gentleman desires me to say to you that he was discharged by Col Lewis instead of Capt Crockett that he Crockett only handed out the discharges to the soldiers he desires me to say that David Johnson of Virginia is cognisant of his services and is now drawing he wishes the Department to reconsider his case & if necessary write him what additional evidence is required in his case an answer to this may settle the matter with the old man finally (if even unfavourable) please write

Yours respectfully
Paris[?] C. Dunning

NOTES: Men were not enrolled in the Virginia Militia until they reached age 16. Davis's case was suspended pending "further and more direct proof."