

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Davidson S1758

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of Tennessee, Bedford County Court: February Term 1833

On this 8th day of February in the year of our Lord 1833, Personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful Samuel Phillips, John B. Armstrong and William McClure Esquires gentlemen justices of the peace appointed to hold the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County; Now Sitting, John Davidson a resident of said County, aged Sixty-eight years Eleven months and twenty-four days, who, after being 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 Officers and Served as herein Stated, (To wit) That he entered the Service of the United States in the County of Burke and State of North Carolina in the month of April in the year 1781 as a Substitute in the room and Stead of one William McGannigal, who was at that time drafted in said County of Burke; and was placed in a company commanded by Captain Samuel Davidson and was marched to a Fort on the Catawba River then called the upper Fort – where he was Stationed until sometime in the month of July in the same year when he says he was discharged for a tour of duty of three months actual Service; Deponent further states that soon after he entered the Service again in the same County as a volunteer in a company of volunteers commanded by Captain Daniel Smith, he said deponent thinks the first of August in the same year (1781) and was marched to the said Fort before mentioned and was Stationed there and at another Fort on Broad River on the frontiers of the State of North Carolina; and was frequently out on Scouting and Spying Expeditions, to ascertain the movement of the Hostile Cherokee Indians, who were after committing murders and other outrages upon the white Settlements on Broad River and the Catawba River – he says he was marched back into Burke County again about the first of November where he was dismissed after Serving a tour of duty of three months; Deponent further Says that he volunteered again in the month of March 1782 under the same Captain Daniel Smith who was attached to a Regiment under the command of Colonel Joseph McDowel [Joseph McDowell] of said County of Burke and State of North Carolina; and was marched against the Hostile Cherokee Indians, into their nation, across the Blue Ridge, he says he was marched in the first place to Watauga Town, on Tennessee River, and from there he was marched to a Small Town called Cowee; where the Americans and Indians had an engagement in which there was but little damage done on either side he says, on this expedition, the American troops under Colonel McDowell in several little skirmishes with the Indians at different Towns, and on the way from one Town to another killed and took of the Indians prisoners to the number of 50 though some of the prisoners made their Escape; there was 11 of them marched to the upper Fort on the Catawba, where deponent says he remained until his term of three months which he volunteered to Served Expired which took place in the month of June 1782 when he says he was dismissed from further service making in the whole a term of Service of not less than nine months for which he claims a pension, he further says that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person who can testify as to

his Service except what he expects to prove by the testimony of Robert Brown¹ of Warren County Tennessee; who is a very old man and at this time blind and unable to travel from home; and that he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in the United States.

Interrogatories propounded by the court

1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Roan [sic, Rowan] County in the State of North Carolina on the 15th day of February in the year 1764 agreeable to my Father's family Record.

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

Ans: I have a Record of my age at my dwelling house in this County and my father's old Bible.

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

Ans: I was a citizen of Burke County in the State of North Carolina, during all the time I was in Service; and continued to be so for some time after the War, I then removed to that part of the State of North Carolina, now called Buncombe County in said State; where I remained until the year 1809 or '10, when I removed to Bedford County Tennessee, where I have lived ever since, and where I now live.

4th 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 served my first tour of three months as a substitute for William McGannigal; and my other two tours for three months each, I served as a volunteer.

5th 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: I was not acquainted with any Regular officer where I served; nor do I recollect the name or number of any Regiment whatever. And I believe my Declaration gives the most prominent, and general history of my Service that I am able to give at this time.

6th 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 did receive a discharge in writing signed by Captain Samuel Davidson, for a tour of three months but what has become of it I cannot tell.

7th 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: The Rev'd George Newton, Col A. Erwin and Humphrey Cunningham.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid,

S/ Jas McKisick, Clerk

S/ John Davidson {Seal}



[George Newton, a clergyman, and Humphrey Cunningham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Warren County

Pursuant to a requisition to me directed I have this day viz. the 11th day of July in the year 1833 at the house of the deponent in the County aforesaid proceeded to take the deposition of Robert Brown a witness to the services of John Davidson during the Revolutionary war. Who being first duly sworn Deposeth and saith as follows:

Question 1st Were what is your age

1 [Robert Brown S3057](#)

A: 75 years

Question where did you become acquainted with John Davidson Esq.

A: in North Carolina Burke County

Question Do you know of his having performed any service in the Revolutionary war

A: I do in the year 1781 as I now recollect he performed a three months tour at the upper Fort upon the Catawba River in Burke County North Carolina I myself served with him under Captain Smith.

Further in the year 1782 as my memory serves he performed a three months tour under Captain Smith to the Cherokee Nation and this also served with him.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day above mentioned.

S/ Frank Smartt, JP

S/ Robert Brown, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]