

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jesse Davis W8652

Nancy Davis

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 June 2019.

State of Kentucky }

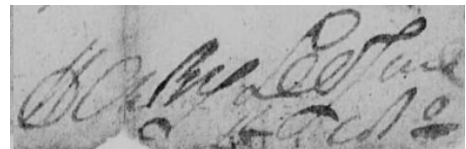
Shelby County }

Be it known that on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December 1836 Mrs. Nancy Davis personally appeared before me who is a resident of the County of Nelson and state aforesaid aged 77 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1836, that she is the widow of Capt. Jesse Davis, who held the rank of Captain in the revolutionary war in the Virginia Continental line and served several years under the immediate Command of Genl. Washington during which time he suffered innumerable hardships and faught the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777] and Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] and many severe skirmishes in the latter end of 1778 a consolidation of the diferent regiments took place in the army [White Plains Arrangement, 14 Sep 1778, <http://revwarapps.org/b138.pdf>] where my husband served and many of the officers were returned supernumerarys and went home subject to be called into service again. this was the lot of my husband who returned home a supernumerary Captain but was not calld upon again during the war – She furthur declares that she was married to the afores'd. Capt Jesse Davis on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Frebruary 1780 a little upwards of a year from his leaving the army that perhaps in the succeeding year the time of the invasion of Cornwallis into Virginia [April 1781]. I have a recollection it was a time of great alarm among the people and my husband raised a company of volunteers and marched down the country from Prince William County to meet the enemy – but before they reached their point of destination the enemy had surrendered at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781]. they were all turned back and returned home – afterwards I recollect my husband was employed in procuring waggons and teams and transportation for the american army to go North and I distinctly recollect that he procured an appointment for my brother [probably Elijah Milton S30588] as waggon master to transport the French Army to Boston I dont know that my husband had any regular appointment in finding transportation for the Army She furthur states that her husband the aforesaid Capt. Jesse Davis removed to Kentucky from Virginia and died on the 23<sup>d</sup> day of October 1818 and that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her husband, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

[signed] Nancy Davis

Captain Davies of Prince William County, late of the 7<sup>th</sup> regt of the State of Virginia, enlisted in my troop of Cavalry in the year 1776, was most active in recruiting the troop, & zealous in every measure which tended to promote the public service. He was taken from my troops by an appointment of commission[?] in a continental regt viz the 11<sup>th</sup> Virg'a. [renumbered the 7<sup>th</sup> by the White Plains Arrangement]

Given und'r. my hand this 10<sup>th</sup> day of oct. 1783. Henry Lee Jun/ Lieut Colo



[2 Dec 1836] I William M Davis a citizen of the town of Frankfort and State of Kentucky Do hereby state that I am the son of the late Capt. Jesse Davis of the Revolutionary Army and am also the son of Mrs. Nancy Davis his widow who is now applying for a pension as his widow under the recent law of Congress allowing pensions to the widows of the deceased officers. Understanding that

traditionary evidence would be allowable in some cases. I have deemed it proper to state what I know of the services of Capt Jesse Davis and his rank as coming from his own lips and others who served with him in the Revolution, but who are now no more. I took a deep interest in hearing my father recount over the battles he fought. his marches and countermarches and his sufferings in the Revolution so much so that I have a distinct recollection of his statements. He first entered the army as a private in 1776 where after serving for some months, he returned home and commenced recruiting soldiers for the army and was commissioned a Lieutenant in one of the virginia continental regiments. he returned to the Army with a full company commanded by Capt. Gollihue [sic: Charles Gallihue] who in a short time died, when my father got command of the company and was commissioned Captain in his stead, and continued as such until the latter end of the year 1778, when after fighting the battles of Brandywine, German Town and spending the winter in camp at Valley Forge and fighting the battle of Monmouth the [illegible word] having thinned the ranks of the Army a consolidation of the different Regiments took place when many of the officers were sent home as supernumarys subject to be called into service again. my father never was called for and was always in readiness subsequent to this period at the time of the invasion of virginia by the British my father raised a company of volunteers and marched to meet the enemy before his arrival the enemy had fled or were taken. He was halted in the march and discharged and turned back. Afterwards he was engaged in procuring transportation for the American Army on their march to the north.

I wish it to be distinctly understood that I have no interest whatever in the claim of my mother for the pension she is now applying for. And I will further state that I was in my 24<sup>th</sup> year when my father died.

signed Wm M Davis

[On 1 Sep 1836 Joshua Bird (S36416) certified the marriage of Jesse Davis and Nancy Milton. In the following he provided more detail about Davis's service.]

I Joshua Bird of Nelson County Kentucky do further State in addition of my former evidence that Capt Jesse Davis raised and was Capt. of a volunteer Company who marched down the Country from Prince William County Virginia to meet the enemy in the time of the invasion of the british army under Cornwallace into Virginia and that Capt. Davis was active and vigilant in the service in this time of great alarm and distress in Virginia which I believe was in the year 1781 given under my hand this 5<sup>th</sup> day of Ja'y. 1837

Joshua hisXmark Bird

Subscribed and Sworn to before me Elijah Davis a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Nelson and state of Kentucky this 5<sup>th</sup> day of Ja'y. 1837

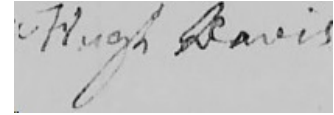
Elijah Davis J P'ce

The affidavit of Hugh Davis [S10136] taken at his own house in Prince William County on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 1837.

Deponent States he is now in his 80<sup>th</sup> year of age. Being called on to state his recollection as to the service of Jesse Davis, states as follows that he deponent was attached to Lee's Legion and was wounded in the service, and owing to said wound was detained in Philadelphia untill about the Surrender of Lord Corn Wallace, and returned to home to his now residence about the time of said Surrender of Corn Wallace at York Town, and when he got home did not find Jesse Davis in the neighborhood but was told he had gone on a Tour of duty in defence of his Country. he states he does not know the length of the tour performed by said Jesse Davis, nor does he know he performed it only from his absense and from information in the neighborhood on his return and from said Davis himself after his return, and all others who then spoke of it. Said Jesse Davis resided at the time in 5 or 6 miles from Deponent with his family he said Jesse having married in the latter part of 1779 as well as this deponent can recollect. This deponent recollects being in Dumphries [sic: Dumfries VA] just after the Surrender of Lord Cornwallace and partook in the rejoicing, and there saw Jesse Davis and heard of his having done a tour of Duty about the time of the said Surrender. Said Jesse Davis was a capt in the service and was in the battle of Brandywine & German Town. Said Jesse had two brothers who died in Service Presley Davis fell in

battle at Long Island [Battle of Long Island NY, 27 Aug 1776] John Davis died with Small Pox, and at the same time Capt Andrew Lietch fell in battle at Long Island [see endnote].

Deponent states further that he was intimately acquainted with Nancy Davis widow of Jesse Davis before marriage, and was on terms of frequent and often intercourse after the war with Jesse & wife and often heard them speak of the tour of duty said Jesse performed about the time of Cornwallaces Surrender. Deponent states he has of late made inquiries on the subject and can hear of no one who can speak of a personal knowledge of said Jesse Davis' Tour, but such is the reputation of the fact. Further this deponent saith not



[The file includes a letter dated 18 Dec 1837 by P. Davis of Washington referring to his brother William and to his uncle Hugh Davis.]

This day Hugh Davis personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the City of Washington & made oath that he is now in the 80<sup>th</sup> year of his age, that he is the first cousin & brotherinlaw of Capt Jesse Davis of Nelson County & State of Kentucky that he was a neighbour & particular acquaintance of said Jesse Davis up to the time he left Virginia and moved to Ky. That he this deponent returned home from Philadelphia in the year 1781 when he had been detained for some time with a wound he had received in the war & that upon his return home, his botherinlaw & Cousin Capt Jesse Davis was not at home, and he understood from all his relations & other neighbours, who spoke on the subject, & it was often the subject of conversation, that he the s'd Jesse had gone under his commission of Captain at the head of a company to Yorktown when this deponent understood at the time sad Jesse was in the battle at Yorktown at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, as Captain of the company he had raised & came with him to Yorktown In the winter of 1781 Captain Jesse Davis returned home with his company where this deponent then was & he often had conversations with him after his return This deponent further says that said Jesse Davis was married to his present widow in the year 1780 This deponent further says that after the return of Capt Davis & his company from the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, he was with the Capt & his company at a feast that was given at Dumfries in celebration of the surrender of Cornwallis given from under my hand & seal this the 22 Decr 1837.

W Thompson/ J Peace

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). The file also includes a copy of papers in the above federal file.]

To The Honorable The Governor and Counsel of the Stae of virginia, Your petitioners Nancy Davis Elijah Davis the surviving trustees of the Estate of Captain Jessee Davis dec'd would most respectfully represent unto your Excellency & honorable counsel, that said Captain Jesse Davis was commissioned an officer in war of the war of the Revolution and actually entered the service of the Virginia Continental Army in the year 1776, and Continued to serve in various capacities and was a captain up to the Spring of 1779 at which time he was arranged as a supernumerary at Bon Brook [sic: Bound Brook] New Jersey, that as Such he became entitled to bounty land from said state from the term of his Service until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Novr 1783. For precedent see the warrant issued to John Peyton [BLWt1641-300] a capt & supernumerary 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1782 & again on the 12<sup>th</sup> Feby 1808 22 months additional land thus shewing as early as 1782 nearly one year before the proclamation of peace that Supernumerary officers of the Virginia Line were recognized as entitled to bounty land as though they had served to the end of the for evidence of which see that said Peyton was on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 1778 at White Plains arranged out as a supernumerary officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Va Regt, your Petitions therefore under the

provisions and accordance with said Rule of the State of Virginia, ask that there may be allowed unto them as trustees of said Jesse Davis well the additional amount of land due them in virtue of said Davis services in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Va Regt. And they will ever pray &c.

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 1844

Nancy Davis/ Elijah Davis/ Trustees/ By Wm H Todd for Claimants

“Arrangement of the Virginia Regiments as settled at Middle Brook May 1779

Third Regiment,/ Supernumeraries

Recommended

Captains John Peyton

Reuben Briscoe [BLWt81-300]

Peter Minor [BLWt344-300]

John McAdams [BLWt1088-300]

John Tibbs

Jessey Davis

Lieut Richard Kannon

Thornton Taylor” [BLWt1901-150]

Army Returns/ no 102 pa 36

[Copy dated 2 Oct 1844]

To the Executive of the State of Virginia [23 Oct 1844]

The memorial of Elijah Davis of Nelson County Kentucky the Executor of the estate of Jesse Davis Late of said County who was a Captain in the Virginia Continental Line in the war of the Revolution; said Elijah being a son of said Officer & of Insley Davis of Shelby County Kentucky another son of said Officer.

Your memorialist will respectfully represent that while they are too young to have personal knowledge of the services of their Father Captain Jesse Davis in the Revolution, they are advised and verily believe that he entered the service of the United States in the Eleventh Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment at the time it was raised; an inferior Officer & was promoted about the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year 1777 to the rank of first lieutenant & was thereafter promoted to the rank of Captain which rank he held at the Close of the War. Your memorialist are informed that he was promoted to the rank of Captain to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Captain Charles Gallahue who was Killed in the Battle of Brandywine. That they have heard & verily believe that said Officer was in nearly all the heavy Battles of the north; during the existence of the War. That he applied for land was allowed about the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the years 1814[?] by the Executive of Virginia Land Bounty for “the term of the war.” That he then received a warrant or warrants for the quantity of 4000 Acres only whereas your memorialist conceive that he was entitled to a quantity of one sixth of the original Bounty for One and a half years service after six years. Your memorialist will suggest that the heirs of said Officer have applied at Washington for and obtained the United States Land Bounty promised to those Officers who should serve until the close of the war. For the evidence in support of the preceding suggestions & their right to an additional allowance of Land Bounty your memorialist will respectfully ask leave to refer to the evidence on file on file in the Executive Department, the evidence Contained in the army Registers at Richmond & the act of the Virginia assembly in persuance of which the 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment was raised.

Your memorialist Conceiving it to be their right as well as their duty of obtain that which was so honourably earned by their Ancestor, respectfully ask of the Hon. Executive [undeciphered abbreviation] of Virginia, that an additional allowance of Bounty Land may be granted to the heirs of said Officer for the remaining quantity due – and this they will ever pray

We Are Very Respectfully/ Your Obt Servts

Elijah Davis Executor of Jesse Davis De’d/ Grealy Davis

### Memorandum for Capt Jesse Davis Claim

Jesse Davis commenced in 1776 and was arranged out in May 1779 at the Bound Brooke Consolidation held in the State of New Jersey as a supernumerary Captain of the 3rd Va Regt his Executrix claims the Additional Bounty land due from the Period of his Commencement in 1776 to the close of the war of 3rd of [undeciphered] 1783 to wit to the proclamation of Peace and the disbanding of the Army [3 Nov 1783] in the same manner as has been extended to all supernumeraries  
Get copy of [undeciphered word] on which Claim 1st allowed on 10th Jan 1804 date of the land warrant

#### NOTE:

The [White Plain Arrangement](#) lists Jesse Davis as a Captain in the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, commissioned in 1778. The [Regimental Arrangements of the Virginia line](#) settled at Middlebrook NJ in March 1779 lists "Jessey Davis" as a supernumerary Captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, recommended for return to duty if a vacancy became available.

"Capt Andrew Lietch" was probably Maj. Andrew Leitch of Prince William County, who died 1 Oct 1776 of wounds received at Harlem Heights on 16 Sep 1776.

C. Wickliffe certified that a family register in a large family Bible had the following entry: "Jesse Davis Sr. was married to Nancy Milton on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 1780." The same record was certified by James Reynolds and by Nancy Reynolds, daughter of Jesse Davis.

The file contains a copy of the last will and testament of Jesse Davis dated 21 Oct 1818 and probated on 15 Feb 1819 in Nelson County KY with the following provisions:

To son Presley Davis a tract of land, feather bed, furniture, etc.

To son Elijah Davis a tract of land, "one negro named Sam Slave for life," furniture, stock, etc.

To son Wilson L. Davis a tract of land, "one negro man named Sam, slave for life," feather bed and furniture.

To son William M. Davis a tract of land, "one negro boy James," feather bed, furniture, a saddle horse.

To son Jesse Davis "the plantation and tract of land whereon I now live, but hold an obligation on said Jesse Davis for one half of the plantation and half the orchard to include the mansion house and such other houses as is necessary, together with as much woodland as is necessary to keep up repairs during his mother's life," feather bed, furniture.

To wife Nancy the balance of the estate for her support and that of his three daughters, Elizabeth, Nancy, and Harriet Davis, and at her death or when she thinks necessary up to one third of the property and up to \$1000 to each daughter.

There is a codicil changing the bequest to daughter Nancy to \$1, with her share described previously to go to his son Elijah to distribute among her children or to provide for Nancy's support.

On 6 June 1843 C. Davis stated that Jesse Davis's daughter, Nancy, was the wife of James Reynolds of Washington County KY, that daughter Harriett was the wife of Harrison A. Williams of Shelby County, and that daughter Elizabeth, wife of Robert Mosby, died many years before without ever having children.

On 25 Oct 1842 Nancy Davis assigned power of attorney to obtain bounty land. On 8 June 1843 James Reynolds, husband of Nancy Reynolds, assigned power of attorney to obtain bounty land.