

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Davis S8288

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Loudoun County }

On this 10 day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Loudoun County, now sitting, James Davis, a resident of Loudoun County, State of Virginia, age 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 & served as herein stated. I was born in Philadelphia & State of Pennsylvania, I believe in 1761. I have no record of my age. I have understood that my parents removed to Loudoun County, Va. when I was five years old. I have resided in said County ever since. I am able to ascertain the year of my birth by remembering that I was 16 years old when first called into service in the Spring before Burgoyne's Capture [at Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777] as this was in the year of 1777, I must have been born in 1761. In the Spring of 1777 I was drafted to do Militia duty for three mo's. & attached to Capt. Joseph Lewis's Company. I served in the company as a fifer. I remember that a Maj'r. [Samuel] Cox had the command of several Companies then formed. We marched thro' Falmouth & Fredericksburg, cross'd the Pamunky [sic: Pamunkey] Bridge & kept on direct to Williamsburg. There Gen'l. [George] Weedon had the command of the troops. I did duty between York Town & Richmond as I was ordered. When my term expired I returned home & after some two or three weeks I served a second time as a substitute for Joseph McGee for 3 mo's. I then was in Capt. W. [William] George's Company, Francis Adams Lieut. in said Company. This, as well as all my subsequent tours of duty, I performed in the same section of Country, that is, at different points on James River between York & Richmond. At all times I acted as the fifer of the Company. When my 2<sup>d</sup> term of duty expired, I returned home & after remaining there a few weeks, I again engaged as a substitute for a man named Richard Bennett, for 3 mo's & was attach'd to Capt. Humphrey Company of Loudoun Militia. I performed this tour of Duty and returned home. It was, as well as I can remember, in the Spring of 1778 I was again drafted for 3 mo's. which service I performed. At this time I do not remember my Captain. I was engaged constantly from 1778 to 1781 either obeying calls on my own account, or as a substitute, that is after an interval of some few weeks between each term. I was in a Company of Loudoun Militia Commanded by Capt. James Cleveland I was after transferred from one Company to another & have forgotten the name of many of my officers. I was again drafted for 3 mo's in the spring of 1781 and placed in the Company of Capt Joseph Lewis - and I was at Williamsburg when [Gen. Benedict] Arnold landed below [Jan 1781] — I remember that Major Cox commanded a Rifle Company & opposed his Landing but had to retreat to Williamsburg. — At this time Capt Lewis was taken sick & went off in a wagon to Bowling Green. The troops [illegible word] on toward Richmond I performed this tour of duty and in August of the same year I was again ordered out to march to York Town. I was now placed in a Company commanded by Capt. D'd. Carlisle when arrived at York Town the Troops to which I belonged were placed under the command of Major Hardiman a U.S. officer, I think this was his name, & suppose I was there about 2 months when I was taken sick & had to return home — so that I was not at the Surrender of Cornwallis — It was, I think in November that the Prisoners came along thro' Loudoun & I engaged for 2 mo's. as a substitute for Peter Bonum to Guard the Prisoners. I joined the detachment in Loudoun. we march'd the prisoners to 4 miles above Winchester - the weather was very severe & snow knee deep. I recollect in crossing the Opequon we had some men frozen — It was I think sometime in February following before we de'd. over our Prisoners to some Maryland Troops — We crossed the Potomac on the Ice. — I think it was a Col. Stephens [Edward Stevens] commanded the Detachment — I had regular discharges from my respective terms of service which I kept for many years, which is now I suppose thirty years since they with my House & furniture was all destroyed by Fire. I am now very infirm and have forgotten the names of officers and Regiments with whom I served, [four illegible words] of some of my Captains, but I know I was in the

service as a musician, either drafted or as a substitute, from the Spring of 1777 to the time I state with occasional intervals of a few weeks between each term of duty. I remember an adjutant Marywethers or Merry weathers [probably Meriwether] who was a U. S. Officer and very severe Disciplinarian.

There is but one person living [Johnston Cleveland] whom I now remember who can testify to my service. His certificate accompanies this Declaration. — I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

James hisXmark Davis