

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Davis R2718

Elizabeth Davis


VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia County of Bottetout [sic: Botetourt] S.S

On this the 11th day of September 1843 personally appeared before Jas. W. Womack a justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Mrs. Elizabeth Davis a resident of the County and state aforesaid aged Eighty four years, who first being 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 July 4th 1836:

That she is the widow of Samuel Davis decd: who was a private in the Dragoons a portion of the time he served, during the Revolutionary War, that while serving his Country in that capacity she has heard him speak of a man of great strength, who was in the same company called Francisco [Peter Francisco, pension application W11021], that she cannot name the Officers under whom he served, though he has often heard, in consequence of the length of time, that has elapsed, she thinks she has heard him say that he was at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], but do not recollect what other engagements he was in, that he afterwards held some office what grade, she does not now recollect, but presumes it may be known when she tells in what capacity he served, that for a short time he was a Bearer of despatches from one Officer to another, that he afterwards went from home as he told her, and as she believed, (still in the service of his Country) to obtain provisions for the army, the length of time that he was in service she does not recollect, but thinks upwards of two years; That she was married in the County of Prince Edward by Pason Smith in the year seventeen hundred and eighty, to Samuel Davis above mentioned her decd. husband That he died sometime in the year eighteen hundred and eighteen, and that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her above mentioned decd Husband; as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed



State of Virginia, Prince Edward County S.S [31 Jan 1845]

The affidavit of Henry P Davis made before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid

This affiant states that he was born upon the fourth day of September seventeen hundred and eighty seven. That he is the son of Elizabeth Davis who now resides in the County of Botetourt and state aforesaid, and who had made her declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress for the benefit of the widows of the soldiers of the revolution. That he is the son of Samuel Davis who died in the County of Prince Edward on the eight day of January eighteen hundred and eighteen. That he has frequently heard his father speak of his revolutionary services, and at a time when he expected to receive no remuneration for the same. That his father and Mother were according to the family record married on the twelfth of October seventeen hundred and eighty and that he has heard his father say that he went into service very soon after he was married. The affiant does not recollect at present of having heard of his father serving in the infantry before his marriage, although such may have been the case. That his father at any rate upon his second tour belonged to a Cavalry Company raised in the County of Prince Edward, and commanded by a certain Captain Watkins. The affiant thinks that Captain Watkins Christian name was Thomas [Thomas Watkins], and that the Brigade to which he was attached was commanded by General [Robert] Lawson. That his father was employed in carrying expresses between different sections of the American Army The affiant has repeatedly heard his father speak of the great dangers to which he was subjected whilst carrying expresses. That Gen Lawson sent

him to convey and bring intelligence was extremely rigid with him, and did not regard the dangers to which he was exposed.

The affiant recollects to have heard his father speak particularly of one occasion when he was appointed by Gen Lawson as an express rider. The route was extremely dangerous several persons having been killed whilst carrying expresses. That a particular portion of the route was waylaid by the enemy, which it was almost impossible to pass. That the affiant's father was ordered to carry an express upon this route to Gen Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] or Gen Lee [probably Lt. Col. Henry Lee]. The orders were peremptory, and the said Davis set out, when he arrived at the dangerous portion of the route he put spurs to his horse which was very fleet, he however did not pass unhurt for he was struck by a ball. The affiant further states that he has frequently heard his father speak of having been appointed Commissary and that he recollects to have heard his father speak of his gratification at receiving the appointment of Commissary from the fact that he was relieved of the dangerous business of carrying expresses. The affiant has frequently heard his father and mother speak of his appointment as Commissary, of his having come to the County of Prince Edward for the purpose of collecting provisions and of his having thus had opportunity of visiting his family and friends. The affiant further states that he does not recollect to have heard his father speak with precision of the time which he served, but that he is under the belief that he must have served a considerable length of time and probably to the close of the war from the fact that he was promoted and occupied several responsible stations, and the affiant further states that he himself during the late war was draughted for a six months tour, and that on the night before the affiant was to leave for service, the wife of the affiant was lamenting that he had to enter upon service &c. whereupon the said Samuel Davis remarked that a six months tour was small matter. That he had served two or three times that long in the war of the revolution; The affiant further states that Elizabeth Davis the above mentioned applicant for a pension has made by her will such a disposition of her property that the affiant will not be benefited in a pecuniary point of view by the means of his mother in obtaining a pension

[signed] Henry P. Davis

State of Virginia. Prince Edward County SS.

The affidavit of John H Armistead made before the subscribed a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid

This affiant states that he has no personal knowledge of the revolutionary services of Samuel Davis who died in the county of Prince Edward many years since, and whose widow Elisabeth Davis now resides in the county of Botetourt State of Virginia and is an applicant for a pension on account of the revolutionary services of her husband the late Samuel Davis This affiant states that he is about forty five years old, and that his mother was the sister of Mrs Elisabeth Davis above mentioned, and that his mother died nearly seven years since, and was at the time of her death aged about seventy three years. That his mother being the sister of Elisabeth Davis, spent a great deal of time in the company of her sister whilst her husband Samuel Davis aforesaid was engaged in service in the revolutionary war, This affiant further states that he has frequently heard his mother speak of the revolutionary services of the said Samuel Davis late of Prince Edward County that she was very much interested in the occurrences of that period from the fact that she had a brother who was engaged in service at the same time. That the said Samuel Davis very soon after he was married entered the service in a company of Cavalry raised in the County of Prince Edward, and commanded by Capt Watkins. This affiant does not recollect to have heard any thing of his previous service in the Infantry, although he may have served in that capacity. That he has frequently heard his mother speak of the said Samuel Davis having acted as Commissary. That he came to the County of Prince Edward for the purpose of collecting provisions for the use of the army; That she had seen him whilst visiting his wife the said Elisabeth Davis during the time of his service and that the occupation of the said Samuel Davis was more forcibly impressed upon her mind from the fact that her brother William Spencer [possibly pension application S31386] was engaged in conveying to the army the supplies which had been provided by the said Samuel Davis when acting as commissary. This affiant cannot state how long the said Samuel Davis was in service or how long he acted as commissary but from

the frequent conversations which he has heard upon the subject, he is impressed with the belief that the said Samuel Davis served a considerable length of time. That the said Davis was under the command of Gen Lawson
[signed] John H. Armistead

NOTE: On 31 Jan 1845 Sharp Spencer, born 1774, stated that he had been present at the marriage of his sister to Samuel Davis. On 5 March 1852 Sarah A Wood, only surviving daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Davis, assigned power of attorney to obtain any pensions due to them.