

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Giles Davidson: S6790

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia: Amherst County towit

On this 21st day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of Amherst County now sitting, Giles Davidson a resident of the said County and State of Virginia aged Seventy 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 7th 1832.

That he was born in the County of Buckingham and State of Virginia some time in the year 1762, a knowledge of which fact he derived from the family register of his father which he has seen in the possession of his brother Edward Davidson. That at about the age of Sixteen years he joined a Company of militia detailed from the County of Buckingham and commanded by Capt William Diuguid to perform a tour of three months duty at the Barracks in the County of Albemarle and State aforesaid: that he joined the said company as a substitute for Young Lee and that after he reached the Barracks he enlisted in a Company commanded by Capt Garland Burley, who in part recruited a force for the Special purpose of guarding the British prisoners at the said Barracks, and that he was employed by the said Burley in that service about twelve months after the close of his militia tour when he was discharged. From the great lapse of time he does not remember whether he received at the time any written discharge, but if he did it has been lost.

That after this period he was in the County of Henry in the State of Virginia when Capt [Eliphaz] Shelton of that County was listing up for a volunteer Company, to put down or overawe the tories who had created some alarm in the bottom of Dan River on the Frontier of Virginia and North Carolina. that they were employed in visiting the neighborhood and dwellings of persons suspected to be disaffected to our cause and in preventing injuries from those known to be tories: That the head quarters of this Company was at the house of a Tory by the name of McGowan who resided in Henry County and State of Virginia.

That he was engaged in this service, not quite the three months for which he engaged, the Services of the Company not being deemed longer necessary: that he did not take any written discharge from this Service nor was it usual in those times, to grant to the militia or to volunteer militia such discharges; nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove the last named Service.

That after the last mentioned period having returned to his native County of Buckingham, he was again drafted into the militia Service and marched with Capt William Perkins and served with him three months, that during this service he was engaged in the affairs with the enemy at Hotwater [illegible word] [Battle of Hot Water Plantation or Spencer's Ordinary 6 miles NW of Williamsburg, 26 June 1781] and at Jamestown [6 July] and he remembers seeing whilst in this Service (who were also engaged in the same parts) Major Hoffman and Boyce and Capt Caldwell of the regular army.

That the last mentioned Service having expired and he having returned to the County of Buckingham he was immediately called again into the militia Service and on the last of August or first of September 1781 he believes (but from the lapse of time he does not pretend to accuracy as to dates) he marched from the County of Buckingham under the Command of Capt'n Silas Watkins: that after the Company met at the place of rendezvous which was in the neighborhood of Yorktown Capt Watkins relinquished the command of the Company and returned home and Capt William Giles took charge of it: that the Company was at York Town and he with it during the Seige of that place; that he was present when it was surrendered [19 Oct 1781] and that he together with his Company and other troops formed a part of the guard who conducted the prisoners to the Winchester Barracks, and that he was there discharged either the last of November or the first part of December 1781: that his Service during this tour was about three months and that all the Services he performed during the war of the Revolution as herein before detailed was performed by him in the character of a private Soldier

That he has no documentary evidence to support his said claims and that he does not know of any living witnesses who have any knowledge of them except William Lavender Sen'r. and Josiah Giles whose [illegible word] are hereto annexed: That shortly after the close of the war of the Revolution he removed to the County of Amherst where he has resided ever since. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Giles Davidson