

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of James Devane S8317

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, New Hanover County: Superior Court of Law: Fall Term 1832

On this the 31st day of October AD1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Robert strange, one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law and & Equity for the State of North Carolina aforesaid, residing in the Superior Court of law for the County of New Hanover aforesaid, now sitting, James Devane, a resident of New Hanover County and State of North Carolina, aged 75 years the first of August 1832 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 and served as herein stated.

1stly: Under the command of Captain John Devane, Thomas Devane Lieutenant, Archibald Sellars Ensign, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Lillington [John Alexander Lillington], Samuel Swan, Major, in November 1775 and left this term of service in May 1776; that he engaged for six months, a minute man; that he resided in New Hanover County, N. C. when he entered the service; that he was a volunteer or this applicant thinks it was called enlisting; that he was in the battle at Moore's Creek Bridge in February 1776; that he embodied at Black River Chapel and marched from thence to Wilmington; from thence to Rockfish Creek about 7 miles below Fayetteville, then called Cross Creek, in Cumberland County; from thence he marched back to Elizabeth Town in Bladen County; that at this place he took boating, and went down Cape Fear [River] to its junction with Black River to where Bear Branch emptied therein at which place he disembarked and marched from thence to Long Creek Bridge; that while he was at Long Creek Bridge, he was ordered up to Moore's Creek Bridge; that when he arrived at Moore's Creek Bridge, he commenced making entrenchments, and an express immediately came ordering the forces up to Corbett's ferry; that he thereupon marched on towards Corbett's ferry as far as over Colvin's Creek when another express arrived ordering us back to Moore's Creek Bridge; that he then marched back to Moore's Creek Bridge and commenced making entrenchments, a little further off than the first they had made; that General Caswell [Richard Caswell] and his forces arrived there that evening (being the evening before the battle) and crossed over; whereupon the bridge was partly taken up; next morning about twilight the enemy commenced firing at us; that they advanced and undertook to cross the Creek in which a few succeeded & among them were Colonel McLeod & a Captain Campbell; that all who crossed over were killed; that Colonel McLeod advanced as far as the first piece of entrenchments that had been made before he was killed; that after the battle he was furloughed and went home where he remained two or three days; that he then came to Wilmington where his company rendezvoused; that he was then employed in guarding up and down Cape Fear to prevent the British from landing who were then on board shipping in the River; that from Wellington he marched over into Brunswick [County] and encamped at Orton's Mills; that while there and when his six months tour was nearly expired, Colonel Lillington told this applicant he must go to work in the public Gun Works near Black River in the upper part of New Hanover County and gave this applicant a letter to General Moore who was then in Wilmington; that he then about the first of June 1776, as well as this applicant can recollect, commenced working in the public Gun Works aforesaid and continued therein about twelve months.

2ndly: Under the command of Captain Thomas Devane in August 1777 and was drafted for three months but this applicant served only about one month and then hired a substitute; that he cannot remember his other officers; that during the months service he was in and about Wilmington to defend that place and prevent the enemy who were on board their shipping in Cape Fear from taking possession thereof.

3rdly: That he afterwards performed occasional tours of duty called out as emergencies required till he was commissioned a Captain; that not recollecting the length of time he served in these short tours, he is willing to dispense with any pay he may be entitled to therefore. He received a commission as Captain in June 1780 signed by Francis Nash, Governor of North Carolina, and took charge of a company of men at Elizabeth Town, Bladen County; that this company had been marched there by Captain George McCullough; that at Elizabeth Town he was under the command of Colonel Johnson of Onslow County; that from thence he marched to Cross Creek and from thence to a place called Silver Run which he thinks is in Cumberland County; from thence back to Cross Creek; from thence to Haley's ferry on Big PeeDee [River] above Cheraw; from thence to Cheraw; from thence he was detached to New Bern to guard some prisoners thither; from whence he returned home; that he was in no battle while in this tour; that he served as Captain six months; took command in June 1780 and his six months had expired before he was detached to New Bern by General Harrington.

4thly: That he was ordered out by Colonel Young in January 1781 and took command of a company in Colonel Young's Regiment, Thomas Bludworth, 2nd Colonel, General Lillington chief commander and left service in July 1782; that he was not in continual, actual service from January 1781 to July 1782, but served at least five months; that he was in a skirmish at the Big Bridge across the North East [branch of the Cape Fear River] in New Hanover County in which the Americans retreated; that he took command of his company at the Big Bridge, where he remained till the skirmish above-mentioned; from thence he retreated to William Jones' plantation a short distance below South Washington; from thence he marched back to the Big Bridge; from thence he was ordered with his company to Halfway Bluff on Long Creek to guard the Negro Head Point Road; that at Halfway Bluff, he obtained leave of absence; that about the time he left Halfway Bluff, Cornwallis and his Army came to Wilmington; that after the British evacuated Wilmington, this applicant was ordered with a few soldiers to collect the wives and children of the Tories and carried them to Wilmington; that he found the execution of this duty so disagreeable that he resolved to desist from it at all hazards, and would choose rather to be cashiered than to perform a duty so repulsive to his feelings.

This applicant served with Continental troops at Rockfish Creek, below Fayetteville under the command of General Moore, who were also in Wilmington, the regular officers he knew were General James Moore, Captain Davis, Captain Goodwin, Captain Robert Raiford, Captain Joshua Hadley, Captain Joseph Rhodes, Curtis Ivey, Hardy Holmes, Captain Porterfield, Lieutenant Kingsbury, Captain Thomas Orrell, Captain Joshua Bowman, and Captain Vance also Captain Bradley & Colonel Reed; that he has no documentary evidence, and thinks he can prove his services by James Lee of the County of New Hanover aforesaid; he was born in New Hanover County, N. C., the first of August 1757; has a record of his age at home; was living in New Hanover County when called into service & has lived there ever since the revolutionary war; was a volunteer or what was then called enlisted in his first service; then drafted for three months; when he served as Captain, he was a volunteer; the regular officers who were with the troops where this applicant served were General Moore, Captain Bowman, Captain Davis, Captain Vance & Lieutenant Kingsbury; the Continental regiment he knew was the first Regiment of the North Carolina line; the militia regiments he knew were the following, one commanded by General Lillington, one by Colonel Caswell, one by Colonel Johnson, one by Colonel Brown, one by Colonel James Knox [this name could be "Kenan"], one by Colonel Young & Bludworth, and two or three regiments under the command of General Harrington.

He does not recollect to have received a discharge from service when a private and if he did he has lost or mislaid it. He received a commission signed by Governor Francis Nash and gave it to Lieutenant John Bludworth to settle some rank or business among officers it date being material in that particular and it was never returned. The persons to whom this applicant is known in his neighborhood and who can testify to his character for veracity and who believe him to have been a soldier of the revolution on numerous, and among them he will name the following: George Fennell, Owen Fennell, Bryant Newkirk, Rogers Lee, John Kerr, James Kerr, George Bannerman, Robert Murphy, Charles

Henry and James McCalebb [?].

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/James Devane