

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joel Deese (Dees) R2841

f48NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/24/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Alabama Baldwin County

This day the 26th day of March A.D. 1844 personally appeared before me Edward D. Nolley, Justice of the Piece of County and State aforesaid Joel Dees, aged ninety-five 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 =

Pursuant to custom and the absolute requisition of the Declaration I proceed to declare as follows "that" --

I was born in Johnson County [sic, Johnston County] North Carolina on the 14th day of April 1749 --

In consequence of a misfortune namely the burning of my sister's house I have been deprived of the authentic record of my age -- but my memory has thus far been able to sustain a faithful recollection of the event, and I rest conscientiously satisfied that I transmit an honest record of my birth --

At the Period most interesting in our political history I resided in the County and State of my nativity. I was there called into service -- After a final issue to the revolutionary struggle so fresh even the memory of the aged soldier; I removed to the State of South Carolina -- Edgefield District -- and if my memory is faithful, I resided in that state fifteen years -- thence I removed to the State of Georgia -- Richmond County where I lived five years -- thence to the State of Alabama -- Baldwin County where I have spent the last 25 years of my life and where I still live --

Stimulated by the *Amos Patriae* that nerved [?] arm of the Crusader I joined my fortunes to that of my Country and volunteered to fight for freedom and the just cause of injured humanity -- I attached myself to a volunteer corps in Johnston County North Carolina in the year 1776 -- for nine months I served my country in that capacity under the gallant officer General Frances Marion -- I fought under Col. Wingette at the Brown Marsh. I then enlisted under General Washington and marched under his flag and command for four years eleven months and twenty-one days -- During that time I aided my countrymen at Guilford Court House under General Greene. I then marched under Lafayette to the battleground of Yorktown where I contributed by the zealous service of a single soldier to forward the glorious success that crowned the United efforts of a brave people -- a host destined to be free -- neither was I a substitute for anyone -- I do not distinctly recollect the date of the Battle of York -- but I well remember witnessing the presentation of Cornwallis his sword to Washington --

I am unable to state the number of the Regiment in which I served but as to the officers

they were Marion, Lafayette & Washington himself --

I received a Discharge at Yorktown as a regular soldier -- but that the accident that deprived me of the record of my age -- deprived me also of that instrument which would render me efficient service in the present declaration -- It was burnt three years after its reception --

Unfortunately or owing to circumstance that I forget I never received any commission --

I assure you that the following gentleman respectable citizens of the State of Alabama Baldwin County, and residing within distances that would justify an accurate knowledge of my character and integrity will not hesitate to affirm the honesty of the present application -- to assign adequate reason for negligence and procrastination in this application will I hope and trust pardon the great while I have deferred to enroll my name upon the list of claimants for a public donation. I am deprived of the advantages of an education -- [indecipherable word] I have not the least shadow of one -- I am old and indigent and lived in an obscure part of a new country -- I have had no one to assist me and appeared that I would be unsuccessful in any application of my own I have deferred until now -- and even now the interest manifested by my young friends in my behalf has induced me to make an attempt. They have paid the sorrows of a poor old man living as I do in a state of penury and nakedness -- and intend to see justice awarded as a "Soldier of the Revolution." --

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever 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.

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid
S/ Edward D. Nolley, JP

S/ Joel Dees, X his mark

State of Alabama Baldwin County

I Joel Dees, Senior, of the State and County aforesaid do certify that I volunteered in the state of North Carolina Johnson County to serve in the Continel [sic, Continental?] Army as a militia man, and that I joined General Marion near little Pedee River and served the term of nine months with General Marion and that I was in several engagements during my service with General Marion.

I do certify that I were honorably discharged between Georgetown and Wilmington and that I did not receive any compensation for said service etc.

I also certify that I then enlisted during the war, and that I joined General Washington and served five years with the exception of nine days. I do certify that I was in two engagements with General Lafayette, and that was with General Washington at the Surrender of Georgetown which took place, I think about the last of September 1781. I also certify that a few days after the surrender of Yorktown I was discharged, and that General Washington gave me five dollars to bare my expenses home, but not as any compensation for my services etc

The dates and places of the above certificate I cannot precisely recollect but are true to the best of my recollection etc.

Given under my hand this Marched the 28th 1842.

Witnessed by
S/ Thos. J. Snowden

S/ Joel Deese, Senior, X his mark

[facts in file: veteran died marched 28, 1846 in Baldwin County Alabama. He appears to have been survived by a son by the name of James.]