

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Devault (Devalt) Keller S32358

f19SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indecipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana, Morgan County

Personally appeared on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord 1834 before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Morgan aforesaid Devault Keller resident of said County and State aforesaid aged 85 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath, make the following Amended declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1834 [sic, 1832].

That on the Saluda River in the State of South Carolina in the year 1776 he volunteered into the Service of the United States as a private Soldier and entered a company under Captain John Walters, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Beard [Jonas Beard?] of the South Carolina Militia.

That during the first three years of his Service he was Stationed at different places in the States of South Carolina & Georgia. Was a part of the time at Augusta and Savannah, and at other posts on the Savannah River in the State of Georgia. He, however, spent the greater part of his time in the district of Ninety Six, on the Congaree [River], Wateree [River] and in the neighborhood of Orangeburg & Charleston in South Carolina. That between ten and twelve months before the Surrender [May 12, 1780] of Charleston by the Americans, he was attached to the Garrison in that City. He was taken prisoner with General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Army at the Surrender of Charleston, some time about the first of May in the year 1780. And there detained as a prisoner of war until a short time before the battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780], and he was taken by the British into the vicinity of the last mentioned place; whence a few days after the aforesaid battle he made his escape, and about the first of September rejoined his old Regiment. He was a short time after rejoining his old Regiment marched into the district of Ninety Six where he continued until about the first of October in the same year in his Regiment was marched towards the King's Mountain. He was in the battle of the last mentioned place, which to the best of his recollection was fought on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1780. In the battle of King's Mountain, this declarant says he received a severe wound, by a musket ball, which entered the fore part of his left arm near the shoulder and running downward passed out at the back of the same near the elbow the arm bone being entirely shattered. And his officers discerning that he would not be able to render further Service, as a Soldier, discharged him from the Army after he had been in constant Service therein including the time he was a prisoner as aforesaid not less than four years and six months. Although his wound has never been Such as to prevent him from following the ordinary avocations of life, yet he has never been called on to perform Military duty since the revolution, and he has now in his possession a bone of considerable size which was extracted from said wound about 12 years after the war. And this declarant further says that through old age and the consequent loss [of] memory, that he cannot state more definitively as to the periods he served then he has stated above, that he always considered himself in constant service during that period, but is extremely illiterate and of in perfect memory and is well aware that he cannot recollect with certainty many of the important events of the revolution, nor can he with certainty recollect many of his officers names, but well recollects General Green [sic Nathanael Greene], General Buford [Abraham Buford] &

Colonel Williams [James Williams]. He says that he believes he never had a very correct understanding of the history of the Services which he himself rendered, he being a native of Germany and at that time being almost entirely unable to understand the English Language. He received a written discharge but lost it. He knows of no surviving witness by whom to prove his services. He believes that he served not less than four years and six months, as a private Soldier in the revolutionary war as above stated and for which services he claims a pension.

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 of any State.

In answer to the interrogatories presented by the war department he says:

1<sup>st</sup> That he was born in Germany in the year 1749 and that his parents emigrated to America and settled in Charleston South Carolina when he was about six years of age.

2<sup>nd</sup> He has no record of age.

3<sup>rd</sup> He was living on the Saluda River about 60 or 70 miles from Charleston South Carolina when he entered the Service. The name of the County or district in which he lived when he entered the Service is not now recollected. He resided in North Carolina for a number of years after the war. Thence he removed to Virginia. Thence to Kentucky and thence about 17 or 18 years since to Washington County Indiana from which place he removed to Morgan County aforesaid where he now resides.

4<sup>th</sup> He volunteered into the Service as stated in the foregoing declaration.

5<sup>th</sup> That he being entirely destitute of education and owing to his extreme old age and the consequent loss of memory it is out of his power to State any of his officers names or the general circumstances of his Services in so satisfactory a manner as he could desire. He however well recollects General Greene, Colonel Buford and Colonel Williams of the district of 96. The latter of whom was killed at the battle of King's Mountain. That although well recollects of having been at the different posts in South Carolina and Georgia above named yet it is out of his power to say at what particular period he was at those places except as he stated above.

6<sup>th</sup> He received a discharge from the Service which he thinks was signed by General Greene and Col. Beard but this discharge was lost, and he is unable to say in what manner or at what time it was lost he believes that he kept it but a short time.

7<sup>th</sup> He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can testify to his services. But he is well acquainted with James Johnson, Levi Johnson, William Stewart, Andrew M. Prichard and Abraham Lafevre [?], the latter of whom he has been acquainted with for 37 years, respectable citizens who reside [in] the County of Morgan aforesaid and who can testify to this declarant's character for veracity and their belief of his Services as well as his reputation as they Soldier of the revolution. He has none but a very slight acquaintance with any clergyman of this County whose testimony he can procure. That at the October term of the Morgan Circuit Court 1833 this declarant made his declaration for a pension which was by said Court duly certified, that the same was forwarded to the pension office and that he is informed the same was returned, but he has after due inquiry been unable to find the same, and also at the April Term last of said Morgan Circuit Court, he made another declaration for a pension, to which declaration this is an amended copy. The same having been forwarded to the war department and returned for correction and is now in his possession.

S/ Devalt Keller, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year first above mentioned before me

S/ .Charles B. Butler, Jus. Peace

[James Johnson, Levi Johnson, Andrew M. Prichard, Enoch Myers and Abraham Lafevre gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the South Carolina militia.]