

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Devane S8317

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.]

[p 3]

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

On this the 31<sup>st</sup> day of October AD1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Robert Strange, one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity for the State of North Carolina aforesaid, presiding 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 seventy five 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<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1. 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 [February 27, 1776];<sup>1</sup> that he embodied at Black River Chapel and marched from thence to Wilmington; from thence to Rockfish Creek about seven 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 [Lt. Col. Donald McLeod] & a Captain Campbell [John 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

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_moores\\_creek.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html)

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 Wilmington 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 [James 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 [commissioned June, 1780]; 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 [Thomas Johnston] 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 [ Pedee 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.<sup>2</sup>

4thly. That he was ordered out by Colonel Young in January 1781 and took command of a company in Colonel Young's [Henry Young's] Regiment, Thomas Bludworth [also spelled, Thomas Bloodworth], 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 [January 30, 1781]<sup>3</sup> 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;<sup>4</sup> that after the British evacuated Wilmington,<sup>5</sup> this applicant was ordered with a few soldiers to collect the wives and children of the Tories and

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<sup>2</sup> I believe this is a misstatement by the veteran. Gen. Henry William Harrington was a militia officer in the Salisbury District and unlikely to have exercised any command in the eastern portion of the state. Perhaps the veteran intended to name John Alexander Lillington of the Wilmington District of militia.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_herons\\_bridge.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html)

<sup>4</sup> Cornwallis and his army arrived in Wilmington in early April 1781.

<sup>5</sup> The British evacuated Wilmington in November 1781.

[http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_evacuation\\_of\\_wilmington.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_evacuation_of_wilmington.html)

carried them to Wilmington; that he found the execution of this duty so disagreeable that he resolved to the desist from it at all hazards, and would choose rather to be cashiered then 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 & Blutworth, 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 Blutworth 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



[p 8]

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

On the 31st day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Robert Strange one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity for the said State aforesaid now sitting, and presiding in the Superior Court of Law for the County of New Hanover, James Lee<sup>6</sup> a resident of said County of New Hanover, who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith, that he is well acquainted with James Devane the aforesaid applicant, that he knew him sometime before the Revolutionary war that this deponent served with the said James Devane a six months tour of duty under Capt. John Devane, Thomas Devane Lieut., Archibald Sellars Ensign, that they entered the service together not very long before the battle at Moore's Creek bridge, that they were in the battle at that place, that they rendezvoused

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<sup>6</sup> [James Lee S7145](#)

at Black River Chapel and marched to Wilmington and from thence to Rockfish Creek in Cumberland County about seven miles below Fayetteville & from thence to Elizabeth Town in Bladen County, that at Elizabeth Town they took boating and came down Cape Fear [River] to the mouth of Black River thence up Black River to the mouth of Bear branch a little below Moore's Creek where they landed and marched to Long Creek & from thence they were ordered to Moore's Creek bridge where a piece of entrenchment was raised, that they were then ordered and marched towards Corbet's ferry on Black River to prevent the Tories from crossing and got as far as Colvin's Creek and having heard that the Tories had passed over Black River, they countermarched to Moore's Creek bridge and commenced making entrenchment a little further off than the first they had made, that after the battle at Moore's Creek bridge, the company to which this deponent belonged was furloughed for a few days & went home, and again rendezvoused in Wilmington and was then marched over into Brunswick County and encamped at Orton's Mills, that while at Orton's Mills, this deponent recollects that the aforesaid applicant James Devane was sent off and put to work in the public gun works established and carried down in the upper part of New Hanover County on Black River, that this deponent was at the place where the gun making business was carried on & believes on several occasions ~~saw the said applicant at work~~ that the said applicant did work in the said gun works. This deponent further deposeth and says that he also served with the said James Devane under Capt. Thomas Devane, that in this service he was in and about Wilmington guarding that place and up & down Cape Fear River, this applicant cannot undertake to state the date of this service; This deponent knows that the said James Devane had command of a company in South Carolina opposite Cheraw Hills, at which place this deponent was put under the command of the said James Devane, having been previously under the command of Capt. James Foy, that he went in a detachment ordered to guard some prisoners to New Bern as far as the Cross Roads in Duplin County where the said Capt. Devane discharged this deponent. This deponent further says that Capt. James Devane the aforesaid applicant commanded at the Big Bridge when the skirmish at that place happened in the first of 1781, that this deponent soon after this time was under the command of Capt. James Devane aforesaid at Half Way Bluff on Long Creek in New Hanover County, his company being placed there to guard the Negro Head Point road, that from Half Way Bluff this deponent was detached to carry some pieces of artillery to Kingston [sic, Kinston].

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ James Lee



[p 10]

State of North Carolina in New Hanover County: Superior Court of Law Spring Term 1833

On this the 23rd day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable James Martin one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity for the State of North Carolina, now presiding in the Superior Court of Law for the County of New Hanover, James Devane a resident of New Hanover County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-five years the 1st of August 1832 who on his oath made the preceding declaration at Fall Term 1832 of the Court aforesaid in order to obtain a pension under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832, and who now being duly sworn, doth on his oath, and further explanation declare and say that he served five months as a private under Col. Lillington, Capt. John Devane, Thomas Devane Lieut., Archibald Settlers Ensign; that he served one month as a private also under Capt. Thomas Devane; that he wrought, twelve months in public Gun works; that in his first service as Capt. he served six months and in his second he served at least four months.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Devane

[George Fennell, a clergyman, and Charles Henry gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 12: on November 25, 1851 in New Hanover County North Carolina, John C. Devane, son of Capt. James Devane filed a claim stating that his father was entitled to an increase in his pension during his lifetime to which he was not a recipient.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. C. Devane". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$220 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private & Captain, all in the North Carolina militia, for a term totaling 16 months.]