

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Robert Devin W3395

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Pittsylvania County to wit

On this 12th day of October in the year 1832 personally appeared before me Jabez Smith a justice of the peace for said county Robert Devin a resident of said county, aged near seventy three years who being blind and otherwise so infirm that he cannot appear in court of said county and who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States on the 20th day of January 1777 under Capt Henry Conway at Smiths Store, then Pittsylvania Court House in Pittsylvania County Virginia for the term of three years in the continental line, and took up the line of march from our rendezvous on the 17th day of March following with the following named company officers, to wit, Henry Conway Capt. Cyrus Roberts 1st Lieutenant Drury Oliver I think called 2nd Lieutenant and William Jenkins Ensign for head quarters at Middlebrook in New Jersey and were there attached to the 14th Virginia Regiment of Infantry. On our march we joined Maj'r. Abraham Buford and Capt. [George] Lambert at new London and Bedford Court House Virginia thence by Fredericksburg and Alexandria and on our way were inoculated at Dumfries in Virginia for the small pox. In Alexandria we went through the operation of the small pox And about the 1st of May all that were fit for duty were marched for head quarters at Middlebrook, passing by Baltimore and Philadelphia. In which march Col. [Charles] Lewis the Commandant of our Regiment joined and From Middlebrook we marched to the North, halted some days in the highlands of New York where the American army was divided. Genl. [Horatio] Gates took command of a part of the army and went on to the North. Genl. Washington with the remainder of the army which I was with returned through Philadelphia to meet the British who landed at the head of Elk [now Elkton] in Maryland. In marching on towards the head of Elk and after a number of skirmishes on previous days on the 11th day of September 1777 the alarm gun fired in our batteries which were thrown up the night before at Brandywine and the battle immediately commenced and continued generally untill near about sun set, when Gen'l. Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] division including Wedon's [sic: George Weedon's] Brigade retreated. I was in Wedons Brigade. We marched a greater part of the night toward Philadelphia. At this time Mud Island [Fort Mifflin, 10-15 Nov 1777] and Red bank [Fort Mercer, 22 Oct - 20 Nov 1777] forts were closely besieged by the enemy. Our Regiment with a number of other troops marched above Philadelphia crossed the [Delaware] River in boats and marched down the River with a view as was said to reinforce and support the forts. Having been informed that the forts were evacuated we went back recrossed the River and went by Philadelphia and rejoined the army near Germantown. On the 4th of October the battle of Germantown was fought. I was not in that battle but was with the army, and when battle was about to commence I being on the sick list was sent off with the baggage. After that the 14th Virginia Regt. was reduced to the 10th [14 Sep 1778]. About Christmas, we were marched to winter quarters on the Schuylkill at the Valley Forge. On the opening of the campaign next spring nothing of importance occurred untill the British army evacuated Philadelphia, which I believe was 12th June 1778 [18th June]. They went around Sandy Hook. We with Washington at our head followed. At Somerset Court House a detached party was called for out of the troops which was to be commanded by Genl. Lafayette and to march that night. Washington moved off next morning towards Monmoth [sic: Monmouth] Court house with the main body of the army, where it was understood La Fayette was to make a stand provided he overtook and attacked the rear of the enemy and could draw them to Monmoth Court House. La Fayette went on the over night Washington next morning, during the day [28 Jun 1778] we heard the firing commence. I was with Washington. We went on to support the troops that were engaged. the Virginia troops were in the

rear The battle grew very warm. Capt. Fautleroy [sic: Henry Fauntleroy, 5th Va. Reg.] amongst others was killed. In a short time Genl. Lee [see endnote] who was commander of the left wing of the army rode up and asked "who commands these troops Lieutenant Co Buford [then in 5th Va. Reg.] answered I do sir Genl. Lee ordered him to put his troops in order to march that he would show them where to go. We from thence retraced our ground 4 or 5 miles and halted untill information came that Washington & Lafayette had driven the enemy. from thence we marched to Somerset Court House, crossed the Hudson River at Kings Ferry and went on to the white plains, where we encamped & stayed for some time and there had a severe spell of sickness. On recovering a little myself and others were moved to Quibbletown on the Hudson [evidently a different Quibbletown from the one at present Highland Park NJ on Raritan River] There we got on board a shallop & were carried up the River above west point & from thence to a recruiting hospital where we stayed a considerable time, when I got fit for duty I was removed & joined my same Regt. in the fall of the year at Robertson's Plains opposite west point where we remained a good while and worked on the Forts untill we were moved to Winter quarters at Middlebrook in Jersey. This ended the 2nd campaign. In commencing the campaign in 1789 [sic: 1779] nothing worthy of notice occurred until 16th July. Brigadier Genl. Mulenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] with his brigade being stationed on the mountains near Hudson River as a guard between Stony Point occupied by the British & West Point by our troops, the troops were notified that Genl. Washington would review them. The troops were put in motion, marched down through the mountains & got into a valley thickly settled. Guards were placed at every house to prevent any person passing The Brigade formed in a line, while paper was distributed to all the soldiers to put in their hats [as identification]. We lay in line till late at night and rec'd. orders to march as private as possible toward the fort & in as good order a possible as it was through the woods & dark. I was near enough to hear the British sentinels hail a column of light Infantry that was advancing on the fort. The americans made no answer but rushed on the British guard fired and it was said killed 3 or 4 of our men. The infantry proceeded and the guard & part of our infantry entered the gate together. It was said the attack commenced between 12 & one at night. Our troops were ordered not to fire a gun but rush into their lodgings and use the bayonet. Our watch word was the forts our own and if not our's one or the other must die by the bayonet. The confusion and noise in the fort cannot be described it was said that it lasted about 21 minutes but in a short time ceased I was in Mulenburgs Brigade still formed in the line as a reserve outside of the Fort which position we continued in till day We continued in the Fort 3 days and nights engaged in demolishing the fort & removing ammunition & other plunder putting them on board shallops to send up to west point After this was done we evacuated the fort and went to our different posts. After this nothing of importance occurred, we kept moving hither & yon untill fall or in December when the Virginia troops were divided in lots according to the time of their enlistment, after which time we took up the line of march for Virginia to be discharged. We were much retarded in our march the cause not known by the soldiers and we marched to Philadelphia and quartered in the old Barracks called Braddocks, there we suffered a good deal and being informed that Col. Christian Febicher [sic: Christian Febiger] was authorised to discharge us I applied to him for myself my brothers & a few more which application was complied with and we were discharged on the 4th day of Feby 1780 After returning home sometime the year not recollected I was informed that our discharges were required to be sent to the seat of government at Richmond for the purpose of receiving Land warrants as a part of our bounty and also a certificate called a 6 per cent certificate. I believe that I sent my discharge to Richmond and it was then filed in the auditors office to assist the above purpose respecting the Six per cent Certificate I served three whole years in the revolutionary army in the regiment and under the officers above named. In answer to the interrogatories directed to be propounded by the war department he makes the following answers, To the first that he was born in the County of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania on the 6th April 1759 To the third he answers [that when first called into service he lived] in Pittsylvania County Virginia have lived there since the revolutionary war and now lives there

To the fourth he says that he enlisted for three years

To the second he says I have [a record of birth] and that is in this County at my Sisters recorded by my Father.

To the fifth he says he has stated those names in his declaration above

To the Sixth he has answered above

To the Seventh He says Richard B Berk James Johnson & Moses Hubbard together with a great many others [can testify to his veracity and reputation as a soldier of the revolution]

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state Subscribed and Sworn to the day and year aforesaid

Robert hisXmark Devin

NOTES:

At the Battle of Monmouth Gen. Charles Lee nearly precipitated a rout by ordering a retreat until Washington arrived and recovered the situation. Lee was rebuked and relieved of command on the spot. He then demanded a court martial to clear his name but was found guilty of insubordination.

Nancy Devin applied for pensions as the widow of Robert Devin on 6 Nov 1843 at age 75 and on 30 Nov 1848 at age 80.