

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Devane W3961
Transcribed by Will Graves

Ann Julian

fn68NC
rev'd 2/26/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber— besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 2 family record on a page in a book entitled "Extracts from Dalrymple"]
"John Devane Jur. was married to his wife Anjulan October the 25th Day 1785."
p. 2 illegible
"Anjulan wife of John Devane was Born the 30th Day of June 1768"
"John Devane Jur was Born the 25th Day of December 1755"

[fn p. 12]

State of North Carolina, New Hanover County

On this the 2nd day of July A.D. 1839 personally appeared before the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, Ann Julian Devane, a resident in the County of New Hanover and State of North Carolina aged 71 years the 30th of last month who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" that she is the widow of John Devane Jr. who was a private and first lieutenant in the war of the revolution and for an account of his services refers to the affidavit of Captain James Devane herewith sent.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Devane Jr. on the 25th day of October in the year 1785; that her husband, the aforesaid John Devane Jr., died on or about the 15th day of June in the year 1802; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, viz, at the time above stated. She further declares that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim.

S/ Ann J. Devane

Sworn to & subscribed on the day and year above written before me, and I do hereby certify that said Ann Julian Devane lives at the distance of 38 miles from the Court House in Wilmington for the County of New Hanover; that she is aged and infirm; & that traveling to and attending Court would likely prove injurious to her health & might endanger her life.

S/ Charles Henry, J. P.

[fn p. 13]

State of North Carolina, New Hanover County

On this the second day of July AD 1839 before the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Captain James Devane,¹ a resident of New Hanover County in the State of North Carolina aged 82 years the first of next month (August) and a Pensioner of the United States under the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, who being first duly sworn according to Law

¹ [James Devane S8317](#)

doth on his oath depose and say that this affiant and his brother John Devane, Jr., then residents of said County of New Hanover, entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War as minute men and privates in the last of the year 1775 and served six months in a company commanded by John Devane Senior and was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Lillington; they were volunteers; marched from Black River where they entered the service to Wilmington; thence to Rockfish near Fayetteville and hearing of the Tories marching from Wilmington, came down Cape Fear [River] by water; landed at the mouth of Bear Branch; thence across Long Creek and by express were ordered and marched to near Corbett's ferry; thence back to Moore's Creek Bridge where the battle was fought in February 1776; that at the time of the battle said John Devane, Jr. was in a reconnoitering party; that after the battle we were paroled two or three days, then formed again and marched to Wilmington and guarded up and down Cape Fear [River] in the vicinity of Wilmington and remained there & thereabouts till this tour of six months was expired and we were discharged June 1776.

That soon after the before mentioned service said John Devane, Jr. & this affiant upon an alarm entered the service again in 1776 in a company of New Hanover militia under Captain Thomas Devane as volunteers and privates and served one month; marched to Wilmington and remained there until the expiration of the tour and were discharged in the fall of 1776. We were in no battle this tour.

That said John Devane, Jr. entered the service again in the fall of 1777 as first Lieutenant of a Company commanded by Captain Ellis and stationed in Fort Johnson, N.C. and served there from that time to July 1780 when he was taken prisoner by the enemy and paroled, his commissioned taken from him by the enemy and the cockade taken out of his hat; he was detained a prisoner on board a vessel a few days and then landed; came to Wilmington and the people apprehending he would have the smallpox & communicate it, compelled him to leave the place and sent to Halfway Bluff on Long Creek; remained there a short time & came home; that said John Devane, Jr. served in Fort Johnston nearly three years as first Lieutenant and was occasionally sent out to procure additional forces for that station.

That said John Devane, Jr. broke his parole and entered the service again in a company of New Hanover Cavalry under Captain William Wright in the spring of 1781 and served three months as a private, marched and traversed said County of New Hanover and Duplin.

This affiant further maketh oath that he was at the wedding of said John Devane, Jr. and an eyewitness of the marriage between him and his widow then Ann Julan Evans; that said marriage took place on the 25th day of October in the year 1785 as appears by a record thereof; that the said John Devane, Jr. died in the year 1802 of fever in Wilmington, N. C. and left surviving him a widow, the said Ann Julan, who is still living and has never married since the death of the said John and is now a widow; that said John Devane, Jr. was older than this affiant & was born Christmas day in the year 1755 as the record thereof will show.

This affiant further makes his oath that the aforesaid marriage so far as this affiant knows and believes was a legal one; that the family record thereof hereunto annexed together with the record of their births he believes to be genuine; that it has been in the possession of this affiant for 25 years past and that the same is in the handwriting of the said John Devane, Jr. deceased. This affiant was commissioned a Captain in 1780.

S/ James Devane

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid and I hereby certify that said James Devane is a credible man and that his statements are entitled to full faith and credit and that he is universally reputed wherever he is known to have been a Captain in the War of the Revolution.

S/ Charles Henry, J. P.

I, Thomas F. Davis, clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for New Hanover County hereby certify that Charles Henry, Esquire, whose name appears to the foregoing declaration and

affidavit is and was at the date thereof an acting Justice of the Peace in and aforesaid County of New Hanover, duly commissioned and sworn; that full faith & credit are due to his official act & that the foregoing signatures purporting to be his are genuine.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed my seal of Office the first day of August AD 1839 & in the 64th year of American Independence.

S/Thomas Davis, clerk

[fn p. 27]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County

On this 13th day of November A.D. 1839 before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared James Lee² a resident of said County of New Hanover & a pensioner of the United States in the receipt of a pension of \$80 per annum, aged 79 years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, maketh oath that he was well acquainted with John Devane Junior deceased the husband of Ann Julan Devane now an applicant for a pension and is as well assured that said John Devane deceased served at Fort Johnson NC in the War of the Revolution as Lieut. as he is of any fact that does not come within his personal knowledge, he knows that said John Devane was absent from home & was said to be serving in Fort Johnson as Lieut., was absent for some considerable time before 1781 but how long, this affiant cannot say, it was also stated & generally believed that said John Devane was taken prisoner at or near said Fort and discharged upon his parole by the enemy. This affiant further maketh oath that he entered service in a company of New Hanover Cavalry under said John Devane as Capt. in April or May 1781 while the British were in possession of Wilmington and served under him to tours of three months each, and continuation, and were discharged after the British evacuated Wilmington he believes in November 1781 that Peter Portivint was Lieut. & John Bluford Ensign of said Company; that he does not know that said John Devane was commissioned but was selected by unanimous consent of the private's and with the approbation of Thomas Bludworth the Col. of the County. Their marches were principally confined to the County of New Hanover but marched on one occasion into Sampson then Duplin County and also into Bladen County -- were in no battle these tours.

S/ James Lee

[fn p. 16]

State of North Carolina, Bladen County

On this the 24th day of September AD 1840 before the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Francis Davis,³ a resident of said County of Bladen, aged 84 years who being first duly sworn according to law maketh his oath that he was well acquainted with John Devane Jr. deceased, the husband of Ann Julan Devane, a sister of this affiant and an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of July 7th, 1838; that soon after the enemy took possession of Charleston, S. C., he believes in the summer of 1780, this affiant came from South Carolina to this section and saw said John Devane deceased then on a visit from Fort Johnson, N. C., to his parents and recollects very distinctly a conversation between said John Devane deceased and his brother William Devane, about the treatment by the former of the soldiers under him in Fort Johnson, upon which occasion said John Devane showed us his commission as Lieutenant which I saw and read; that said William Devane and this affiant both looked at it; and that said William remarked to his brother John "you are an overseer, are you" or words to that amount; that the commission was printed with blanks and filled up and was signed (or purported to be, and this affiant believes was) by the Governor of North Carolina; that immediately thereafter said John Devane returned to his command; (this affiant

² [James Lee S7145](#)

³ [Francis Davis S8290](#)

believes he remained with his friends only a day or two as he had borrowed a horse and was in haste to return); that in a short time after his return, he was decoyed and taken prisoner by the enemy as said John Devane stated to this affiant in the following manner; a vessel came in sight of the Fort with American colors hoisted and the commander came ashore and dining and invited said John Devane to go aboard with him which he accordingly did. After they got on board the Officer asked John Devane if he knew where he was. Devane by this time had found out his mistake and knew that he was a prisoner, but was paroled and put ashore and having taken the smallpox from the enemy he was not allowed to remain with his own or the American forces, but was sent to Oak Island whither his Father, John Devane Sr., sent a Negro named Frank to wait upon him. This affiant does not recollect to have heard said John Devane say how long he served in Fort Johnson or what became of his commission but it has been generally reported and believed (and this affiant believes that John Devane Sr., the father of John Devane Jr. told this affiant) that his son's commission was taken from him by the enemy when he was taken prisoner. This affiant married a sister of said John Devane Jr. In the year 1781 while this doth affiant was in service in a company of New Hanover Cavalry under Captain William Wright, said John Devane Jr. commanded and was captain of a company also of New Hanover Cavalry; that their companies were frequently together and traversed the County. He does not know how long he served as Captain of Cavalry, but is satisfied he served as much as three months and perhaps more.

This affiant has heard said John Devane say he served in the minute service in the first of the war. He knows nothing of his Captain's commission. This affiant was present and witnessed the marriage between said John Devane Jr. and his widow then Ann Julan Evans (a widow) that said Ann Julan has not intermarried since the death of the said John and is still a widow.

S/ Francis Davis, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me and I hereby certify that said Francis Davis is well known to me, is a respectable man and a credible witness and that his statements are entitled to full faith and credit.

S/ Enoch Hawes, J. P.

[fn p. 37]

State of North Carolina Sampson County

On this the 7th day of July A.D. 1841 before me Patrick Murphy Clerk & Master of the Court of Equity for said County personally appeared James Lee a resident of the County of New Hanover in the State aforesaid, aged eighty-one or eighty-two years who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he served with John Devane the husband of Ann Julan Devane an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of July 7th 1838, in the war of the Revolution, first in a company of minute men under Capt. John Devane Senior, Thomas Devane Lieut., Archibald Sellers Ensign entered service he thinks about the first of February 1776, attached to the command of Col. or General Lillington rendezvoused at Black River, marched thence to Wilmington, thence to Rockfish, near Fayetteville and wrought some at entrenchments there, thence back to Elizabeth Town and embarked on board a boat and landed below the mouth of Moore's Creek, thence across Long Creek and were ordered back and marched to Moore's Creek, where we had a battle with the enemy commanded by McDonald, Col. Caswell joined the forces under Lillington the evening before the battle. Two of the officers of the enemy were killed, McLeod & Campbell. Soon after the battle we were dismissed, having served 10 or 12 days, went home and in a short time were called out, ordered and marched to Wilmington (said John Devane Junior being with us) remained there a few days, marched across Cape Fear and down near to Brunswick Town and encamped a while, thence to Lockwood's folly and becoming scarce of provisions marched back to Wilmington; a portion of this service was guarding up and down the River -- remained some time in Wilmington, were sometimes on one side of the River, then on the other, remained some time at and below Wilmington, and it appears to me that we must have served after called out after the battle of Moore's Creek between two and three months -- don't

think it exceeded three months. This was a continuation of the tour commenced before the battle at Moore's Creek but after called out to march to Wilmington the second time, Thomas Devane the Lieut. took command as Capt. in lieu of his father who was quite old.

This affiant has always understood and it has been generally reputed and believed and he has heard said John Devane Junior sows state that he the said John, husband of the applicant aforesaid that he served in Fort Johnson as Lieut. in a company commanded by Capt. Ellis after the above mentioned service (to the knowledge of this affiant he was absent and said to be in service in said place) that it was also generally understood, reputed and believed and so stated that John was decoyed and taken prisoner by the enemy, that this affiant saw said John Devane soon after his return home from (as was said) Fort Johnson, but this affiant knows nothing of this service except from common reputation, though he fully believes that said John Devane did serve in Fort Johnson as Lieut. for some considerable time as he lived in the same neighborhood and knows he was absent from home.

As this affiant has heretofore deposed he served under said John Devane as Capt. of New Hanover cavalry or light horse two tours of three months each in the summer and fall of 1781 -- while the British had possession of Wilmington and were discharged soon after they evacuated that place. Peter Portevent was Lieut. and John Bluford Ensign and under the command of Col. Thomas Bludworth the acting Col. of the County. The discipline was not very rigid or strict. The daily routine of duty consisted of marches mostly through and through the County from one station to another as often or off in her in the night as or then day, on one or two occasions in to Bladen and Duplin Counties. Served mostly if not altogether in one entire company which very in number from 10 to 30 odd, very seldom however as low as 10, commenced with a small number but increased and kept together a gradual increase and very seldom any of the company left after joining. Col. Bludworth was with us and the only field officers that was and continued with us nearly all the time present and on duty, and was very seldom away and then only for a short time. We were a moving camp at one place not more than two days at a time, we were neither paid nor promised to be paid by the Government and its officers but were volunteers, turned out in defense of our country without any requisition of the Government at the instance of Capt. John Devane, William Devane, John Corbett, Peter Portivint, this affiant and some others he don't recollect, which were compelled to do, or joined the Tories or the British in Wilmington, which we were determined not to do, but rather lose our lives; our company increased and our efforts meeting with the approbation of Col. Bludworth, encouraged by him others turned out & we were led by him. We subsisted as we could get it from the friends of the Country and as we could procure it by paying for it. A Mr. James Phebus was called our commissary and prepared food & provided for all courses and he believes either he or Col. Bludworth issued certificates therefore to be paid by the Government. It was also the business of said Phebus to deal out the provender [?] For our horses. He does not think that said John Devane had a commission as Capt. when we first turned out he may have obtained one soon after hand is confident if he didn't have one that he could have procured one if he had applied for it.

S/ James Lee

[fn p. 9: On July 9, 1856 in New Hanover County, NC, Ann Devane, J. C. Devane, her husband, & Rebecca Holloway, residents of said County, gave testimony that Ann Devane, who intermarried with J. C. Devane, and Rebecca Holloway are the surviving children and heirs of John Devane, who served in the Revolutionary War; they claim that money is due them on account of their father's service; they appoint William Devane of Clinton, NC as their attorney to prosecute their claim.]

[facts in file: the veteran and widow, Ann Julian Devane, died February 13, 1845