

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Devane R2901

Helen

fn45NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/27/10

[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.]

State of North Carolina ~~Sampson~~ County of New Hanover

On this the 7th day of September A.D. 1839 personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Helen Devane a resident of Upper Black River district in the County of New Hanover, State aforesaid aged sixty-eight -- 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 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of Thomas Devane who was an Ensign and private of cavalry and served in the War of the Revolution as follows. That he entered in a company of six months militia man as an Ensign under Capt. William Jones in 1778 & he served six months, that he joined General Ashe's Army and marched through South Carolina and into Georgia and was in the defeat at Brier Creek about the first of March 1779. That said Thomas Devane served one month as a private in a company of New Hanover cavalry under Capt. William Wright in 1781 and marched and traversed said County of New Hanover. That when he entered the service he resided in said County of New Hanover. She has no documentary evidence in support of her claim.

She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Devane on this sixth day of June in the year 1792, that her husband, the aforesaid Thomas Devane died on the 27th day of January, 1831, 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 maketh oath that she has not intermarried since the death of said Thomas Devane but continues his widow. That they were married by the Rev. Mr. Lindsey a Presbyterian clergyman that she has no record of her marriage, that she once had but the parts of the Bible wherein it was recorded is worn out & missing that she is aged, infirm & resides 39 miles from the Court House of her County & unable to travel that distance to Court.

S/ Helen Devane

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me & I hereby certify that said Helen Devane is aged, infirm and resides at the distance of 39 miles from the Court House of her County & that it might be attended with danger to her health to travel that distance to court -- and further that she is well known to me and that her statement is entitled to full faith & credit -- that the words "Sampson" was raised before sworn to & subscribed.

S/ Charles Henry, JP

State of North Carolina in New Hanover County

On this the 22nd day of February A.D. 1839 before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and

for said County personally appeared James Devane¹ aged eighty-two next August, who being duly sworn maketh oath that Thomas Devane now deceased, the husband of Helen Devane widow -- and in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War and Ensign in the company commanded by Capt. William Jones in 1778 or 79 and marched for South Carolina or Georgia and was absent six months. This affiant was not with him, saw him upon his return in 1779. He was in the defeat at Brier Creek.

Said Thomas Devane entered again in a company of New Hanover cavalry in 1781 as a private under Capt. William Wright and served one month and marched and traversed the said County of New Hanover.

Sworn & subscribed this the 22nd day of February A.D. 1839 before me and I do certify that said affiant James Devane is well known to me and is entitled to full faith and credit.

S/ Lewis Highsmith, JP

S/ James Devane

[fn p. 9: on December 31, 1853 a power of attorney was executed by Stewart Devane and Rufus Devane appointing an attorney to pursue the claims of Helen Devane for a widow's pension. The power of attorney was given in New Hanover County North Carolina. The relationship, if any of Stewart and Rufus Devane to Helen Devane is not stated in the power of attorney]

[facts in the file: the widow died January 13, 1845; fn p. 14: On January 4, 1852, Margaret Fennell, 80, widow of Nicholas Fennell,² testified that she was raised in the neighborhood of Capt. Thomas Devane and continued to live near him until his death; that she knows he left home to serve in the revolutionary war and was always reputed to have been Capt. Thomas Devane; that she recollects he married Helen his wife in Bladen County; that they lived together as man and wife and that she knows they had Stewart and Rufus Devane were the sons of Capt. Thomas Devane and his wife Allen.]

[fn p. 17: John Rooks gave testimony in New Hanover County that his father, Miles Rooks and Capt. Thomas Devane frequently met at his father's house on Moore's Creek in New Hanover County and conversed about their services in the Revolutionary war both having been soldiers in the war. His testimony was given own December 19, 1851.]

[fn p. 24: certificate dated May 20, 1852 from the North Carolina Comptroller showing the records in his office this the payments made to Thomas Devane for military services during the revolutionary war. In addition to the list of payments made, the certificate contains the following statement: "I furthermore certify that from a careful inspection of the books, from the location of the page list next the Capt., and the amount of the payment, I am well convinced that said Thomas Devane was a Lieut., though he is not registered as such."]

¹ [James Devane S8317](#)

² [Nicholas Fennell W3970](#)