

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Devers S17924

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
Monongalia County }

On this 28th day of May 1833 Personally appeared before the court of Monongalia County now sitting James Devers a resident of the County aforesaid and State of Virginia aged 78 years 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 7th 1832

That he resided in the County of Fairfax and State of Virginia. that in the month of Sept. 1777 he volunteered his services in a company of Militia under the command of Capt. Dennis Ramsey. that he marched from Alexandria, Fairfax County Virginia to Germantown Pennsylvania was there at the battle [4 Oct 1777] and detailed to guard the wounded on their retreat, was then taken sick and sent to the hospital at Lancaster where he was discharged orally by the Physician having served four months and five days. In February 1779 he was drafted in a company of Militia under the command of Capt. Charles Little. That he marched again from Alexandria to Williamsburg, joined the army and was attached to the regiment under the command of Col. [Armistead] Churchill, from thence to York, from thence he was marched nearly to Hampton where he was stationed some time, and then returned to Richmond where he was discharged by Capt. Little, which discharge has since been lost - having served four months and six days. Shortly after he was again called into the service under Capt. Little, marched to Richmond, where he was detailed together with eleven other men under the command of Ensign James Daniel and sent on board the Ship Tempest, then lying in James River, below Richmond [at Hood's in Prince George County], was engaged in a battle while on board [27 Apr 1781], was taken prisoner, discharged four days after on parole [oath not to fight again] having served three months and fifteen days; soon after his return home he was summoned before a Court Martial in Alexandria, where it was decided that the oath he had taken when a prisoner was not binding upon him, and that he was still at liberty to perform military duty against the enemy. Sometime in the fall of 1780 the month not remembered he volunteered under Capt. Little was employed in guarding General Washington's House, the White House and other Posts along the [Potomac] river until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], when he was discharged orally by his Capt. having served twelve months.

He remembers Major Armistead and was commanded by him a short time at Richmond, he has also seen General Washington frequently. That he was born in the State of North Carolina on the 21st day of Oct. in the year 1754 as appears from a record now in his possession That he removed with his Parents from North Carolina into the State of Maryland. From thence he removed with his parents into Frederick County Virginia, from thence to Fairfax County, from thence to Fauquier - thence to Harrison, and thence to Monongalia County where he now resides

He is acquainted with John Newsom [sic: John Nuzum], Joseph Parrill and others in his neighbourhood to whom reference may be had. He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the above service, except the enclosed Parole, nor does know of any living witness by whom he can prove them

In all the above services he was a private soldier - and he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not upon the Pension roll of the agency of any State

Sworn to and subscribed by James hisXmark Devers

[Left edge of paper missing]

to Certify that James Deevers Being a prisoner of

Upon Parole has leave to Return to Fairfax

unity James Decale[?] Ensign

April 30th 1781

Monongalia County }
Virginia }

This day personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid James Devers an applicant for a pension who being duly sworn doth on his Oath make the following amendatory declaration

That upon reexamination of his former declaration he finds that the draftsman omitted to mention a tour of Duty of four months performed under Captain Little in the year 1778. The particulars of which are as follows - in March 1778 I was drafted and placed under the Command of Capt Charles Little and marched to Williamsburg from thence we were marched to Richmond where I was discharged orially after having served four months

also one other Tour as follows

in September 1778 I was again drafted and placed under the command of Capt Charles Little and marched on the potomac and stationed at the white house where I served two months and then was discharged orially by Capt. Charles Little

He further states that the commencement of the third tour of duty as detailed in his former declaration was in the month of September 1779 when he Volunteered & served as heretofore stated. that he is confident that the ship Tempest was an armed Vessel and that she was captured by the British and Benjamin Thomas was killed in our defence of the ship and John Alen Thomas Pool Leonard Barker John Burrows and myself was taken prisoners of war at the same time together with several others whose named I do not recollect

as regards the last tour in my former declaration I beg leave to state that I was actually in the service twelve months as heretofore stated

he further states that the officers under whom he served were duly Commissioned and in the service and that he affiant was not engaged in any civil pursuit during said Service Sworn to and subscribed this fifth day of Dec'r. 1833

James hisXmark Devers
Hillery Boggess JP

Harrison County State of Virginia SS.

Be it known that before me Chs Lewis a justice of the peace in and for said County of Harrison, personally appeared James Devers and after being duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following amended declaration to those hereunto annexed - He supposes the 4 months and 5 days service in 1777 and 4 months & 6 days in 1779 wants no explanation - he states that the two Tours in the year 1778 - one of 4 months & the other of 2 months claimed by him in his second declaration was actually performed by him as there stated, but omitted by an oversight or mistake in the first declaration, - that he has no further testimony to offer, that he knows of no person living who knows of his service - that his own oath is the only testimony he can offer - he further states that the third tour of service claimed by him in his first declaration of 3 months & 15 days was commenced early in January 1781. That he did actually serve the said 3 months & 15 days and received the certificate of Parole on the 30th april 1781 - as hereunto annexed - he further states that the 12 months service put down in his declaration purporting to be "done in 1781 is also a mistake, that he never so ordered it to be put down, - but the true state of the service is as follows, that shortly after the date of the above Parole he again volunteered under Captain Little as a minute man - that he was marched to Gen'l. Washingtons house and other posts on the river - that he continued in this kind of service as a minute man until the seige of york. that he then was orially discharged - that he was in actual service at this time as a minute man three months, he further states that he actually served in all Twenty months and 26 days.

Sworn to and subscribed to this 5th day of March 1834 before me James hisXmark Devers
Cha's Lewis JP

Clarksburg March 8th 1834

Hon J L Edwards - C - P [Commissioner of Pensions}

Mr James Devers an applicant for a pension, whose papers appear to have been at the department several times, has of late desired me to examine his papers, - I done so and found his papers full of [one or two illegible words] &c — I examined Mr Devers & think I have now got

a true statement of his services, - He Mr Devers is an honest old man, - would not give a wrong statement if he knew it - the fault has all been in the persons who have heretofore drew up his papers —

I hope he may now be placed on the pension List for the time he served
yours Nathan Goff [Pension Agent]

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners in Lewis, Washington, and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

James Devers, Pen

I am informed by Nathan Goff that several declarations of this Pensioner were returned for correction - in the drawing and concoction of which he had nothing to do - nor does he know who did them. finally the old man came to him - he Goff examined him with grate care, wrote a new declaration, transmitted the one written by himself with all the Declarations previously written and received a duplicate -

I called to see the old man as many as three times and on each occasion found him in a perfect Stuper produced by intoxication - from what I have understood from Mr. Goff I think he Devers is Entitled
W. G Singleton Nov'r. 21, 1834