

The Blevins Men of the **Revolution**

**Blevins Patriots and Loyalists
in the Southern Campaigns**

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The information contained herein represents both original research and my compilations and interpretations of the work of others. Please address any comments, suggestions, criticisms, or corrections to me:

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The Blevins Men of the Revolution

Introduction

The American Revolutionary War was a time of upheaval and conflicting loyalties for people throughout the colonies. The War began not long after Blevins groups were being established in the overmountain areas to the west and southwest of southern Virginia and some within these groups also experienced upheavals and choices of loyalty.

Many Blevins men were ardent Patriots throughout the War. Some Blevins men appeared to have had Tory leanings and at least one was a known ardent Loyalist. Several Blevins men appeared to have vacillated from one side to the other and some men, undoubtedly, were ambivalent and generally neutral.

This discussion covers the known records of southern Blevins men during, and relative to, the American Revolution and covers both active service given to, and active or suspected dissent from, the American cause for liberty.

The earliest extant record of Blevins dissent during the Revolutionary War occurred on June 11, 1776 when the Fincastle County (Virginia) Committee of Safety ordered:

“...that **William Blevins, James Blevins** and **John Blevins** be summoned to appear at Cap. Evan Shelbies on Saturday the 22nd of this month to answer the following complaint. That they have refused to bear arms or muster in Cap. John Shelby's Company of Militia agreeable to the ordinance of Convention by reason of their attachment to the Enemies of American Liberty and the Correspondence with Tories and the Cherokee Nation.”

The above reference is particularly poignant for me because the James Blevins being summoned to appear before Evan Shelby was my 5th great-grandfather. The William and John Blevins (also known as Devil Will and Jack Blevins) being summoned were his older brothers.

Whether or not William, James, and John Blevins were active Loyalists at the time is certainly up for debate. There is a long-standing, but unproven family tradition, for example, that one of James' daughters-in-law, Elizabeth Vance, was disowned by her family for marrying into a "Loyalist family".

It is perhaps likely that these Blevins men *did* have some relationships with the Cherokee at the time. Both Devil Will and Jack Blevins (and possibly James) were longhunters who had likely established and maintained relations with the indigenous people of northeastern Tennessee during the 1760s. On March 19, 1775, Devil Will had

signed as a witness to the Watauga Purchase between white settlers in the Watauga River area and the Cherokee Nation.

It is also almost certain that Devil Will had at least one pre-war association with a British agent relative to the Cherokee. In an answer to a land-dispute lawsuit filed January 31, 1818 by James King, Jr., William "Devil Will" Blevins claimed:

".. in or about the year 1770 he made an improvement on the land now claimed by the Complt and after continuing in possession of it some time he made a contract for the same with Alexander Cameron the then **Agent of the King of Great Britain** resident amongst the Indians by and with consent of the **Chief of the Tribe** claiming said land for which he paid then \$130 dollars the sum agreed on as the full price of the said land and he has continued in possession thereof from that time to this."

The above land purchase is also central to understanding the relationship that existed at the time between the Blevins and Shelby men.

In 1776, Evan Shelby was living on his "Sapling Grove" land grant near present-day Bristol, Sullivan County, Tennessee. His younger brother, John Shelby, lived several miles to the south on what was known as the "Hazel Lands" grant, which was originally co-leased, and later co-owned by both Evan and John Shelby. The land that Devil Will claimed to have purchased from the Cherokee, through the offices of the British Indian Agent, overlapped a large portion of the "Hazel Lands" grant.

A legal battle between John Shelby and these Blevins men (all of whom were named as co-defendants) began as early as 1773 and was not finally settled by the courts until September 26, 1794 (see *The Blevins Men of the Holston, Expanded and Revised Edition* for a full discussion of this land dispute).

Although the June 11, 1776 summons specifically accused William (Devil Will), James, and John (Jack) Blevins of Loyalist activities, it would be easy to speculate that an additional (or perhaps alternate) explanation for their refusal to muster was their ongoing land dispute with the Shelby brothers.

In contrast to the accusations alleged against Devil Will, James, and Jack Blevins, the patriotic leanings of the rest of the family is quite clear.

The burial place of Dillon Blevins (one of their brothers) is listed in Volume 1 of Patricia Law Hatcher's 1987 *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*. Two other brothers, Henry and Abraham Blevins, filed affidavits for pensions for their Revolutionary War service.

Their father (and my 6th great-grandfather), John Blevins, Sr. (also known as John Blevins the Elder) served in, and appeared on the 1776 payroll list of "Captain John Shelby's Company of Militia stationed on the Frontiers of Fincastle County under the command of Colonel William Russell".

There are no extant records that show the disposition of the June 11, 1776 Fincastle County Committee of Safety summons relative to my 5th great-grandfather, James Blevins, and his brothers Devil Will and Jack, but the summons itself provides prima facie evidence that I am a direct descendant of a Revolutionary War Loyalist. The 1776 appearance of my 6th great-grandfather, John Blevins the Elder, on the John Shelby Militia payroll list, however, provides prima facie evidence that I am a direct descendant of a Revolutionary War Patriot.

As will be discussed later, apparent conflicts of loyalty were not uncommon among the Blevins families of the south during the Revolution.

Note: This paper focuses on the American Revolutionary War activities of Blevins men in the southern campaigns. Many members of the northern branch of the Blevins family were undoubtedly participants in the War but no examinations of northern States' military records were made for this paper. It should be noted, however, that the National Archives contain Revolutionary War pension files for two Blethen men from Maine and for six Bliven men from Rhode Island. Their names and associated file numbers are listed below:

Ichabod Blethen (R.940)
Increase Blethen (W.23621)
Arnold Bliven (W.15753)
George Bliven (W.21682)
James Bliven (R.0000)
Nathan Bliven (S.21073)
Samuel Bliven (R.0000)
William Bliven (S.21648)

The Southern Blevins Loyalists

In the early days of the War, most people in southwestern Virginia, northwest North Carolina, and what is now northeastern Tennessee enthusiastically supported the drive for independence. After a few years of warfare, trade interruption, and heavy taxes, enthusiasm began to wane somewhat. By 1777, British agents and Tories were actively working to build Loyalist sympathies in the remote settlements.

One attempt to counter Loyalist inroads came in 1777 when the Commonwealth of Virginia required all freeborn men (except imported servants) above the age of sixteen to swear an *Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia*. The Oath read as follows:

Oath of Allegiance to the Common Wealth of Virginia (in 1777) - "I do swear and affirm that I do renounce and refuse all allegiance to George the Third, King of Great Britain, his Heirs, Successors and I will be Faithful and bear true allegiance to the Common Wealth of Virginia, as a Free and Independent State, and that I will not at any time, do or Cause to be done, any matter of thing that will be prejudicial or Injurious to the Freedom and Independence thereof, as declared by Congress, and also that I will discover and make known to someone, a Justice of the Peace for said state, all Treasonous or Traitorous Conspiracies which I know or hereafter know to be Formed against this or any of the United States of America, so help me God."

Persons violating their Oath were subject to arrest, imprisonment, and confiscation of property. Some violators were forgiven and allowed to reaffirm their Oaths, enlist in the American army or County militia, or give security for future good behavior. In extreme cases, violators were hanged and their possessions were plundered.

William Campbell, the County Lieutenant of Washington County, Virginia was very active in stamping out disaffection in southwestern Virginia and parts of present-day northeastern Tennessee. He and his Regulators patrolled Washington County and sternly repressed disorder for several years. Campbell's activities earned him the informal title "the Bloody Tyrant of Fincastle". Just to the east of Washington County, the situation was somewhat different.

In April 1778, a court-martial was held at Fort Chiswell (located in present-day Wythe County, Virginia) for some members of the Montgomery County, Virginia Militia. James Blevins of Captain Cox's Company was fined two months pay for refusing to go with Lieutenant Edwards on a patrolling party after being legally appointed. He was to be taken into custody by the officer of the patrol. William Blevins, John Blevins, and others of Cox's Company were fined two months pay for refusing to march out to protect the county frontier. They were to be taken into custody and treated as deserters. (Note: the William, James, and John Blevins of Captain Cox's Company were not the same William, James, and John Blevins associated with the previously discussed Captain John Shelby's Company.)

By the summer of 1779, Tory activity in Montgomery County had apparently grown nearly to the point of anarchy. William Preston, the Montgomery County Lieutenant called upon William Campbell of Washington County for assistance.

On July 16, 1779, Campbell conveyed to William Preston a sworn deposition he had obtained from John Cox, the Captain of a Montgomery Militia Company. Cox's deposition outlined a treasonous plot he had uncovered and named Joseph Caldwell, William Atkins, John Huston, and Charles Collins as Principal Actors in this Conspiracy.

Cox apparently conveyed other names to Campbell because Campbell entered the following letter into the 1779 Montgomery County Court Records:

"Whereas a most daring conspiracy and insurrection have been formed by many disaffected persons, most of them residents within the bounds of Captains Cox and Osborne's Companies, with the design of subverting the present government, and disturbing the peace and tranquility whereof the actors in which, that were embodied, have been most happily dispersed and one of their party most justly put to death. As we believe many were attracted into acts of this kind, rather from (impra....) and ignorance, than malevolence of heart, and an intention of disturbing the peace of the commonwealth, we would willingly extend mercy to all as such as far as may be our power, and consistent with the preservation of the common peace.

Therefore as many as are conscious to repentance of having engaged in this diabolical plot only under influence of the principals concerned in it are willing to meet me at Captain Osborne's tomorrow evening (Wednesday) and at Captain Cox's upon the next day following (Thursday) under penalty of having worldly property burned to desolation and themselves held liable to suffer the punishment which, for which crimes, they so justly deserve, and to convince all such, that I am not ignorant of who they are, I have thought proper to announce a list of their names hereunto:"

James Blevins, Jr., James Blevins, Sr., James Blevins, John Blevins, Daniel Blevins, William Blevins, Richard Blevins, Jonathan Blevins, Samuel Brown (aka Samuel Martin), Edward North, William Ingram, Joseph Caldwell, Richard Hill, William Hill, Micajah Collins, Lewis Collins, William Coyle, [9 additional names not legible. Order of names was different on original list].

The *Annals of Southwest Virginia*, records that on August 3, 1779:

James Blevins & John Blevins being brought into (Montgomery County) Court and confessing that they were engaged in the late Insurrection in this County wherefore the Court taking the Case into Consideration & viewing them for many reasons as proper Objects of Mercy are of opinion that upon their voluntarily taking the State Oath as prescribed by Law be bound to the good behavior themselves in the sum of two hundred pounds each and their Securities in the sum of one hundred each and for twelve months and a day whereupon John Cox and James McDonald came into Court and acknowledged themselves Security for the said **John and James** in the sum of one hundred pounds each for their good behavior for twelve months and a day to be levied of their respective Lands and Chattels and to the Commonwealth rendered.

There were several men named James, John, William and Daniel Blevins in Montgomery County at the time and it is not entirely clear how and to whom each of

these men were related. It should again be pointed out that the John, James, and William Blevins mentioned in the above references were not the men of the same names discussed relative to the 1776 Shelby Militia controversy. The duplication of given names within the early Blevins families is a constant source of confusion for researchers.

In October 1779, Lt. Colonel John Hamilton was put in charge of the Royal North Carolina Regiment, a British unit composed of Loyalists volunteers. (Hamilton was an influential North Carolina Loyalist who had fled to New York and joined the British Army in 1777.) At least 5 Blevins men - James Blevins, Sr., James Blevins, John Blevins, Sr., Daniel Blevins, and Samuel Blevins are documented as having belonged to this Loyalist Regiment.

Although no man named Samuel Blevins was included in the William Campbell "daring conspiracy and insurrection" letter described above, it is very likely that the other four Blevins members of the Royal North Carolina Regiment were among those from Montgomery County who had been called out by Campbell in the summer of 1779.

By 1780, the Royal North Carolina Regiment had seen action in both Georgia and South Carolina. In 1781, the Regiment was a part of Cornwallis' army that entered North Carolina and more recruits were soon attracted to the unit.

According to the 1981 book *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War* by Murtie June Clark, the February 24 to April 24, 1781 muster of the Royal North Carolina Regiment at Hillsborough, North Carolina included Private John Blevins, Sr., Private James Blevins Sr., Private James Blevins, Private Daniel Blevins, and Private Samuel Blevins. The notations for James Sr., James, and Daniel all showed as being "sick near Camden". The notation for Samuel showed he had deserted on February 15, 1781.

When Cornwallis refitted his army at Wilmington, he left most of the Royal North Carolina Regiment there. The October 25 to December 24, 1781 muster of the Royal North Carolina Regiment at Wilmington included Private John Blevins.

The April 25 to June 24, 1782 muster of the Regiment's Quarter House included Corporal John Blevins. The Regiment's muster for the same period in 1783 included Sergeant John Blevins. John Blevins was clearly on his way up in the British military.

The May 6 to August 5, 1782 pay muster for the North Carolina Regiment of Militia at Charlestown included Daniel Blevins.

The Revolutionary War officially ended with the Treaty of Paris in September 1783. In November of 1783, the Royal North Carolina Regiment set sail from Saint Augustine, Florida and landed in Nova Scotia, Canada. After landing, the regiment was disbanded and the officers and men were granted land at Country Harbor.

Sergeant John Blevins was on the June 12, 1784 list of men belonging to the late Royal North Carolina Regiment who settled on, and were carrying out improvements at, Country Harbor, Nova Scotia. According to the 1973 book *Whereabouts of Some American Refugees 1784-1800* by Clifford Neal Smith, John Blevins was a Sergeant in the Royal North Carolina Regiment who was granted 200 acres in Sydney County, County Harbor East, Nova Scotia.

Note: Most of the Blevins names in the above documents were transcribed as Blivings, Blevings, Beevings, or Bleven.

The history of this John Blevins is very well documented. John was probably born sometime around 1756. He was the son of James Blevins the Elder who had, around 1771, purchased land in present-day Grayson County, Virginia at a place called Peach Bottom.

John Blevins apparently joined the British Army as early as 1779 and he was discharged on November 7, 1783 in Nova Scotia. John was still living in Nova Scotia in 1784 but by 1785, he had returned to his home in Grayson County, Virginia and married Catherine Cox, the daughter of David and Margaret (McGowan) Cox. Today, this man is generally known as "Orator" John Blevins because of a lawsuit he filed in 1805 but he is occasionally referred to as "Tory" John Blevins. "Orator" John Blevins died in Grayson County, Virginia on April 15, 1816.

Much of what we know about this man comes from a letter written to his son Samuel. In 1884, Samuel apparently wrote to the British Consulate in New York seeking a pension for his father's service and the recovery of land owned by his father in Nova Scotia. Samuel received a reply letter dated April 10, 1884. The text of this reply follows:

No. 1, Murray Street
New York, NY
April 10, 1884

Mr. Samuel Blevins

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of March 31st with the enclosed five dollars, office fee, Thanks. I have examined the Books and papers of my office library relative to the supposed claim of your father **John Blevins**, formerly of Halifax, N.S. who was four years serving in the British Army, under Lieut. Col. Commanding John Hamilton, in the North Carolina Regiment of the Crown and was discharged Nov. 7th, 1783 at the peace between America and England. The said **John Blevins**, acknowledged on his discharge paper to have received all pay, arrears, clothing and of all demands whatsoever, from the British Crown. If your father **John Blevins** had then returned to England or Halifax and remained there, he would then have been a British Subject and would have been entitled to a pension from the British Crown. But as your father, after the War of 1780, remained in the United States and died there in 1816, he became a citizen of the U.S., all claim to pension from the Crown was forfeited by the law of England. And had he ever been

entitled to a pension, it would ended at the death of Catherine his wife in Janry. 1843. You are barred by Law of England on this pension claim.

Secondly you state that your father **John Blevins** was the owner of some lots of land in Halifax, NS. where the town now is built, and left in the care of a person name Paul. This land was left by your father over one hundred years ago and since that time many new laws have been posted in the City of Halifax, N.S., and in other parts of Canada. In the year 1836, a law was passed for Halifax, New Brunswick and all sovereign Canada, colony of Great Britain as a Statute of Limitations law (relative) to real estate in lower Canada, that 21 years adverse possession by any person on lands, without being molested by any person or persons, should constitute a (valid) title in fee simple. Your father and you have let your claim sleep too long. You are barred by law in this land claim, and my best advice to you is never to pay out another dollar on either of these claims as no benefit to you can result from any further expense.

I notice by my books that **Samuel Blevins**, and the widow of **Henry Blevins** received pensions for services in the Revolutionary War. I am sorry your claim proves not to be a good one upon investigations.

Very Respectfully Yours

John F Jayne

P. S. I enclose the Discharge of John Blevins, 1783. JFJ

There is a record of a Samuel Bliven who filed a pension claim in Westerly, Rhode Island but was denied same. Henry Blevins (and later, his widow) did indeed collect a pension in Tennessee. Both of these pension applications/awards were for services to the American forces. As such, the references to Samuel and Henry Blevins in a British letter are somewhat puzzling.

The Southern Blevins Patriots

Technically speaking, any man who belonged to a Patriot Militia during the War could be considered a Patriot based on that service. The Loyalist John Blevins who left Virginia to join the British Army in North Carolina represents an extreme example of duality. Although John's service with the British Army is well documented, some of his descendants have been accepted into the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) based on his service in John Cox's Company of the Montgomery County Militia early in the War. (DAR memberships #302236 Mary N. Hash in 1937, and #292648 Mrs. Stuart Nichols prior to 1937).

Similarly, there is almost certainly some duality of service overlap between the previously discussed Loyalist muster and payroll records for men named James, Daniel, and Samuel Blevins and the Montgomery County, VA militia records discussed below.

Militia Records. Numerous Militia records of the day are extant but the records are spotty and, at times, contradictory. Militia rosters exist for 1774 (just prior to the War) but I haven't found any for the years 1775 and 1776 with the notable exception of the previously discussed appearance of John Blevins, Sr. on the July, 1776 payroll of John Shelby's Company of Militia in (what was then) Fincastle County, Virginia (now Sullivan County, Tennessee).

The next relevant militia records are from 1777. In that year, a man named William Blevins was appointed a Lieutenant in the Militia of Henry County, Virginia. This appointment was echoed in the Revolutionary War pension application (R.7051) of another Henry County man named John May. In his pension deposition, May specifically named William Blevins as the Lieutenant within his militia company in 1777.

The bulk of the extant, relevant militia records come from Montgomery County, Virginia as transcribed by Mary Kegley for her 1975 book *Militia of Montgomery County, Virginia, 1777-1790*.

The 1777 Montgomery County Militia under John Cox included John, Richard, William, Daniel, Jonathan, Wilber, and Nathan Blevins.

One undated list (thought to be for 1782) for the Montgomery Militia Company of John Cox included Richard and William Blevins. The 1782 Montgomery Militia Company under James McDaniel included James, Jonathan, John, Daniel, Willaba (sic), Richard, and John Blevins.

The 1783 Montgomery Militia under Enoch Osborn included Nathan, Richard, and William Blevins. The 1783 Montgomery Militia under Flower Swift included Samuel Blevins. A second undated Montgomery list (thought to be for 1783) for John Cox's Company included Richard, William, Wilber, Nathan, Jonathan, and Daniel Blevins. An

undated list for the Montgomery Militia Company of Flower Swift included James Blevins.

Some old records, although not directly related to militia service seem to demonstrate Patriot leanings.

Virginia Oath of Allegiance. In October of 1777, James Blevins Jr., William Blevins Jr., William Blevins Sr., Samuel Blevins, Williby Blevins, John Blevins, and Dillion Blevins took the Virginia Oath of Allegiance in Henry County. According to the 1982 book *Jonathan Blevins Sr. of Virginia and his Descendants* by Laccie W. and Ray E. Blevins, Daniel and John Blevins took this Oath in Montgomery County (date uncertain). Some references include Elisha Blevins as having taken the Oath. According to the previously mentioned *Annals of Southwest Virginia*, John and James Blevins took (or retook) the Oath in Montgomery County on August 3, 1779. It is unclear if this was the same John Blevins mentioned in the 1982 Laccie W. Blevins book.

Although taking an Oath, in and of itself, does not necessarily prove service in the Revolutionary War, at least one descendant of Dillon Blevins used his inclusion on the Henry County Oath list to qualify for admission to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Other Records. On October 2, 1779, a Henry County, Virginia proceeding heard oaths and other evidence from “good and lawful men of said county” relative to lands lying on Smith River, Jordon's Creek, and Mayo River. These “good and lawful men” included John and Dillon Blevins, John Thomas, Phillip Ryan, James Taylor, John Stokes, and others. The proceeding apparently ruled that the lands in question, containing 1150 acres, were held by British Loyalists and ought to vest in the Commonwealth.

In 1782 and early 1783, the Henry County Court held sessions to hear and adjust claims by citizens for property impressed or taken for “publick” service during the Revolutionary War. On March 2, 1782, William Blevins claimed payment for 4 bushels of corn provided for Colonel Lee's legion of horses. On May 24, 1782, William Blevins, Jr. claimed £9 and William Blevins, Sr. claimed 45 shillings for guns impressed for the company of militia commanded by Captain David Lanier on his march to join General Green.

On November 15, 1782, William Blevins, Sr. claimed £200 for a smooth-bore gun impressed for the Henry County Militia when it was ordered to join General Green. On February 27, 1783, a man named Daniel Ramey filed a claim for 24 pounds of bacon he had furnished to William Blevins for the Henry County Militia by order of Colonel Penn.

Finally, we have the 4-Volume *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots* by Patricia Law Hatcher. Volume 1 lists: John Blevins and William Blevins, Jr. in Shipley Cemetery near Morrell's Creek, Sullivan County, TN; James Blevins in Scotland Cemetery, Greene County, IN; and Dillon Blevins in a family cemetery in Dallas County,

AL. Although the James and Dillon Blevins burial locations are correct, the John and William Blevins burials in Sullivan County are somewhat problematic.

I am personally very familiar with the Shipley Cemetery in Sullivan County; it was originally the family cemetery of the man known as Colonel William Blevins and is located on his original land grant on the south side of the Holston River. Although there are several men named John or William Blevins known to be buried there, only one was born early enough to have served in the Revolutionary War (see below). The only known Revolutionary War Patriot named John Blevins in that general area was my previously discussed 6th great grandfather who appeared on the 1776 payroll list of Captain John Shelby's Militia Company. This John Blevins is almost certainly buried in his own family cemetery located about a mile north of (and across the river from) the Shipley Cemetery.

The above mentioned Colonel William Blevins was a Revolutionary War Patriot and was almost certainly buried in the Shipley Cemetery but his exact grave site has not been located. The William Blevins listed in Hatcher's *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*, however, clearly refers to a different man. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) lists a William Blevins, Jr. who was born in 1760 in Pittsylvania County, VA and was married to a woman named Mary Thompson. According to the DAR, this William died on July 6, 1832 and was buried in Shipley Cemetery in Sullivan County, TN. No such grave is known to exist.

Early DAR information is notoriously unreliable. We know there was a William Blevins born in 1760 in Pittsylvania County who filed affidavits seeking a Revolutionary War pension. His last affidavit was filed on June 4, 1838 (6 years after his DAR-reported death) in Vermilion County, IL. This William Blevins will be discussed later.

Although the preceding records *suggest* Patriot activities, there are other records that demonstrate Patriot service in higher detail. A number of Blevins men (or their widows) filed applications for Revolutionary War pensions or land grants. Many of these applications contained valuable personal information in addition to specific service histories. Following are summaries of the known (southern) Blevins applications.

Abraham Blevins (R.941) filed an affidavit for pension on October 14, 1825 in Knox County, Kentucky. According to his affidavit, he was born August 23, 1755 (place of birth not given). In 1775, he enlisted in Sullivan County for a term of 18 months under Captain James Robertson. He spent his entire service stationed on the frontiers to "protect the inhabitants from the Savages". At the time he filed his affidavit, he claimed to have no family. There is no record of Abraham actually receiving a pension. He is listed in the 1830 Knox County, KY census and he probably died there not long after 1830.

Daniel Blevins (S.31555) filed an affidavit for pension on March 1, 1834 in Morgan County, Tennessee. According to his affidavit, he was born about 1753 in Botetourt

County, Virginia. He was drafted for multiple short tours of service starting in about 1777 and he first entered service about 25 miles from the Lead Mines. His engagements were primarily (or exclusively) against hostile Indians.

After the War, he moved to Buncombe County, NC, then moved, after many years, to Sullivan County, TN. After a "great many years" he then moved to Harlan County, KY and then to Morgan County, TN. By March of 1835, he moved to Rockcastle County, KY and by November 1836 he had moved to Lawrence County, IN. He died in Indiana in 1839.

Daniel Blevins (also within S.31555) filed an affidavit for pension on October 23, 1823 in Roane County, Tennessee. According to his affidavit, he was born about 1760 (place of birth not given). He stated that he enlisted in Virginia for a term of five years in 1769. That date is almost certainly a misstatement and was probably instead 1779. (1769 not only predates the War but it would have meant he was only 9 years old when he enlisted.) He served in the regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and participated in the Battle of Hanging Rock and the Battle of King's Mountain.

Many researchers consider this Daniel and the Daniel summarized above to be one and the same man. Significant conflicts between the 1823 and 1834 affidavits, however, have convinced me that they were two different men and that their records were mistakenly merged by the National Archives. Assuming this was a different Daniel Blevins, he probably died before the 1830 census.

There are a few anecdotal records of a Revolutionary War veteran named David Blevins who supposedly also served under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland's Virginia Regiment. An undated newspaper clipping from *The Nashville Banner*, found in the scrapbook of a woman named Susie Gentry, supposedly named David Blevins as one of 36 Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Roane County, TN.

A 1909 letter and a 1910 newspaper article from *The Rockwood Times* also mentioned a David Blevins. The letter and article were both written by a man named Captain William E. McElwee, a Civil War veteran whose grandfather had fought in the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Finally, according to the 1981 book *Roots of Roane County, Tennessee – 1792*, David Blevins was included on an 1835 list of Revolutionary War veterans who had once lived in Roane County. This list supposedly showed that David Blevins was, at the time, living in Morgan County, TN.

I am aware of only two early Blevins men with the given name David. The first was my 4th great grandfather who was born between 1771 and 1780 in what is now Sullivan County, TN and died in 1830 in what is now Meigs County, TN. This David Blevins was a son of the previously discussed James Blevins who had apparently refused to muster in John Shelby's militia company. The second David Blevins (1791-1828) was a son of

the previously discussed "Orator" John Blevins who was a known soldier in the British Army. Neither of these documented men named David Blevins was born early enough to have served in the Revolutionary War.

There may or may not have been a previously unknown Revolutionary War soldier named David Blevins but the locales and circumstances cited in the references above are strangely similar to those of the second Daniel Blevins discussed above. I believe it is *likely* that the alleged Revolutionary War soldier named David Blevins was actually named Daniel. Perhaps he adopted and used the name "David" later in life.

Henry Blevins (W.1703) filed an affidavit for pension on August 30, 1832 in Hawkins County, Tennessee. According to his affidavit, he was born about 1759 in Henry County, Virginia. (Henry's birth year is a matter of some controversy. According to the 1840 Hawkins County census of pensioners, he was born in 1756 and according to his 1847 obituary, he was born January 6, 1752.)

In 1777, he enrolled in the War effort in Sullivan County on the Holston River where he resided at the time. He spent 12 months guarding the frontier from hostile Indians and was discharged in 1778. He volunteered for service in 1780 and fought at King's Mountain. He volunteered for service again in about February of 1781 and participated in Martin's Expedition against the Cherokee.

Henry died in Hawkins County, TN on September 12, 1847.

James Blevins (S.32121) filed an affidavit for pension on November 12, 1832 in Lawrence County, Indiana. According to his affidavit, he was born in 1762 "someplace in New England" and moved to Henry County, VA when he was an infant, and then to Montgomery County, VA when he was about ten years of age. He volunteered for service in the summer of 1780 in Montgomery County, VA. James was in several engagements including the Battle of King's Mountain, the Battle of Hobkirk, and the Siege of 96.

He resided in Montgomery County for 8-10 years after the War, near Knoxville, TN for about 18 months, and in Wythe County, VA until about 1821 when he moved to Lawrence County, Indiana. James was placed on the Indiana pension roll at \$20 per annum under the Act of 1832. Certificate 25627 was issued on February 14, 1834. He died sometime after 1850 in Indiana.

James Blevins (W.5221) filed an affidavit for pension on March 1, 1834 in Morgan County, Kentucky. According to his affidavit, he was born in 1751 in Northumberland County, Virginia. His service record appears to reflect multiple, short-term periods in various militia companies. He first volunteered for service in April 1776 in Henry County, VA for a term of 3 months. He volunteered again in May 1777 in Henry County for a period of 4 months. He volunteered again in May of 1779, in August of 1780, and in May of 1781. He mentioned being stationed at the Lead Mines.

James died in Lawrence County, KY on November 28, 1843. His widow Hannah filed affidavits for a widow's pension in 1851 and for bounty land in 1855. In her filings, Hannah stated they had lived in both Morgan and Lawrence Counties, KY. She was placed on the Kentucky pension roll at \$53.33 per annum under the Act of 1848, Certificate # 754 was issued 18 March 1851. A bounty land warrant # 31444 for 160 acres was issued 9 July 1856.

John Blevins (W.943) On July 30, 1856, Sally Blevins, the widow of John Blevins, filed an affidavit in Hancock County, TN seeking a Revolutionary War widow's pension. According to her affidavit, John Blevins served as a private in Grayson County, Virginia, was wounded in his right leg, was taken prisoner by the enemy, and was "redeemed" by an officer named Talton.

Sally provided no additional information on John's service but she did say they had been married in Claiborne County, TN in August of 1832 and that he had been killed in Lee County, VA by a falling tree limb on 17 December 1846. He was *probably* the John Blevins who appeared on the 1840 Lee County, VA census aged between 70 and 80 years (born between 1760 and 1770) living with a female aged between 50 and 60 years.

At the time of her affidavit, Sally was a 69-year old (born about 1787) resident of Hawkins County, TN. Her maiden name was Stevens. She first married Joel Stinson in late August 1805 in Claiborne County, TN. Stinson died April 11, 1828.

Nathan Blevins (W.25253) filed an affidavit for pension on November 12, 1832 in Ashe County, North Carolina. According to his affidavit, he was born about 1763 on the Haw River in North Carolina but moved to Montgomery County, VA when he was still a small boy. He enlisted in 1781 and was marched to Whitton's Fort at the head of the Clinch River. After the war, he lived on the Clinch for 5 years, then moved to Green County, KY and subsequently to Ashe County, NC. He died in Ashe County, NC on April 8, 1834.

His wife Lydia filed for a widow's pension in 1854 in Miami County, OH and applied for bounty land in 1855. In 1868, she applied for an increase in her pension.

William Blevins (R.945). On July 13, 1836, a man named William Blevins applied for a pension in Vermillion County, Illinois. He stated that he was 76 years old at the time and was born in Pittsylvania County VA in 1760. He further stated that he had enlisted as a volunteer in Montgomery County, VA in March of 1776, was stationed at the Lead mines on the River under Captain Swift, and was discharged in the fall of 1778 by Captain Osborne. After the War he lived in Wythe County, VA, in Rutherford County, NC, in Lincoln County, KY, in Vanderburgh County, IN, and in Vermilion County, IL. William Blevins filed a second Vermilion County, IL affidavit on June 4, 1838 in which he stated that he was "born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia" and "was sixteen years of age

the year that the battle of King's Mountain was fought in the war of the Revolution". The Battle of King's Mountain occurred on October 7, 1780, which would suggest that William was born about 1764. He enlisted in the Virginia Militia in March 1780 and served for two years as an Indian spy and in guarding the frontier against Indians and Tories.

