

Densmore  
Family

## ROBERT DUNSMORE/DENSMORE

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Robert Densmore was born in 1782 in Ireland.<sup>1</sup> He was of Scottish lineage, known in Britain as "Ulster Scots," and in America as "Scotch Irish." He first appears in Fayette County, PA, in the 1807 tax records for Bullskin Township. His occupation was listed as "waggoner."

On May 26, 1813, he enlisted in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry of the United States Army at Greensburg, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> He was in Captain Thomas Lawrence's company and served as the orderly sergeant for Shadrack O'Bryan, a fellow Fayette Countian. Their commander was General Wilkinson. The 22<sup>nd</sup> invaded Canada, and Robert Densmore was wounded, losing his right eye and hearing in his right ear. He was discharged at French Mills, New York, on January 22, 1814, with an honorable discharge.<sup>3</sup>

He returned to Fayette County and married Hannah Glen<sup>4</sup> about 1819. They had seven children: Nathaniel (1820), Elizabeth (1826), Robert (1827), Rachel (1835), Samuel (1837), Jane (1838), and H. Oliphant (1840).<sup>5</sup>

In 1820, Robert tried to file for a disability pension because of war wounds. He was denied benefits. In 1844, Congressman Andrew Stewart took up his case, and wrote letters and made inquiries for Robert, which resulted in his receiving benefits retroactive to 1827, when Congress had passed a pension bill for veterans of the War of 1812.<sup>6</sup>

After returning from the war, Robert worked at the Yough Forge.<sup>7</sup> The Yough Forge was on Davidson's Island, Connellsville, and was owned and operated by John Gibson and his sons until 1825.<sup>8</sup>

By 1830, Robert and his family were living in George's Township, Fayette County, near Fairchance.<sup>9</sup> He is listed in tax records and census records as a laborer. Considering his previous experience, he may have worked at the Fairchance Furnace, which was run by F. H. Oliphant. Robert did name his youngest son Oliphant.

Hannah died in 1848, at the age of 48 ears and 13 days. Robert died in 1855, at the age of 73 years. Both are buried in the cemetery at the Tent Presbyterian Church.<sup>10</sup>

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> US Census, 1850, for Georges Township, Fayette Co, PA.

<sup>2</sup> US Army Records, National Archives, Washington, DC.

<sup>3</sup> Pension records, War of 1812, National Archives, Washington, DC.

<sup>4</sup> Obituary for H. O. Densmore, Uniontown newspapers, 6 May 1920.

<sup>5</sup> Opcit, US Census.

<sup>6</sup> Opcit, Pension records.

<sup>7</sup> Ellis, Franklin. *History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania*. Everts & Company, 1882, p. 400.

<sup>8</sup> *Centennial History of Connellsville*, p. 482.

<sup>9</sup> US Census, 1830, Georges Township, Fayette Co., PA.

<sup>10</sup> Tombstone inscriptions, Tent Church Cemetery.



14th Congress.  
1st Session.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

In the House of Representatives.

January 17<sup>th</sup> 1820.

On motion of Mr. Stewart

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Pensions, be instructed to enquire into the expediency of placing Robert Dunsmore, a soldier of the late war on the invalid pension list.

Attest

Wm. Clair Clarke  
Clerk

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY