

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

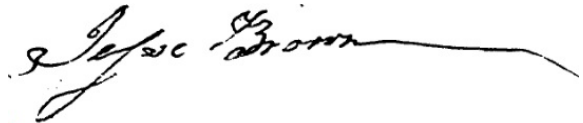
Virginia documents pertaining to John Watkins VAS3230  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files. One document in the file is too faint to transcribe.]

The affidavit of Hartwell Savedge [S7452] of the county of Surry in the State of Virginia, taken at the court House of the said county the Twenty fifth day of November 1833 before Charles H. Graves a Justice of the peace in and for the aforesaid County of Surry; The affiant being duly sworn saith, that he was raised in the County of Surry aforesaid, and that he is about Seventy seven years of Age – that he was well acquainted with Captain John Watkins of the aforesaid county, and well remembers that the said Capt. John Watkins in the year One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six, raised a company of Soldiers, and went with them to North, that they were called and known as the soldiers of the Virginia State line, in the continental army, and that the said Capt. Watkins remained in service till the first of the year One thousand seven Hundred and eighty two, & then on his return home was called a Supernumary [sic: supernumerary, i.e. without enough troops for a command] Captain.



The affidavit of Jesse Brown [S8099] of the county of Surry in the State of Virginia taken on oath at his dwelling House in the said county on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833. This affiant being duly sworn saith that he is about seventy eight years of age, that he was well acquainted with John Watkins of the aforesaid county of Surry, that he well remembers that in the year 1776 that said John Watkins was appointed captain and raised a company of Soldiers (among whom this affiant was one) in the Virginia State Line to act in the Revolutionary army, and that with his said company, which belonged to the fourth Virginia Regiment march to the north, that the said captain Watkins remain'd in the service until after Wallace was captured [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] & in the first of the year 1782 returned Home and was called a Supernumery Officer.



The affidavit of William Brewer of the county of Isle of Wight in the state of Virginia taken this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 1834 before Jesse Roberts a Justice of the peace in and for the aforesaid county of Isle of Wight, the affiant being duly sworn on the holy evangelists of almighty God said, that he was well acquainted with captain John Watkins of Surry County in the aforesaid State, that to the best of his recollection in the spring of the year 1776 the said Capt. John Watkins raised a company and marched to the north, that this affiant was then about ten years old & his father Jorome Brewer was employed by the said Captain Watkins to live on his plantation & attend to his farm in the capacity of overseer, and the said affiant with his father lived on the said Capt Jno Watkins land until the year 1782 that in January of the said year 1782 the said Capt. Watkins returned home, and he this affiant heard him several times say that he expected to be called out into service again, as he held his commission as a supernumerary captain – this affiant was at that time old enough & was on the militia roll – he well remembers that it was the January next after the capture of Corn Wallace that the said Capt Watkins returned for the first time after going into the army to the north.

William hisXmark Brewer

Journal of the Committee of Safety.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1776.

Warrant to Captain John Watkins pr £72.0.0 for the recruiting service in Surry County, bond ackn'd.  
from page 23.

Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> 1776

Commissions issued & del'd Capt Dickenson [probably Edmund B. Dickenson] and Subaltern Officers dated 25<sup>th</sup> February, also to Captain Watkins & his Subalterns dated the 21st March.

from page 70

A Warrant to Capt Jno Watkins pr use Thomas Wall £16.9.2 for provisions to s'd Watkins' Company of 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment also pr use Etheldred Lane £4.5.9 for making Hunting Shirts for the s'd Company.

from page 70

The above are extracted from the minutes on the Journal of the Committee of Safety.

Jas E Heath/ Aud Office/March 26 1834

A Roll of the Resig'd & Supernumerary Officers of the Va. Continental and State Troops.

Names	Rank	Dates of Commissions	Prom'd Since	Corps	Situation	Residence
John Watkins	Capt	1776 Mar 21				I. Wight or Surry

Extract from a List of Resigned & Supernumery Officers. The said List is without date

[<http://revwarapps.org/b86.pdf>]

Jas E Heath Aud/ Aud Off. March 27 1834

1834 Aug 8 Rejected

Petition for bounty land.

The Heirs of John Watkins Capt. C.L.

The Petition fil'd in this case states so correctly the evidence, which is relied upon, that I must refer your Excellency to it.

The name of John Watkins, Captain, has not been found on the army register; nor on any of the Rolls of Officers, except the Roll of resign'd & supernumerary officers.

There is no record in the public officers of Virginia of any settlement of his account as an Officer, either by State auditors, or by the Continental Commissioner.

It belongs to your Excellency to decide the questions submitted by the evidence &c

Resp'y submitted/ John H Smith Com'r. &c

May 19<sup>th</sup> 1834

To his Excellency/ Gov'r Tazewell

To the Executive of Virginia.

The memorial of the undersign'd respectfully represents, that he is Attorney in fact for the heirs of John Watkins dec'd, who was a Captain in the Contineltal Line in the Army of the Revolution as by Powers of Attorney here with shewn will fully appear. That Record proof filed in the case it will appear that the said John Watkins was by recommendation of the Committee of Safety Commissioned as a Captain on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1776. That in the Journals of the House of delegates, it will be seen that "Captain Watkins" is mentioned as having marched to the north which is in strict accordance with the affidavits filed. See Journal of House of Delegates for Dec'r 9<sup>th</sup> 1777 & Jany 5<sup>th</sup> 1778 which information was recently discovered. The undersigned is aware that this reference does not shew Captain "John Watkins, but he verily believes from every fact known to him proved by the affidavits that it refers to no other than Captain John Watkins, the more particularly as there was no other Captain Watkins to be found on the record and most [undeciphered word] no Captain Watkins having ever receiv'd Land Bounty. The undersigned believes that a fair if not a liberal construction, will identify the "Captain Watkins" named in

the Journals as aforesaid with the officer whose heirs he represents. That by other record testimony filed it will be seen that he was in service at least as late as the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct'r 1779, that by the affidavits of witnesses restability is vouched for, it is abundantly proved that he was in service from the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1776 to the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1779. Certainly more than three years. The unsigned [sic] verily believes that the Land Bounty which is asked for by the heirs of Captain John Watkins is due to them, and he respectfully asks that the case may be reconsidered, & sent to the Comm'r on Revolutionary claims, that final action may had on it by your honorable body.

[Henrico County, 18 April 1835]

Respectfully, Nath'l. Young Atto  
for the heirs of Capt. John Watkins

1835 May 29 Rejected

[On 15 Aug 1835 attorney John Gravely requested a reconsideration of the rejection of the claim. The request was rejected on the same day.]

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). This file also contains a copy of The Roll of the Resigned & Supernumerary Officers of the Virginia Continental & State Troops referred to above and transcribed by Will Graves at <http://revwarapps.org/b86.pdf>.]

To the Executive of Virginia

Gent'l'n, The Heirs of Captain John Watkins, who was an officer in the Virginia Continental line, in the war of the Revolution; and also their Agent Mr. Nathaniel Young of Isle of Wight County, have desired me respectfully to submit the following statement to your Honourable body, in order that they may obtain the Land bounty due for the services of their deceased Ancestor.

It is proper to state, that this Case has been before the Executive, and was rejected; that the Papers there filed have been lost or mislaid; and that it is now presented on much additional, and it is hoped it will be found, conclusive evidences of its Justice. It will be seen by the accompanying Document marked A [another copy of extracts from the Journal of the Committee of Safety, etc.]; that John Watkins was a Captain "recruiting in Surry County" as early as the "22<sup>nd</sup> Feby 1776;" that "on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1776, Commissions issued to Capt. John Watkins and his Subalterns;" and, that he belonged to the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment." By reference to the Journal of the House of Delegates for 1777 to 1780, December the 9<sup>th</sup> page 70, it will be seen that Petitions were presented to the House by Mourning Savidge and Mildred Williams, setting forth, that their husbands Philip Savidge [VAS2111] and Lewis Williams [VAS2136], had enlisted in Capt. Watkins' Company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, had marched to the North, and had there died, asking relief &c and on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 1778 in the same Journal, page 99, it will be seen, that the House recognizing the truth and justice of these Petitions, granted the relief prayed for shewing, that Captain John Watkins marched to the North, was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and was doubtless in service whilst these Petitions were before the House in 1777 & 1778. the Undersigned begs leave, in further support of this claim, to refer to the following cases now on file for land bounty, viz, Wm King [William King], Jesse Andrews, Dolphin Davis, Thomas Davidson, Richard Drewry, Edmund Drewry, Philip Thompson, Joseph Thorp, Christopher Thorp, and John Badget. The Affiants in these cases, are Jesse King and Hartwell Savidge, the Cotemporaries of those, in whose behalf they have given evidence, and of Capt John Watkins; their respectability and credibility vouched for, by the Justices before whom their testimony was taken; and they both, uniformly, and in every case refered to, speak of Capt. John Watkins of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. "having served three years." Jesse King one of the affiants, in Jesse Andrews case, says he King was one of Watkins' men, and served his time of three years; and again in Thos. Davidson's case, he uses the language, that he (Davidson) "served full three years," though Watkins himself served out the war." These cases above cited, and to which reference is made, were sent me by Mr. Nath'l Young the Clerk of Isele of Wight County, a gentleman of the most unimpeachable character, and are the claims of his Countymen and neighbours, sustained by the only persons now alive, viz Jesse King & Hartwell Savidge, capable of testifying to their services.

The Undersigned most respectfully submits; whether with this testimony alone, there can exist a

rational doubt, that Capt. Watkins did not serve three years; if not “the war out” as expressed by Jesse King. It does appear that none can reasonably be entertained, unless it be founded on the perjury of these old men, deliberately perpetrated in ten different cases.

Their respectability, and credibility as witnesses, vouched for as they are, render that suggestion too monstrous it is hoped and believed, for one moment to be entertained, or even indulged in. If they be believed, then, this application will no doubt receive the favourable consideration of your Honourable body.

If however, from any cause, doubts should still exist, of a service of three years, if not to the end of the war, by Capt. John Watkins; the undersigned would respectfully refer to the Accompanying Document marked B. This is a Copy from the 1<sup>st</sup> Auditor’s office, of an original list of officers, believed to be in the hand-writing of Mr. Jefferson, then Governor of Va. It is headed, “A Roll of the resigned & supernumerary officers of the Virginia Continental & State Troops.”

This “Roll” has been always considered as an authentic document, of great accuracy in its details, particularly in the dates of the Commissions of the officers, and the “situation” in which they were when this “Roll” was drawn up. this “regard” for its “accuracy,” will be found fully justified by a comparison of It with the “minuets [sic] of the Commitee of safety.” This “Roll” was said by Governor Tazewell, who was familiar with Mr. Jefferson’s hand writing, to have been drawn up by him, some time in the first of the year 1780. this List, purports to be a “Roll of resigned & supernumerary officers &c,” but it bears on its very face, evidences undeniable, that is something more, for exactly one third of the officers named on it, appear to be neither “Resigned,” or “Supernumerary,” for neither the one word, or the other, is written opposite their names in that Column headed “situation.” Again, there are others, who are neither “Resigned,” “Supernumerary,” or who seem to be in actual service, but on the Invalid list; see the names of “Capt. Thos. Walker,” and “Capt. John Ashby,” near the top of the second page (both of whom by the by have received Land bounty). How then, can we regard this, as being only, a “Roll of Resigned & Supernumerary officers &c”? If so, why, are one third of the whole number named on it, left with their “situations” undefined? Can it be deemed unreasonable, or irrational, to conclude; that when the Compiler of this “Roll” drew it up, he defined the “situations” of such only, whose “situations” were known to him, omitting to say any thing of the “situations” of such as were unknown to him? I think not. We are then driven to the conclusion, by the fairest deductions, and by internal evidences on the Paper itself; that it is a “Roll of Resigned & Supernumerary officers &c,” And of officers, not known to be either the one or the other, at the time it was written. In what “situation” then, I would respectfully ask, are we to regard those officers named on this “Roll” who are neither “Resigned” or “Supernumerary”? of whom Capt John Watkins was one. I most respectfully say, they must be regarded, as being in actual service at the time this “Roll” was drawn up.

It now becomes necessary to ascertain, when this “Roll” [illegible] prepared, in order by it alone to prove a service of at least three years on the part of Capt John Watkins (if I had nothing else to rely on). Fortunately I am enabled again to refer to the “Roll” itself to sustain me at least in shewing a time, beyond which, it must have been written, and which will be entirely sufficient to insure a proof of three years service.

It will be seen in the third Column, that the date of each Officers Commission is affixed opposite to his name. On the second page near the top, will be seen “John Watkins “Capt” date of Com’n March 21<sup>st</sup> 1776.” Residence “Isle of Wight or Surry.” (Be it remembered that this is in strict conformity with the Record marked A, taken from the Minuets of the Com’ee of Safety) And on the same page about midway, will be seen “Richard Booker.” “Capt” “date of his Commission” Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 1779. Now it is manifest, that this “Roll” must have been drawn up after the date of Capt Booker’s Commission, viz the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 1779, and how much beyond that day, it is not important to my present purpose now to enquire. From the foregoing we may safely conclude that at the time this “Roll” was written, Captain John Watkins was in service, being neither “Resigned” or “Supernumerary”; that it was written after the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 1779, else how could the date of Capt. R. Bookers Commission have been known; that Capt John Watkins was Commissioned on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1776; and that, from that time to the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 1779, will shew a

service, of three years and eight months, less one day.

There is nothing to induce the belief that John Watkins ever resigned; but there is that, to induce the belief that "he served the war out" viz Jesse [Brown's] affidavit. I respectfully ask for the Heirs, Land bounty to the end of the war, or three years as may seem just. In conclusion, I have only to say, that the Paper marked "C" is a Certificate of the Register [of the Land Office], procured for the purpose of showing, that all those officers immediately before and after John Watkin's name on the "Roll" marked B, have rec'd Land bounty, (some of them to the end of the war) except John Watkins, & Nathaniel Mason [VAS509], the latter never having as yet made application for it. With great respect &c.

Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1839

Jno G. Mosby Atto. & agent for N Young  
& the Heirs

I certify that military warrants have issued to the following persons for services rendered in the Revolutionary war Viz

Warrant no 8165 for 5000 acres issued to the Heirs of Lt. Col. Nathaniel Cocke [R13415] 14<sup>th</sup> July 1835.

W't No 7363 for 4000 acres to the Heirs of Captain Thomas Walker [R18767] 16<sup>th</sup> June 1833.

W't no 2560 for 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres issued to Major Everard Meade [BLWt2063-300] 20<sup>th</sup> Feby 1784.

W't no 2127 for 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres issued to Major Thomas Ridley [BLWt1850-400] 15<sup>th</sup> Dec'r 1783

W't 4376[?] for 666 $\frac{2}{3}$ [?] acres issued to same 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec'r 1785. Wt no 1174 for 3333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres issued to

Major Thomas Massey [Thomas Massie W7403] June 25<sup>th</sup> 1783. a W't no 347 for 5222[?] acres to Major David Stephenson [BLWt2047-400] April 16<sup>th</sup> 1783: also W't 5331 for 777 acres iss'd to D Stephenson

& James Taylor Ass[ign]ee & 5498 for 1000 acres issued to the Legal Representative of Captain Arthur

Smith 1<sup>st</sup> June 1808. W't no 8062 for 400 acres iss'd to one of the Heirs of Capt'n John Ashby [VAS2301]

9<sup>th</sup> Dec'r 1834. W'ts from no 8067 to 8077 inclusive for 4000 acres issued to The Heirs of Capt'n John

Ashby 17<sup>th</sup> Dec'r 1834. also Warrant no 8117 for 228 [undeciphered fraction] acres issued to same 27<sup>th</sup> Feby 1835.

W Selden RL off