

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Watford R11186

fn26NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/16/10

[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. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of South Carolina Darlington District: On this the Seventeenth day of October in the year of our Lord 1832, Personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas & Sessions held for the District of Darlington & State aforesaid Joseph Watford a resident of the District of Darlington & State aforesaid aged eighty-four years -- who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 -- That he enlisted in the Army of the United States sometime during the revolutionary War, the precise time he cannot recollect and served in a foot company under Captain Jas Lenear [James Lanier?] and marched from Pitt County North Carolina, to Stono and was there commanded by Colonel Johnston and the whole Brigade commanded by General Butler -- That he served at Stono and its vicinity four months under the said officers, that he was in the action during that time, that a fight took place during his service as above between the Americans and British at Stono¹ -- But this deponent does not recollect who the British were commanded by but thinks they were commanded by Wallace -- That after the expiration of the said four months this deponent returned home to Pitt County North Carolina and whilst in Pitt County aforesaid, that it became necessary, by some regulation which said deponent is unable to explain, that every 15th man in said County should serve the term of 15 months in the Continental service and that he among the other 14 joined and paid one to go and served 15 months and that their substitute was named Charles Edwards -- That this Charles Edwards marched from Pitt County North Carolina under Captain William May to Halifax and when this man had served the 15 months, every 12th man was liable to do Continental service and that he among the other 11 hired a substitute and that his name was Britain Peoples, but does not recollect who he served under but that he marched to the North somewhere and returned after having served the 12 months and that then every 9th man was liable to do Continental service and that he with the other 8 hired the same Britain Peoples to serve in their place and that he came to the South but does not recollect who he served under but that when he had served his time out he started to go home and was taken sick and died.

And I Joseph Watford served two tours after that, first under Captain Richard Reaves who marched us to Wilmington North Carolina and there served my time out and came home and the second tour I served under Captain Jesse Proctor who marched us about through the Country to

¹ June 20, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/stonoferry.htm>

keep the British from doing any damage -- and that he served six months in those tours of duty, three months at each -- that the said deponent never received any remuneration from any person for his Continental service. That he has no documents of his services as his certificates & papers were lost by Mr. Dargan when he went to Columbia. The said deponent can prove his services by one John Hill living in the district of Darlington --

S/ Joseph Watford

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year above written

S/ B. J. Earle, Presiding judge

[Robert Campbell, a clergyman, and Rasha Cannon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Alabama Dale County: On this the 6th day of May in the year of our Lord 1844 personally appeared before Gappie T. Yelverton Judge of the County Court of Dale County (a court of record) in the State of Alabama Joseph Watford who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That the said deponent is now 102 years of age, that he moved from Darlington District State of South Carolina in the year of our Lord 1833 to the County of Dale, in the State of Alabama, where he still resides; that deponent was born in the State of North Carolina, and resided in Pitt County in the aforesaid state during the Revolutionary War, that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory, and the length of time which has transpired since the deponent served in the Revolutionary War, he cannot nor does not recollect the particular years in which he did military service in said war, but saith that he served personally as a soldier in said war fourteen months, and that he entered the service under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated. That he entered the service under Captain James Lanier, as a volunteer, being then a resident of Pitt County, in the State of North Carolina, Jonas Johnson Colonel and General Butler in command, and marched from Pitt County C. to South Carolina and was during this term of four months service at the battle of Stono. The next tour of service for four months, he served under Captain Samuel Barrow was drafted, Benjamin Sowell [sic, Benjamin Sewell] Colonel, that he resided at the time of entering this service at Pitt County, North Carolina, he marched to meet General Gates but did not arrive before the defeat of General Gates in South Carolina, being in two days march of his destination, was ordered back and spent the remainder of that tour of service on Deep River in North Carolina. The next tour of service for three months he served under Captain Jesse Proctor, William Caswell General, was drafted in Pitt County, marched to Trent River in North Carolina, and was in an engagement with the British at Saunders Bridge on Trent River. The next tour for three months he was drafted and served under Captain Richard Reeves, Major Sheppard, was ordered from Pitt County North Carolina to Wilmington but before arriving was ordered to return and was discharged at Kingston [sic, Kinston], this was his last service and about the close of the war. The deponent further states that he remembers of the officers Captains Whitley, Stafford and Hall, but does not now remember the name of any regular officer, and that from his first term of service to his last term bear must have elapsed at least four years, during which time he served as above stated, never in any other capacity but a private soldier, of the [word obliterated], and was not engaged in any civil pursuit, for the term during which the service is herein stated to have been performed, and the deponent further says that he had a discharge from every officer under which he served, but that they have been mislaid so that he cannot find them, and the deponent further says that he knows of no person by whom he could prove his service by unless he could do so by one John Hill of Darlington district South Carolina and that he does not know if he'll he

still living and that he has no opportunity of procuring the evidence of said Hill, and that he has no other way of proving his service but by his own oath, and this deponent hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State or Territory whatever so far as he knows or is informed, that in 1833 papers in support of his claim was forwarded to the Department but were defective as appeared, and that since that time he has used every exertion to have his claim established, but from the inattention of those who have undertaken, his right has as yet not been established.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Gappa T. Yelverton, Judge

S/ Joseph Watford, X his mark

[Thomas N. Garner, a clergyman, and William Windham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

When and in what year were you born?

Mr. Watford answers. That he was born on the 29th day of January in the year 1742 in the State of North Carolina.

Have you any record of your age? And if so, where is it?

Joseph Watford answers. That he has had a record of his age but the same is lost but as well as he can recollect his age is as above stated.

Where was you living when called into the service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war: and where do you now live?

Joseph Watford answers. That he was living in Pitt County State of North Carolina when called into the service, remove shortly after the close of the war to the State of South Carolina, Darlington District, since then moved to Dale County Alabama, where he still resides.

How were you called into the service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

Joseph Watford answers. That he served his first tour as a volunteer for 4 months, afterwards he was drafted, the whole of the militia being drafted by divisions and serving each in his turn.

State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the General Circumstances of your service.

Joseph Watford answers. That he does not by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory recollect the names of any of the Regular officers, although having seen many of them, nor can he remember the names of any of the officers of the Continental or militia regiments but remembers the frequent meeting and marching together with other regiments of the State of North Carolina, and other soldiers in the service of the United States. The general circumstances of his services are [word obliterated] out in his declaration, he would have over answer with pleasure any questions relative to his service which the Department may think proper to propose as he desires to place his claim in the [indecipherable word] view before the department.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service? If so by whom was it given, and what has become of it.

Joseph Watford answers. That he received a discharge from Colonel Jonas Johnson, from Colonel Benjamin Sowell, from General William Caswell, and from Major Sheppard. That these discharges have been lost or mislaid so that he cannot find them some many years ago, one he remembers to have had in the last 15 years, which has been lost also -- not presenting at the time they were given him that they would ever be useful, he did not take any very great care of them. State the names of Persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood, who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your Services as a Revolutionary Soldier.

Joseph Watford answers. And refers to Thomas Andrews, Moses Mathews, John Mathews, Dempsey Taylor, Dempsey Dowling, and Charles Field who have known him for the last 30 years, besides his neighbors generally.

S/ Joseph Watford, X his mark

[fn p. 16-17: document dated December 20, 1853 signed by Judge Abel Echols in which the judge finds that Joseph Watford was a soldier of the revolution and pensioner at the rate of \$60 per annum; that he died July 26, 1844 survived by Hardy Watford the only surviving son and Elizabeth, Frances & Winniford the only daughters now living, those who have died being Nancy, Jonas, John, Barney, William, Joseph & Joel, all the children of Joseph Watford