

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Watkins R11195

fn16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/12/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. 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. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County: SS

On this 8th day of November 1834 personally appeared before me David R. Gooch an acting Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Richard Watkins a resident of the County of Rutherford in the State of Tennessee aged eighty-three 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.

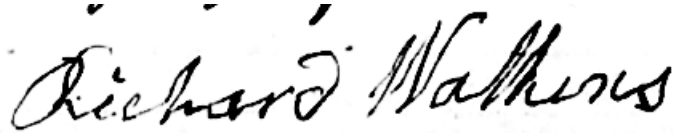
Declarant states that he was born in the County of Chesterfield State of Virginia on the 26 January 1751, and removed to Charlotte County in the same State, and on the 1st January 1781 entered the service of the United States as a drafted Militia man, under the command of Captain William Morton was rendezvoused at Halifax Court House – where Colonel Thomas Read assumed the command as Colonel Commandant. General Green [Nathanael Greene] was the commander in chief in that section of Country then – The whole Corps was marched into North Carolina, crossing Dan River on the march. Declarant was not in the battle fought at Guilford Court House, but was in hearing; for declarant had the previous day then detached with a foraging party; and joined the Army the day after the battle was fought – In this Company declarant was in active service from the time of his entering the Army until discharged, which was about the middle of April 1781 – Declarant was discharged in the State of North Carolina by Captain William Morton; but he cannot recollect the place of his discharge; and returned home to Charlotte County State of Virginia – In the Tour declarant was in service 3 months and a half; from the time of his joining the service to the time of his discharge – About the first August 1781 in the County of Charlotte State of Virginia declarant was again drafted under the command of Captain __James and rendezvoused at Petersburg – Here Colonel John Holcomb and Major __Allen took command of the Corps, and marched it to Jamestown. While on the march Captain __Jennings became sick, in the command of the company devolved upon Captain Gideon Spencer, and Jennings returned home. The Corps was marched to within 5 or 6 miles of Jamestown, and lay encamped near a big Spring – In this Tour declarant was discharged the first November 1781 and returned home – This campaign declarant was in service three months; making six months and a half that declarant was in service – There was regular Troops at Jamestown under General Green, but declarant does not now recollect what troops they were – and the only officer, of which declarant now has a distinct recollection, was Colonel of Stokes from Lunenburg; and he believes that he was a militia Colonel – Declarant was in no battle, but was in hearing when the battle was fought at Guilford Courthouse. Declarant states that he received discharges from Captain William Morton and from Major __Allen; both of which, time has destroyed – and declarant knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services. Declarant is eighty-three years of age, and has a record of his age now at home in the family

Bible. After the close of the war declarant remained in the State of Virginia until the year 1800 when he moved to Rutherford County State of Tennessee, where [he] has resided ever since and now resides; and declarant is well known in his neighborhood to Nathan Williams Esquire, David R Gooch Esquire, Captain James S Smith, Lockett Davis Esquire, James Morton, Thomas J Anthony, Colonel John Gooch, Absalom Rogers, James Nevins, William Nevins, & John Holloway all of whom declarant believes would testify to his character for veracity and their belief of the services of declarant as a soldier in the revolution – Declarant has no documentary evidence to prove his said service, and knows of no one who can testify to his said services. He hereby relinquishes every 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ D R Gooch, JP

S/ Richard Watkins

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Watkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

State of Tennessee Rutherford County: SS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Richard Watkins, who being duly sworn deposed and saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; or particularly to the many incidents which occurred during the two campaigns he served his country – but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following Grades – for three months and a half as a private soldier under Captain Morton – For three months under Captain Jennings, and Captain Spencer; and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ Richard Watkins

[Nathan Williams and James S Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]