

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Watson R11207 Tabitha fn57VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/15/11

[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.]

[fn p. 5]

State of Pennsylvania County of Pike: SS

On this 2nd day of October in the year 1850 personally appeared before the subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of common pleas in and for the County of Pike aforesaid Tabitha Watson a resident of the Township of Lackawaxen in said County of Pike & State of Pennsylvania aged eighty-six years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her solemn oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th, 1838 and the subsequent Acts and the subsequent acts relating thereto. That she is the widow of William Watson who was a noncommissioned officer to wit a Corporal of Infantry in the War of the Revolution and as she has been informed and verily believes served in a company commanded by Captain Simon Morgan in the Virginia line of Infantry. He remained in service to the close or near the close of the War and received his discharge which declarant has frequently seen in his possession but which is now lost or destroyed. He was in several engagements during the war – Was in the Battle at Kings Mountain in the fall of 1780 serving in the Virginia line of troops commanded in that Battle by Colonel Richard Campbell. In that battle he was severely wounded by a ball in the hips. He also received other wounds while serving in said War of the Revolution and in consequence of the wounds so received he continued lame and a cripple to the time of his death – She knows of no person by whom the services of her said husband can be proved but relies mainly upon the evidence of them which made be found among the Records of the War Department. She further declares that she was married to the said William Watson on the 19th day of November in the year 1785 at the House of her father Jacob Swartwood at the Town of Warwick in the County of Orange and State of New York by the Reverend Mr. Benedict Pastor of the Baptist Church of that place. She has no certificate of marriage and knows of no record of it in existence – That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 to wit at the time above stated. And that her said husband William Watson died on the 25th day of February 1828 in the Township of Montague any State of Sussex and State of New Jersey.

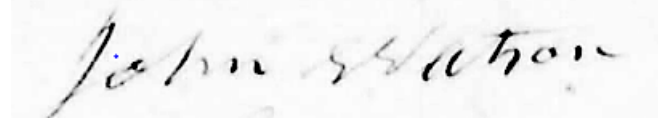
Sworn & subscribed before made the day and year first above written.

S/ John H Broadhead, Associate Judge

S/ Tabitha Watson, X her mark

[fn p. 9: On January 10, 1853 in Orange County New York, John Watson, 63, a resident of Westfall Township Pike County Pennsylvania gave testimony that he is the son of William & Tabitha Watson; that he was born in Warwick, Orange County New York on December 1, 1789; that his father was reputed in the neighborhood in which they lived had been a soldier of the

revolution; that he has often seen a discharge given his father as a soldier of the revolution; that his father always stated that he was wounded while a soldier of the revolution; that when he was young his parents removed to Sussex County New Jersey where and in Milford Pennsylvania the family continued to live until William Watson's death which occurred in February 1828 in the Township of Montague, County of Sussex state of New Jersey; he had a sister older than himself by the name of Sarah but she is deep; that he is consequently the oldest living child of his parents; his brother James is now 61 years old and living in Pike County Pennsylvania.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Watson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a small blue dot above the letter 'i' in "John".

[fn p. 11]

Amended Declaration of Tabitha Watson in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress of July 7th, 1838 and subsequent acts relating thereto: –

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania County of Pike: SS: on this 11th day of October 1852 personally appeared before the Subscriber, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Pike aforesaid Tabitha Watson a resident of the Township of Lackawaxen in said County of Pike, to me well-known, who being first by me duly sworn according to law, doth on her sworn oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed July 7th, 1838 and the subsequent acts relating thereto allowing pensions to certain widows of Revolutionary Soldiers. That she is a resident of said town of Lackawaxen, and is aged eighty-eight years: That she is the widow of William Watson who was a noncommissioned officer in the Virginia Continental line of the Army of the Revolution: that the statements made in her former declaration were according to the best of her knowledge information and belief as to his services and such statements she repeats, states to be so, but she was not then nor is now able to state the length of time he served. She has frequently heard her said husband say that he was born in the County of Westchester in the State of New York, that his father died when he, her said husband, was young: That his uncle placed him on board an English man of war, in the British service, before the commencement of the Revolutionary War. That after the commencement of the Revolutionary War, and whilst cruising on the coast of Virginia, he escaped from said ship, and enlisted into the Virginia Continental line in the Army of the Revolution and served therein to the end of said War, when he received a Certificate of Discharge, which he often showed, read and spoke of as such discharge and which she herself often read and knows to be such discharge, according to his language and meaning, discharged her said husband from said Virginia Continental line. That she has heard him say frequently that he was wounded in said service in the war of the Revolution and she knows that he was lame the first she knew him, as if of wounds but it was not to such an extent as to prevent him from laboring and maintaining his family by his own means and exertions and prided in the idea that he was able so to do without calling on his country for aid. That such discharge was burnt with their dwelling house in the Township of Montague, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, where she and her said husband then resided.

That she and her said husband, William Watson, were married as stated in her said former declaration. That her maiden name was Tabitha Swartwood, more lately spelled Swartwout. That she and the said William Watson intermarried at the house of her father, Jacob Swartwood, in the County of Orange and State of New York, the Reverend James Benedict pastor of the Baptist Church at Warwick in said County of Orange officiating on such marriage. That she has

no record of such marriage, the family record having been burnt with the ground house aforesaid, but she is sure such marriage took place on the 19th day of November 1785. That she and her said husband had children born of such marriage to which John Watson now aged 63 and James Watson now aged 61, both now residents of said County of Pike and the latter the present high Sheriff of said County of Pike.

That she commenced talking about endeavoring to procure a pension for said Services under said Act of Congress shortly after it passed but in consequence of her said husband having served in the State of Virginia & out of this State and had a distance from her residence the undertaking seemed difficult and was therefore delayed till she was introduced to John Martin Esquire of Mount Hope County of Orange and State of New York, who as long ago as 1842 commenced aiding her to procure a pension under said acts of Congress.

That her said husband William Watson died on the __day of February 1828 [had] his residence in the Township of Montague County of Sussex and State of New Jersey aforesaid.

That she has never since intermarried with anyone but has ever since remained & still remains a widow.

And that she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service but that the marriage took place before the first day of January 1794, to wit, at the time and place above stated. That she does not know of any person now living who was present at said intermarriage and does not believe that there is now any person living who was present at such intermarriage. And that she has no writing and knows of none showing the fact of such marriage –

Sworn to and subscribed before me one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Pike aforesaid at the town of Milford in said County this 11th day of October 1852.

S/ H. M. Laban, Associate Judge

S/ Tabitha Watson, X her mark

[fn p. 22: Abstracts of records in Virginia showing payments made to Simon Morgan and Richard Campbell certify to by the state auditor of public accounts for the state of Virginia.]

[Note: there are several affidavits in this file from men who knew and/or worked with William Watson and who testify as to their recollection of what Watson said about his services. Two of these witnesses say that Watson claimed to have been in the battles at Camden, Cowpens, Guilford Court House, and Ninety Six.]