

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

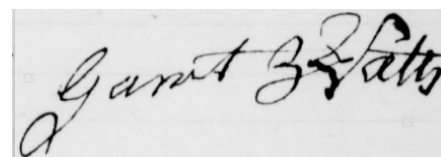
Pension Application of Garret Watts R11213 Anna Watts NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 June 2015.

The State of Alabama } County Court
Perry County } SS June Term AD 1834

On this sixth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared in open Court before Dunklin Sullivan Judge of the County Court of the County & State aforesaid now siting Garrett Watts a resident of the county of Perry and state of Alabama aged seventy eight 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. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

To the best of my recollection in the fall of the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine [sic] as a private I entered the service of the United States. It was a company of Cavalry that I first entered under the command of Captain Miner Smith [Minor Smith] this company composed a part of a Regiment of Cavalry (the number of which I can not remember). The Major of the Regiment was Charles Polk (called devil Charles) of Mecklinburg [sic: Mecklenburg] County of N. Carolina. The Colo. who commanded this Regiment was also called Colo. Smith, I do not know his given name [Robert Smith]. I lived in Surry County of N. Carolina at that time & believe it was in October of the year above stated that I entered. My term of service was for three months as follows. I well remember that at this time Lords Rawdon and Cornwallace were said to be in Wilmington, and the tories had become greatly encouraged down in that quarter. [see endnote] We first proceeded from Surry County to Salem – from 10 to 15 miles – thence in the direction of Wilmington a distance of perhaps near two hundred miles. Information was received by our officers from a Colonel Leonard who resided in the neighbourhood which was called the truce ground that there was to be a large assemblage of the tories in his neighbourhood. we passed near Wilmington. After much fatigue & hardship in crossing swams [swamps?], lakes &c we approached the place at which the tories were to assemble by two different routs & from oposite directions. whether our arrival was too early or had been suspected by the tories it is uncertain we found but seven men at the place all of whom were killed. there was a great multitude of women there. we moved a few miles from that place & encamped during the night which was dark and rainy we were attacked suddenly by a large body of tories & we were warmly engaged for a short time. after the first confusion was over we were ordered to charge, dark as it was except the light of the guns, we were successful in driving them back a few were killed & wounded on both sides. we lost some of our horses but succeeded in recovering most of them next day. we also killed one or two of the enemy next day. This was near a lake which was called Wackamaw [sic: Lake Waccamaw] which we swam several times. I think I was now near twenty three years old. What I have above stated is the principal part of my service that was important during my first three months service. Our return was by way of Fayetteville then called Cross Creek: at this place we were discharged. It is rather my belief that I had a written discharge. if I had I have lost it and know not how. Four or five months after my first term expired and after I had moved to Caswell County in the same state I was again called into service as a private in the North Carolina Militia a foot soldier. The Lieutenant of the company to which I belonged was named Borin. The Captain was named Odem [sic: Daniel Odom]. The name of the colonel of the Redgement to which I now belonged I do not remember for we marched in a single company from Caswell County – marched from the upper part of N. Carolina down to Fayetteville. at this place we were put under the command of General [John] Butler. This was a distance of sixty or eighty miles. we were thence marched to Charlotte [sic: Charlotte] in N. Carolina a distance by the route of nearly one hundred miles. we here joined the command of General [Horatio] Gates a regular officer; also of General Dickson [sic: Col. Henry Dixon]; DeKalb also had comand here of the regular soldiers We next marched to Rugeley's Mills (the name of a notorious old tory Colonel [Henry Rugeley]) in South Carolina – perhaps a distance of seventy or eighty miles –; from Rugeleys

mills five or six miles further to a place called Sutton's (as well as I remember) this was not far from Camden where the British were under Rawdon and Cornwallace The two armies came near each other at Sutton's about 12 or 1 o'clock in the night (this was in the year seventeen hundred & eighty [about 2:30 AM, 16 Aug 1780]) The pickets fired several rounds before day. I well remember every thing that occurred the next morning. I remember that I was among the nearest to the enemy – that a man named John Lummus was my file leader – that we had orders to wait for the word to commence firing – that the militia were in front & in a feeble condition at that time. they were fatigued, the weather was warm excessively. they had been fed a short time previously on molasses entirely. I can state on oath that I believe my gun was the first gun fired notwithstanding the orders: for we were close to the enemy who appeared to maneuver in contempt of us & I fired without thinking except that I might prevent the man opposite from killing me The discharge and loud roar soon became general from one end of the lines to the other – amongst other things I confess I was amongst the first that fled – the cause of that I can not tell except that every one I saw was about to do the same. it was instantaneous. there was no effort to rally no encouragement to fight. officers & men joined in the flight. I threw away my gun & reflecting I might be punished for being found without arms I picked up a drum – which gave forth such sounds when touched by the twigs I cast it away when we had gone we heard the roar of guns still but we knew not why. had we known we might have returned. It was that portion of the army commanded by DeKalb fighting still. DeKalb was killed. General Dickson was wounded in the neck and great many killed & wounded even on the first firing. after this defeat many of the dispersed troops proceeded to Hillsborough in North Carolina. I obtained a furlough from General Dickson & had permission to return home a short time. This last tour was for the space of three months & truly laborious. not long after the defeat of General Gates at Camden I think near three months, General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene, Dec 1780] a regular officer came from towards the north This was also as well as I remember in seventeen hundred and eighty I entered the service again under Captain Odem being again drafted I do not know what the colonel's name was, I think Colo Moore however and was placed under the command of General Green. I was at the battle of Guilford Courthouse [NC, 15 Mar 1781] under General Green. this was fought at some old fields turned out & surrounded by broken fences. General Green having divided his army into three Divisions behind one of these fences placed first a division of select Riflemen – 2nd the militia were stationed in the rear in the woods last and still further in the rear to prevent retreat like Gen Gates were placed the regulars. This was a great battle both sides fought until they were willing to cease but we had the advantage for the last division were just beginning to bear heavy on them & the British had to give back These were times of great suffering. we had but little meat as little to wear feeble & worn down. I was also during this term of my service with General Green at the Battle at Camden or near it [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, 25 Apr 1781]. Through carelessness or otherwise the tired soldiers were suffered to loiter and wash at the River Watteree [sic: Wateree] and in the mean time a drummer belonging to some of the Regiments under General Green deserted entered Camden & let the British know our condition. They came out upon us and we had to fight hard & finally were compelled to give way. Shortly after this my last term of service expired. To the best of my recollection I served and was subject to constant service for nine months if not more. If I ever had written discharges I have lost them but my recollection is indistinct as to that. I never did receive the amount of pay I was entitled to The small amount I did receive was in continental money which turned out to be of no value. I served as a private the whole time. I have no documentary evidence of my service. I know of no person now living whose testimony I can procure or who can testify as to my service. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Genl G. M. Moore". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

To the following Interrogatories prescribed by the War department the applicant answers as follows

1st Where & in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born on the eighth day of January seventeen hundred and fifty six in Caroline County & State of Virginia at the age of twelve moved to North Carolina where I entered the service of the United States.

2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer My age is recorded in my fathers family Bible which is in possession of some of his decendants I know not whom

3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. When I was first called into service I lived in Surry County North Carolina The two next times in Caswell County of the same State after the war I moved to Jefferson Cty Georgia, thence to Pendleton S. Carolina, thence to Bledsoe Cty E. Tennessee, thence to Jefferson Cty, thence to Perry Cty in the this State where I now reside

4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute And if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I volunteered the first time in a horse company – afterwards drafted Both times

5th 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 services.

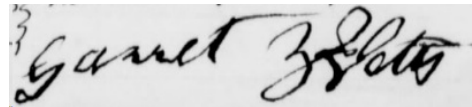
Answer. As regular officers when I served I mention General Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter], Gates, Green, DeKalb, Dickson. I am not altogether certain that Sumpter & Dickson were regular officers but the others were. I do not know how to designate the Regiments more particularly the numbers I can not recollect there is a slight impression on my mind that I belonged to the fourth of N. Carolina Militia I have stated the general circumstances of my service as particularly in my declaration as I can state.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I think I received discharges once from Capt'n Odem the other from Colo Smith. If I did I have lost them years ago

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I could state a great many names but will name a few – Samuel Boydston, Balam Self, Joseph Evans, Rev John Craig &c. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above written

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garnet Z. Self". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the text "Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above written".

[Certified by John Craig and Balam Self.]

NOTES:

Watts was clearly mistaken in stating that his tour to the vicinity of Wilmington occurred in 1779. Col. Francis, Lord Rawdon and Gen. Charles Cornwallis were not active in the Carolinas until after the surrender of Charleston SC on 12 May 1780. Wilmington did not fall to the British until Jan 1781, and Cornwallis was not there except briefly in the spring of 1781. J. D. Lewis generously responded to my query regarding this tour in part as follows: "I'm confident that he is describing the events that I have consolidated in my website in an engagement called 'Seven Creeks,' [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_seven_creeks.html] and it happened circa November 16, 1781 - in the swamps of Brunswick County, what is now Columbus County. Col. Robert Smith raised a new unit called the NC State Legion - including Infantry and Light Horse. He was at the vanguard of BG Rutherford's large column, and he had men involved in the engagement the day before at

the 'Brick House' along the Cape Fear River. He sent a detachment led by Maj. Joseph Graham with four companies of the NC State Legion plus one company from the Chatham County Regiment of Militia to scour the area south of Wilmington. Here they had several 'incidents' with the local Loyalists, which were led by Maj. Micajah Gainey of South Carolina, who kept eluding Francis Marion until soon after this event."

On 6 June 1851 Anna Watts, 84, of Gibson County TN, applied for a pension stating that her name before marriage was Anna Self, that she married Garret Watts on 16 July 1787, and he died 6 Feb 1838. On 22 Mar 1852 she gave her age as about 86 and stated that she married Garret Watts when she was 20 in Anson County NC. The claim was rejected for insufficient proof of the marriage.