

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wadkins (Watkins) S11662

f17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/15/17

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of North Carolina, Warren County} Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of said Court now sitting, it being a Court of record, John Wadkins of the County aforesaid – aged 70 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 – To wit

That the events of the periods during which he served have transpired so long since that many of them are entirely forgotten and others are but imperfectly remembered – and being but a private soldier very little opportunity was afforded him of becoming acquainted with, or of knowing even the names of, officers except those under whose immediate command he served. He however ventures to declare – That while he was quite young – perhaps about eight or nine years old his parents moved from the County of Hanover – State of Virginia – and settled within a few miles of where he now resides – it being then the County of Granville, North Carolina – but since cut off from it & now constituting a part of the County of Warren aforesaid. That some time before Gates' Defeat at Camden South Carolina [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], while living in the capacity of an overseer with one Benjamin Thomas in the County of Granville aforesaid, this affiant – became a substitute in the place of one Freeman (whose Christian name, he thinks, was Harry) who had been drafted as a militia man for three months. That Captain Bartlett Searcy [Bartlett Searcey] & Lieutenant Sherwood Simms both of said County were ordered to the command of his company. That they marched from Harrisburg in said County (in company with another company of militia under the command of Captain Banks [Ralph Banks]) with orders to join General Gates' Army in the South. That they passed by the Carraway Mountains – crossed the River Yadkin and the great Pedee [Pee Dee River] in South Carolina and got to a certain X roads about 6 or 7 miles from Massey's ferry on the latter River – where they were met by the Americans escaping from Gates' defeat – which we understood was the day before –The Troops continued to come in all day – we were then all marched back to Massey's Ferry – at which we crossed & joined on this side some Virginia militia. This affiant recollects Major Stubblefield<sup>1</sup> & Captain Quinn [? could be Green]-- of Virginia militia – (Captain Searcy's & Captain Banks' Companies crossed Pedee in their route southwardly above Massey's ferry). From this place the troops were marched to one Cotton's Tavern in the Western part of this State – N. C. which they reached in, he thinks, two days. Here they remained two or three days and during the time took some Tories as Prisoners and killed others – who were engaged in plundering the American troops as they returned from the defeat-- After two or three days further

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<sup>1</sup> Colonels George Stubblefield and John Stubblefield are the only officers in the VA militia with their surname known to have been in the Battle of Camden.

march, the North Carolina militia under Captains Searcy and Banks separated from the other troops and were marched back to Granville Court House where they received a furlough for a few days – to see their families – when they were called together again and marched through Hillsborough N. C. to a place called the Hawfields where they joined the troops under one General Butler [John Butler] – whose aid was Major Sharp [probably a reference to Anthony Sharpe]. At this place and about it they were employed against the Tories until this affiant's three months service expired – when he was regularly discharged –very soon afterwards he was drafted again for three months – and met at Harrisburg in Granville aforesaid. His company was commanded by Captain William Gilliam and attached to the Regiment of militia under the command of Colonel William Moore and Major Dempsey Moore. We were marched to Hillsboro N. C. and remained there about a week. Here he learnt some regular troops came in from the North but he did not see them. We then marched southwardly & crossed Haw River at Butler's Ford – thence to Island Ford on the Yadkin [River], then through Salisbury and Charlotteville [sic, Charlotte] to Six Mile Creek, where we joined the light-Infantry under General Davison [sic, William Lee Davidson] – the Regulars under Colonel Dixon [Henry Dixon] and the Cavalry under Colonel Washington [William Washington]. During our stay at Six Mile Creek where we remained some time, Colonel Washington with his Horse took an excursion to the South and penetrated as far as Rugeley's Mills – the seat of Colonel Rugeley [Henry Rugeley] who commanded the Tories – and tookhim & his company & brought them in to Six Mile Creek. He understood there and it was the common talk of the soldiers – that Colonel Washington finding Colonel Rugeley's strongly fortified – got a pine Tree & skinned it & planted it before the Fort – as if it was a Cannon – upon which Rugeley & his men surrendered.<sup>2</sup> The North Carolina Regiment under Colonel Moore to which he was attached carried the Prisoners from Six Mile Creek to Salisbury N. C. and put them in Goal – where he remained to guard them until he was discharged. During this service he performed his three months tour for which he was drafted – and one month in addition as the substitute for one Samuel Moss – of the militia – a short time before the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] – he was drafted again and put under the command of Captain Richard Harrison and Colonel Taylor of the Regiment of Militia – and marched to Hillsborough, where we joined the militia under General Butler and Major Sharp – we were marched from Hillsboro to High Rock Ford on Haw River and there joined the forces under the command of General Greene. Here we made a good many excursions in pursuit of the Tories – we were thence marched to Guilford Court House. After being here a few days – (how many he does not recollect --) the officers came round at night with information that a General engagement was expected next day and distributed ammunition among the soldiers. The next day there was some skirmishing at a small distance from the Main Army – early in the morning. The North Carolina Militia was stationed in the front line in the rear of a fence – This affiant was in the left wing – orders were given us not to fire until the Enemy passed two dead Trees standing in the field through which he [they ?] was to approach us, about 100 yards from the fence. The morning was cloudy – cannonading commenced on both sides which lasted a short time only – after it ceased, the enemy began to advance and fire – and as soon as they reached the trees the N. C. militia fired – and that part of the line in which he was exchanged three or four fires – when they became alarmed by report that the enemy was surrounding them – and fled– Colonel Washington endeavored to rally the men but could not. This affiant stopped at the Court House – about one mile in the rear and saw the engagement between the British and the Maryland line – Washington's horse were at the Court House at the commencement of the engagement, and formed and rode over the Branch to the opposite Hill where the battle was raging and charged the enemy – some of the militia who

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_rugeley\\_mills\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html)

had stopped at the Court House followed in the rear of the Horse to the Battle Ground – after [sometime] I started again & went to a Relation's [house] about 15 miles distant where I remained three or four days – when understanding that the American soldiers had reassembled at a certain iron works – called the Troublesome Iron Works – about 10 or 12 miles from Guilford Court House, he went back to that place and joined them. From there they marched in close pursuit of the enemy who had gone on towards Wilmington N. C. -- until they reached Ramsey's Mill on Deep River – near the Junction of Deep & Haw Rivers –when we got there [we] found the mill had been set on fire by the British and extinguished it. Trees were cut down across the Road in many places to impede our march. The enemy crossed the River hard by a bridge constructed by themselves of Trees and fence rails taken from a neighboring fence – at this place (Ramsey's Mill) a strong force was left – this affiant being one of them – remained until he was regularly discharged – it being his last tour of three months touring the war – and making 10 months service rendered by him in his three campaigns.

This affiant hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State. He has no Register of his age – but always understood he was born in the spring of the year 1762. He has lived ever since his parents moved to North Carolina at and near the place he now occupies – with the exception of a few months spent in Virginia. His discharges are lost or destroyed – he never considered them of any use after the War. He does not recollect by whom they were signed – but thinks by his respective Captains.

He has no other proof of his service within his reach except that set forth in the annexed affidavits – of his neighbors and old acquaintances.

Sworn to in open Court.

S/ John Watkins [sic], X his mark

S/ Caswell Drake, ClkCC

[Charles Allen, a clergyman, and Richard Short gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.53 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the North Carolina militia.]