

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Samuel Watson
S17187

Transcribed by Susan K. Zimmerman and R. Neil Vance

[Transcribers Note: This Samuel Watson (b. 1754) of York County, SC should not be confused with Colonel Samuel Watson (1731 -1810), also of York County, SC.]

State of Missouri
County of Pike Sept. Term, Pike Circuit Court 1832

On this 27th day of September in the year one thousand Eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court being the circuit court for said county of Pike now sitting Samuel Watson Senr. resident of the said County of Pike in the State of Missouri aforesaid 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 hereinafter stated [.]

That in the year 1775 he the Said Samuel Watson senr. enroll [sic] himself as a volunteer in Col. Neels [Thomas Neel] regiment of Militia under general Pickins [Andrew Pickens] against the Cherokee Indians until the Campaign ended and in the year 1776 enrolled himself again as a volunteer against the same nation of Indians and served untill they were subdued having been engaged in the bloody battle with those Indians then known as the battle of the black hole [sic – Black Hole] that he served in the same regiment in Capt. Henry's [probably William Henry] Company he being Lieutenant of said Company. in the year 1777 [the year could be wrong, probably 1780] he entered the Service of his Country as a volunteer in Col Brattan's [William Bratton] regiment of militia under Genl Sumpter for the Term of one year or upward and from the end of that period he served under different officers in Genl Greens army. Sometimes as an officer, but principally as a private still as a volunteer under the Command of Militia officers and found his own horse and accoutrements until the end of the war. He further states that he did on the 5th day of February 1829 file his Declaration in the Circuit Court for the County of Pike, Missouri with a view to procure a pension under the several acts of Congress passed in the month of March 1818 May 1820, and March 1823 which Said Declaration having as he believes been duly sworn to was soon after forwarded to the Pension office at the City of Washington and with it his written evidences of his services Such as discharges which are now referred to as part and parcel of this application they being as he is informed on file at Washington as aforesaid [.] That when he entered the service of his country he was a citizen of the District of York in the state of South Carolina that while he was doing service aforesaid he knew several officers of the regular troops stationed and doing service in that country and the said Samuel Watson in answer to Questions propounded to him by the Court doth solemnly swear. Question by the Court: Where and in what year were you born? Answer I was born in the County of York in the State of Pennsylvania on the 12th day of August 1754. Question have you any record of your age. If so where is it -- Answer My age is recorded in my Father's old family record, and that record is now in my possession. Question where were you living when called into service. where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live -- Answer I was living in the District of York in the state of South Carolina I continued to reside in that district untill about the year 1807 when I removed to the state (then Territory of Missouri) I have ever since resided where I now do in Pike County, Mo. Question. How were you called into the service – were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom. Answer: The officers of the state called on the citizens to defend their Country in those times against the invasion of the common enemy. I volunteered my services as stated in my Declaration I never was drafted nor was I ever a substitute for any person. Question 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 I recollect Col Sumpter who was in the regular service he was afterward elected genl of the Militia. I recollect Col Morgan who

was attached to Greens [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army. I have no personal acquaintance with any other officers of the regular army. I recollect one regiment that was of the Maryland line and the other regiment was of the Pennsylvania line the officers I do not remember. These two regiments were attached to General Greens army. as to the general circumstances of my services I have detailed them in my Declaration. Question 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 received two or three discharges from the Service. these discharges were Signed by Col Brattan , Capt. Moffet [John Moffett] and Capt. Richd Saddler [Sadler] these discharges were forwarded to the City of Washington some time ago with the former Declaration made by me. Question State the name 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 am known to the revd. F.B. Leach & Revd. Joseph Basye and John Watson and James McElwee you [sic] can testify as to my character for veracity. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of South Carolina.

(signed) Saml. Watson, Senr.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court,

(signed) Levi Pettibone, Clerk Circuit Court

We Frederick B. Leach and Joseph Basye clergymen of the Methodist episcopal Church residing in the County of Pike and State of Missouri hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Samuel Watson Senr who has subscribed and sworn to the above and foregoing Declaration that we believe him to be about Seventy Eight years old that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in this opinion

Sworn to and subscribed

(signed) Joseph J. Basye

this day and aforesaid year

(signed) Frederick B. Leach

in open Court.

(signed) Levi Pettibone, Clerk Circuit Court

We James McElwee and John Watson residing in the County of Pike, Missouri hereby certify that we have known Samuel Watson who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing Declaration for more than Fifty years that we believe him to be Seventy Eight years old that we knew him in the district of York in the State of South Carolina that he was there, and is in the neighbourhood where he now resides reputed and believed to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in this opinion.

and I the Said James McElwee do hereby further certify that the said Samuel Watson was a soldier in the same company in the year 1776 to which I was attached the company commanded by Capt Wm. Byers whose Company belonged to Col. Neels regiment. that I was with him at the battle of the black hole as described by him he rendered important services on that occasion. that he the said Watson belonged to the same company to wit Capt Moffits company of Militia and were engaged together in a battle fought with a Capt Hook [Christina Huck] where Hook was defeated [Huck's Defeat or Williamson's Plantation, July 12, 1780] and I further certify from my own personal knowledge of services rendered by said Watson that in the days of the revolutionary struggle the time when all men were required to take part, the said Saml Watson was ever ready to serve his country and do his duty and I have no doubt but that he rendered the services for his country set out in the foregoing declaration.

his

Sworn and subscribed to in

(signed) John (X) Watson

Open court the day and year

mark

Aforesaid.

(signed) Levi Pettibone, Clerk Circuit Court

(signed) James McElwee

[note: James McElwee's pension application is W9553]

State of Missouri

County of Pike

On this Second day of April in the year Eighteen hundred and thirty four personally appeared in open court before the Justice of said court being the County Court within and for said County of Pike now sitting Samuel Watson Snr aged Eighty years on the 12th day of August next. 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:

That in the month of January in the year 1776 [this could have been late 1775] he volunteered as a private in a company of South Carolina Militia in the district of York in said state of South Carolina commanded by John Moffit [Moffett] the other officers of the company he does not remember the company commanded by said Capt John Moffit was attached to a regiment of Militia commanded by Col Thomas Neall [Neel] of the said district. these troops were soon marched to the Tyger River with a view to break up an encampment of Tories said to have assembled at that place under the direction and command of one Fletcher [probably Thomas Fletchall] . upon the arrival of the troops under command of Neall as aforesaid the Tories surrendered themselves prisoners and were marched under guard to a place he thinks called Wynnsborough. the troops under command of said Col Neall were discharged and returned home soon afterward. this Service he states occupied two months.

afterward in the month of May or June in the year 1776 in York District South Carolina he again enrolled himself in a company of Militia as a private which company was commanded by William Henry. this company was attached to a regiment commanded by Col Neall. there was a major Ross [Francis Ross] belonging to said Regiment. he remembers the Captains of two other companies of said regiment to wit, Brandon and Black. the other officers of the regiment he does not recollect the regiment under command of the Said Neall marched to a place called Fort Independence on or near the Savannah river in district Ninety Six and thence directed its Movements against the Cherokee Indians at a place on Kee Wee River [Keowee?] a number of other troops met them from other places the whole army was then under command of Genl Williamson. but the principal duties of command however was performed by Col Pickens of the South Carolina Militia. the whole army was then marched to a place called the Middle Settlements they were met by troops from North Carolina. Soon after the army was marched to the Cherokee Nation and at a place called the black Hole was engaged in a severe battle with the Indians and beat them.

In a few days the army was marched to another place in the Cherokee Nation called and known as the Valley Town and was for some time engaged in destroying the houses and corn of the Indians. this happened he thinks in the month of September or October of that year. In a few days the army was marched to another town in the nation called Frog Town and there succeeded in capturing a number of Indians without much difficults who were marched off as prisoners into the settlements. What disposition was made of those prisoners he does not recollect. the army returned home and was discharged this Service he States to the best of his knowledge occupied the space of four months.

Afterwards in the month of December he thinks in the same year 1776 in said District of York in South Carolina he again volunteered as a private in a company of Militia commanded by Capt Richard Saddler [Sadler] and was attached to a regiment commanded by the aforesaid Col Neall. those troops were marched to the frontier settlements as a guard as he thinks to the settlers and was stationed on a river called Tugula [?], a branch of the Savannah, where they remained a short time. and was thence marched to Fort Independence and there discharged in cold weather he thinks last of February. this service occupied the space of Two Months.

Afterwards in the month of March as he now thinks in the year 1777 [probably 1780] in said district of York in South Carolina he again enrolled himself as a private in a company of volunteers commanded by Capt John Moffitt the company was attached to the regiment commanded by a Col Brattan [William Bratton] those troops were horsemen or mounted troops and were marched from York district to a place called Rocky Mount with a view to rout a party of

British or else [?] Tories assembled at that place at that place he was engaged in a battle [July 30, 1780] at which time the troops under command of Col Brattan was defeated by the British and Tories. during the engagement Lieutenant Col Neall [Andrew Neel] was killed and another officer belonging to Brattans regiment by the name of Leaper was Mortally Wounded with several privates as soon after this engagement as the troops collected together Col Brattan directed Capt Moffit to raise as many volunteers as he could with a view specially to rout a gang of tories assembled in the neighborhood of Kings Mountain. he went with Capt Moffit in that forlorn hope. When they had reached the neighborhood of the tories not being on their guard were surprised by them and a considerable engagement ensued In which he had his horse shot down from under him they succeeded however in putting the Tories to flight and pursued them to an almost impenetrable Cane breake and left them. and immediately returned to the balance of the troops with Col Brattan who were then encamped on a creek he thinks called Clams Creek [probably Clem's Branch]. at this place there had assembled a good many volunteers some from Georgia who were commonly called refugees. this place was selected as a place of greater safety from the Tories than any other known at the time and the place from which several important sorties were made during those times---In a short time he does not remember how long the troops under command of Col Brattan the company of Capt Moffit among them crossed the Catawba River leaving a number of troops at Clams Creek and marched a distance of twenty eight or thirty miles in the dead of Knight[sic] and early next morning had an engagement with a party of British and Tories under command of a British officer whose name was Hook [Christian Huck] and defeated them this engagement was called Hooks defeat [Huck's Defeat was July 21, 1780] . and he thinks Hook was Killed and several others also among them a Tory Col Whose name was Cunningham -- He further says that not long after this period the precise time he cannot recollect Capt Moffits company he among them Joined Genl Sumpter and remained with Sumpter a long time doing and performing many services for his country against the British and Tories during the service with Sumpter he was engaged in a battle fought at Bighams Church [Biggin Church, July 15, 1781?] being still in the company of Capt Moffitt and defeated the British he says further that said company of Moffit remained under the command of Sumpter. Some times with him and at Other times engaged in reconnoitering the country untill after Sumpter was defeated [probably Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] . and he states that he was engaged in the battle when Sumpter was defeated -- after this defeat the troops dispersed in every direction each taking care of himself -- and he says that from the time of Hooks defeat until Sumpters defeat he was constantly engaged doing some sort of service for his country and was never discharged or returned home until after that time. except when occasionally permitted by his officers he would return to his fathers house by night taking care to conceal himself in the daytime from the Tories to many of whom he was well known. this Service from the best of his knowledge and belief he states occupied the space of at least Eighteen months perhaps more. He has no means of ascertaining the time.

Afterward in the Month of August in the year 1779 [probably 1781] as he now thinks for he has no means of knowing he again enrolled himself as a private in a company of Militia under command of Capt William Givens in the district of York aforesaid. the company was marched up the country to the line of North Carolina on Dan River where they were stationed doing many Services in reconnoitering the country. by direction of General Green who had taken command of the Southern army. he does not remember the name of the Colonel in command. during this Service the company commanded by Capt Givens was sent off to procure a Supply of Salt and other articles for Greens army and while they were gone he distinctly remembers that the battle of guilford was fought. [Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781] he was not engaged in any battle during this service Soon after this time the troops under Capt Givens claimed that their time of service had expired and they were discharged this service he believes occupied the space of Six Months.

Afterwards in the beginning of the year 1780 [probably 1781 or 1782] to the best of his knowledge in the County of Charlotte in Virginia he again volunteered as a private in a company of Militia under command of Capt Richard Hampton. he does not remember to what or whose regiment the company belonged it was attached to the army commanded by Genl Green. he remained in this company in Camp mostly doing only such services as was required by his officers near Little York until peace was concluded when he was discharged by said Hampton

and returned home. During this service he was not in any engagements.

and he now states that having set out the foregoing services, from his great bodily infirmity and extreme old age and the consequent loss of his memory it is possible that he has mistook the dates of his several tours of service but that about the periods mentioned he did render for his country the services mentioned he is positively certain. He states further that in the month of February 1829 he made application for a pension and with his Declaration made at that time he forwarded all the written evidence he had of his services which consisted of two or more discharges given by the officers under whom he served his claim as he was told was rejected by the war department since which time he knows nothing of his papers --- again in the fall of the year 1832 he made another application for a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 and forwarded his declaration with such evidence as he could procure. after waiting some months he was told his papers were in some way defective and that they had been delivered over to Hon Thomas H. Benton to be returned for amendment. and having endeavored ineffectually to procure the papers procured a friend to apprise the Commissioners of [words crossed out] that fact and to ask what course should be pursued by him & was told for answer that no better plan seem to suggest itself than to make a new application. and accordingly in the fall of the year 1833 he made out a new declaration and forwarded the same to the Commissioners of Pensions at Washington and having patiently waited untill last month (March) was informed by Hon William H. Ashley that his papers had not reached the Department of War. he cannot account for the strange fatality that seems to hang over his application for a pension he is not conscious that there is on earth an individual disposed to do him the least harm consequently he censures no man.

And in answer to questions propounded by the Court he says. That he was born in the County of York in the State of Pennsylvania Augt 12th in the year 1754.

He has a record of his age in an old family Bible that belonged to his Father.

He was living in the district of York in the state of South Carolina when he was called into the service after the revolutionary war he continued to reside in said district untill the year 1809 when I removed to Missouri where I now reside ---

I volunteered into the service of my country at all the times mentioned I never was a Substitute.

He cannot State that there was any regular officers with the troops when he served untill his service in the army of General Green While in the Companies of Capts Givens and Hampton he remembers the name of Col Washington Col. Lee Genl Morgan and Genl Sumpter----- the general circumstances of his service as well as he can remember them are set forth in the foregoing Declaration. He says that he received three written discharges from the Service one given by Capt Henry -- another by Capt Sadler and one by Capt Hampton they were all forwarded to the war department in 1829 as before stated Since that time he knows nothing of them or what has become of them. He is known by[?] James W. Campbell and John W. Basye of his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution he is known also to John Watson who has some knowledge of his services and will testify what he does know.

and he further States that he has no document in his possession by which to prove his service and that he knows of no person whose testimony as to his services he can procure except said John Watson and one James Jordan whose certificate he sends herewith tho the same for want of proper authentication he fears will be of but little Service the deponent resides in the State of Illinois out of his reach.

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 any state if any only on that of the agency of the State of South Carolina.

(signed) Saml Watson Senr

Sworn to and subscribed this

day and year aforesaid

In open Court.

(signed) Attest M. J. Noyes, Clerk

Mr. James W. Campbell a clergyman of the Presbyterian church residing in the County of Pike in the State of Missouri and John W. Basye residing in the same County and State hereby certify

that we are well acquainted with Samuel Watson who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration that we believe him to be Eighty years of age in August next as he states that he is reputed, and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and Subscribed

(signed) James W. Campbell

in open court. 2nd day

of april 1834 aforesaid

(signed) Jno Basye

Attest (signed) M.J. Noyes Clerk

John Watson a resident citizen of county of Pike in the State of Missouri appeared in open court on this 2nd day of April 1834 and being duly sworn upon his oath says that during the revolutionary war he resided in the district of York in the State of South Carolina. that he distinctly remembers that Samuel Watson Who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing Declaration was a soldier in the army of the United States for a long time tho the precise length of the time he cannot state with certainty. nor can he state in whose company he served except that he knows that during the war the said Samuel Watson belonged to and done service in Capt Moffits company of said district of York the deponent says that he was during the war very young and consequently cannot state particulars as to the services of said Samuel Watson but he states that from the opinion of the neighbors in York District who were of more advanced age which he often heard expressed after the war he has no doubt but that said Samuel Watson served as he states. the opinion of those who knew of his services which he has heard expressed ever since the war confirms him in this opinion. the said Samuel Watson is uncle to this deponent.

Subscribed & Sworn to in open Court

(signed) John (X) Watson

April 2nd A.D. 1834

his
mark

Attest (signed) M.J. Noyes Clerk

State of Illinois

Morgan County

Personally appeared James Jordan before me George Reanick a Justice of the Peace within and for the county aforesaid who being by me duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with Samuel Watson in the year seventeen hundred and sixty five or about that time and that he hath known him ever since until about two years past since which time he has not seen him. When he first became acquainted with the said Watson he resided in the County of York and the State of South Carolina, that he was a true american and served as a private in the militia of the State of South Carolina during the Revolution that the said Watson resided in the State of Missouri about three years ago and he believes the said Watson now resides in the State of Missouri.

Sworn to and Subscribed

(signed) James (X) Jordan

Before me this 24th day of August 1833

his
mark

(signed) Geo. Reanick JP

[Note: This is probably the James Jordan whose pension application is S3246.]