

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Watson S17188

fn21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/13/11

[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 Missouri County of Chariton: SS

On this 20th day of November 1833 personally appeared before the Circuit Court of said County Thomas Watson Senior a resident of said County of Chariton, aged seventy-nine 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States on the first day of July in the year 1777, in the County of Berkly [sic, Berkeley?] in the State of Virginia was drafted into the company commanded by Captain Michael Bedenger [Michael Bedinger], under the command of Colonel William Darke of the 4th Regiment Virginia Militia, from Berkly we marched across the Potomac River through Shepperd Town [Shepherdstown] to Fredericktown in Maryland, thence to Lancaster in Pennsylvania, thence to Delaware River and thence to Brandywine, was in the battle fought at that place, and was wounded in the shoulder, the Regiment to which I belonged was attached to General Wayne's command; from thence we marched by Trenton, and here General Wayne remained, from thence we marched to Alexandria still being under the aforesaid officers, we remained some time at Alexandria the precise time not now remembered; from thence returned to Berkley County aforesaid about the first day of January following having served six months and some days on this tour, for which tour I received a written discharge which I have long since lost.

Again in the month of January 1778 into the service of the United States in Shepperds Town in Virginia by enlistment in the Continental Army of the United States, I enlisted for the term of five years with eight other persons the names of some of whom I now recollect to wit George Waynes, Philip Sloan, John Houle, John Shepherd & George Wills, I enlisted under Captain Christian Orenduff [Christian Orendorf or Orendorff]¹ under the command of the aforesaid William Darke, who had now a commission in the Continental Army of the United States from Shepperdstown we marched to little York in Pennsylvania, and remained here about three months, and were then ordered to Fort Pitt (now Pittsburgh) where we arrived shortly after and remained there and in the neighborhood until my time expired, and was discharged having served five years. I received a written discharge which I left with my brother, Joseph Watson not far from Fort Pitt. I was born on the 25th day of December 1754. I have no record of my age, but distinctly remember to have seen it recorded in the family Bible. I resided in the County of Berkly aforesaid about fifteen years after peace was made. He further states that he has no documentary evidence in his possession to prove his services aforesaid services or any part thereof, nor does he know of any person now living whose testimony he made establish his said

¹ Christian Orendorff is listed as an officer in the Maryland Continental line.

services or any part thereof that he served the whole periods aforesaid with an embodied force and that he was actually employed in the field or stationed in garrisoning during the whole term herein before set forth under officers lawfully appointed to command, and that he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and that he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Edw'd Cabell, Clerk

S/ Thomas Watson, X his mark

The Court then propounded to the said applicant the following interrogatories in pursuance of the directions of the War Department.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in the County of Montgomery in the State of Maryland, on the 25th day of December 1754

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

Ans. I have no record of my age, but remember to have seen it often as entered in the family Bible and well remember that the date as their given corresponding with my answer to the first interrogatory

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

Ans. I lived in the County of Berkly in the State of Virginia when I entered the service after the war I removed several times in the same state, and the last place I lived in that state was in the County of Washington and from thence I removed to the County of Chariton in the state of Missouri.

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

Answer, I was drafted for the first tour of 6 months I then enlisted and served 5 years as a private in the Continental Army

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I was acquainted with Colonel Dark afterwards General Wayne, & many others not now remembered.

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

Ans. I received written discharges for each term of service, my discharge for the first engagement of 6 months in the Militia of Virginia which I have lost, my discharge from the 5 years service in the Continental Army I left with my brother Joseph Watson near Pittsburgh many years ago, I do not now remember by whom those discharges or either of them were signed

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

Ans. I am known to many persons in my neighborhood, among others Colonel Hiram Craig, Mr. Abraham Locke, Daniel Ashby Representative in the General Assembly, Edward B Cabell Esquire Clerk of Chariton County, Frederick A. Bradford Esquire Justice of the These, Joseph Vamodo [?] and many others.

S/ Thomas Watson Sr. X his mark

[Felix Redding, a clergyman, and F. A. Bradford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]