

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph D. Watkins S18266

fn18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/11/11

[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 Virginia Goochland County: SS

On this 22nd day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the court of the County aforesaid now sitting Joseph D Watkins a resident of said County and state aged seventy-one 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 in the month of March in the year [1781] in which Cornwallis invaded Virginia he was drafted from the Militia of the County of Goochland and was a private in the company of Captain Hatcher [probably Capt. Thomas Hatcher] Daniel Guarrant [Daniel Guerrant] Lieutenant. That although he was drafted for the usual time, yet owing to the illness of **2** sent for that relief, and other causes he was never discharged but continued constantly in the service until he served three tours to wit, under Hatcher, Miller [probably William Miller] and Tolls [probably Stockley Towles] and that in this service he served seven months as private – marched to Richmond thence to Williamsburg where he thinks he remained some time – thence by Richmond to Hanover thence through Caroline to the Raccoon Ford – then to Orange Court House and then into the lower Country again – passed by Goochland Court House and got a pass to see his parents – joined below Dover and marched with the Army by Richmond to York. At first he belonged to Morris' [probably Nathaniel Garsden Morris'] Regiment and that of Colonel Pleasant, Perkins was Major – saw General Lafayette and his Army frequently during the whole service. Saw General Nelson, recollects no militia in particular – Was at Cresque Isle [??]¹ standing guard when the British came up on the opposite side of the River. The troops were drawn up on the hill. The enemy fired a shot which passed over their heads – then another which fell short – the troops were then drawn down under the hill and a magazine near was blown up, saw the explosion. Was at the siege – much firing during the siege – and balls frequently fell near him – Was frequently detailed to guard horses and was present at the surrender – Soon after which he was discharged. That he omitted to state that when Arnold [Benedict Arnold] first came into James River he was drafted from the Goochland Militia – marched as private under Captain Hatcher to Henrico and was there put under Captain Tolls – marched down to the leay shore – some of the enemies troops came along a road near a party of some he was one in the night Captain Tolls told the men to shift for themselves, but one Stephen Ellis the Lieutenant proposed that they should fire – they did so and the enemy retreated – served one month and was discharged, and that was soon after the enemy burned Norfolk – Colonel Morris commanded the

¹ *Cresque Isle*

Regiment and he thinks General Nelson was there – saw no regulars. That he never had a written discharge – and has no documentary evidence. That he can prove some part of his service by witnesses and to the rest he can procure no testimony and that he refers to the Reverend Lewis Chandon , James Pleasants Esquire and James Gray for his character and the reputation of the neighborhood as to his service.

To Question 1st he answers, in Goochland County, 12th of March 1762.

To Question 2nd – I have a family register & well send it with this paper.

To Question 3rd. I lived in Goochland County when called into service & have lived there ever since except 2 years when I lived in Powhatan County.

To Question 4th. I was drafted

To Question 5th – Answered to the satisfaction of the Court –

To Question 6th I never received a written discharge –

To Question 7th – James Pleasants, Lewis Chandin & John M Trevilian

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 the agency of any State or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S Joseph Watkins



[Lewis Chandoin, a clergyman, and James gray gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Virginia Goochland County: SS

Personally appeared before me R W Pleasants a Justice of the peace in and for said County James Gray² a resident of said County and State and as appears to be a credible person, and being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he has long known Joseph D Watkins of said County now suing for a pension, and that on one occasion said Watkins was in the service in the militia of Goochland in the revolutionary war in the neighborhood of the Mobbiny Hills [Malvern Hills] and that he believes said Watkins was in the company of Captain Millar and that he believes said Watkins served the tour faithfully.

Sworn and subscribed the 17th day of June 1833 before me

S/ Ro. W. Pleasants, JP

S/ James Gray, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]

² FPA S17987