

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Watts S18267

f17SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/20/10: rev'd 7/25/18

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of South Carolina in Newberry District } To wit

On this twenty fourth day of April in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Josiah J. Evans one of the Judges of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas for the said State and presiding judge of the said court now in session for the said district, David Watts, a resident of the district and State aforesaid, aged seventy-seven years the 22nd day of March last past who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832: that he was born in St. Thomas' Parish, Charleston District in the State aforesaid, that he at this time has no record of his age, but his recollection is very distinct, and he speaks with certainty of his age, having had in his possession until December 1790 a family Bible in which his age was recorded, and which was burned with his house and many other things at the time above stated. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; In the month of April in the year of our Lord 1776 he volunteered in a company of Infantry commanded by James Aikin [James Akin] Captain, Andrew Hasel first Lieutenant, William Arleston [sic, William Alveston] Ensign and was carried and stationed on Sullivan's Island in the Palmetto Fort, now called Fort Moultrie -- Attached to a Battalion commanded by Major Joseph Maybank and to the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Moultrie, he remained in the Fort under the command of the officers above mentioned until the month of August or September following, when a new organization of the Regiment was made and his officers changed -- John Roger Pinckney took command of the company, Edward Thomas first Lieutenant and James Butler Ensign Thomas Mahon [sic, Thomas Mahan] succeeded Thomas Maybank and Hugh Horry commanded the Regiment as Colonel. The applicant states that he was in the Fort when Admiral Sir Peter Parker on June 1776 made an attack on the Fort and was defeated,¹ that he continued in the service from that time until the siege of Charleston in the spring of 1780, stationed in the Fort all the time, except when occasionally permitted to be absent for a short time on Furlough, when the City of Charleston was invested by Land and the British Fleet had passed the Fort and had taken a station between the Fort and the City, and the conclusion inevitable that the city must be taken,² the Troops on the Island and in the Fort were assembled at night and ordered to retreat which they effected by crossing over a bridge from the Fort to Haddrell's Point, and making their escape through Christ

¹ Fort Moultrie, 28-19 June 1776. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/moultrie.htm>
http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_ft_moultrie_1.html

² Charleston fell to the British on May 12, 1780 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

Church Parish. His Regiment was then dispersed until July following, when they were again assembled and rendezvoused in Saint John's Parish under the command of the same officers and attached to General Frances Marion's Brigade. In this Brigade he served until the final evacuation of Charleston in December 1782. In the service in Marion's Brigade this applicant traversed the whole lower country was engaged in many skirmishes and several battles. He was engaged in a battle at or near Quinby bridge³ with a party of Tories and British commanded by Lord Rawdon, in this engagement Marion's Brigade were forced to retreat, Quinby Bridge is situated at the Head of Cooper River. -- He was also in an engagement with the Tories at or near a place called Brown's Marsh [sic, Brown Marsh] in the lower part of North Carolina. The Tories were commanded by a man by the name of Harrold. The Tories were defeated. He was also in an engagement at Viddors Bridge [sic, Videau's Bridge⁴] on Cooper River with a party of British commanded by Major Coffin [John Coffin]. The Americans were compelled to retreat and a good many killed -- in this engagement a Captain Campbell [Archibald Campbell] of the British Army was killed. He was also in an engagement with the Tories commanded by Colonel Watson and Major Ganey [Micajah Ganey] at Black Mingo Bridge.⁵ In this affair General Marion completely surprised them by covering the Bridge with the blankets of the soldiers and crossing men and horses over on them. The Tories were defeated, many killed and Major Ganey wounded. The Brigade joined the Continental Army commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] a short time before the battle of the Eutaw Springs, at Manning's Ferry on Santee River -- the applicant was engaged in the battle of the Eutaw Springs,⁶ this was last battle of any magnitude he was then.

The applicant was regularly discharged in writing at Wadboo Bridge near Moncks Corner -- which discharge was burnt with his House in December 1790. -- the discharge was given to him in the month of December 1782. The Applicant has resided for 40 years past in the district of Newberry and State of South Carolina one year after his discharge he resided in St. Thomas Parish, he then removed to Sumter District where he resided until he removed to Newberry. The Applicant states that General Charles Lee a regular officer was in the service at Charleston, when he served on Sullivan's Island in the first part of his service. General Greene was also with the Troops in the latter part of his service -- a Captain William Bennett -- a Captain Rew [?, Reid?] And Captain __ Provo also served with him who were regular officers.

I am known to William Harmon, John Gaskins, Michael Wirts, Robert Dunlap & many others who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a revolutionary soldier -- they live in the neighborhood where I now reside: I have no documentary evidence of my service and knows of no person whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my services.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court
S/ Y. J. Harrington, Clerk

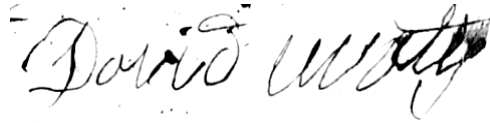
S/ David Watts

³ July 17, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/quinby.htm>
http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quinbys_bridge.html

⁴ January 3, 1782 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/videausbr.htm>
http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_videaus_bridge.html

⁵ September 28, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/blackmingo.htm>
http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_black_mingo.html

⁶ September 8, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/eutaw.htm>
http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html



[William Harmon, a clergyman and John Gaskins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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South Carolina Newberry District: Personally appeared before me Y. J. Harrington Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Newberry District David Watts who makes this additional declaration on oath, for the purpose of procuring a pension -- & who is the identical David Watts the applicant in No. 26053.

The said David Watts saith that the siege of Charleston was in the month of May (the 15th as this applicant thinks) 1780 & from that time until the middle of the month of July in the same year the Army was dispersed, and which was the only time he was not in the service from the time he entered the service which was in the month of April 1776, until he was discharged which was in the month of December 1782 -- with the exception of a few very short intervals during which this applicant was absent on furlough -- making in all the term of six years and six months that this applicant was in the service and for which time he claims a pension -- This applicant states on the Island at the Palmetto Fort where this Applicant was stationed from the time of his entering the service until the Siege of Charleston in the month of May 1780. At the Battle of Quinby Bridge in which this applicant was, and which was in the month of August 1780, General Marion commanded the forces, Colonel Hugh Horry commanded the Regiment he was in. Quinby bridge is over Cooper River in St. Thomas Parish. The engagement at or near Brown Marsh (in which this applicant states he was in his former declaration) took place in the month of November 1780. He was commanded by Marion, his Regiment was commanded by Colonel Hugh Horry.

The Engagement of Viddow's [Videau's] Bridge was on the first day of January 1781, he was under the command of Colonel H. Horry but the American forces were commanded by Colonel William Smith. Viddow's Bridge was over Cooper River in St. Thomas Parish.

The engagement at Black Mingo Bridge which is the branch of Black River now in the District called Marion in which this Applicant was was in the latter part of the month of January 1781 some short time after the Battle at Viddow's Bridge but the day of the month this applicant cannot state concisely. Colonel Horry still had the command of the Regiment -- The particulars of the battle are detailed in his former Declaration which see.

This Applicant states again at the time he was in the service he pursued no civil avocations but was a soldier in the Continental force for the period which he has heretofore stated, to wit, for the period of 6 years and 6 months for which time he claims a pension. The [one or more indecipherable words] marches he may have made, and several other minor engagements in which he was engaged he is unable to recollect but with this declaration, submits his claim to the further inspection and for the determination of the Authority it constituted for that purpose.

S/ David Watts

Sworn to before me the 27th of November 1833
Y. J. Harrington, Clerk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 2 years service in the South Carolina troops.]