

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Watson [alias Samuel Watson] S30762

fn25VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/12/11

[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 Kentucky Green County Sct.

On the 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in the County court of Green County & State aforesaid being a court of record, David Watson a resident citizen of Green County Kentucky, aged seventy-three years the first day of the present month, 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 of the act of Congress of the 7th day of June 1832, states that he enlisted and served in the Army of the United States in the American Revolution under the following named officers as herein stated to wit – He enlisted as a regular soldier for three years in the United States Army in the County of Berkeley State of Virginia, at Shepherdstown under Captain William Dark [also spelled William Darke], the Lieutenant's name, Joseph Harlan, the Ensign who commanded in the said company was of the name of Raney Trigger the name of the Majors & Colonel who commanded said Regiment he has entirely forgotten though he once knew them well at the time of his enlistment which he thinks according to the best of his recollection was in the month of September or October 1777, he had run away from his mother (his father being dead) and in order as he thought to prevent his mother from finding him and as he was then only about 17 years of age, taking him out of the Service, he enlisted in the name of Samuel Watson, though his true name then and now is David Watson – shortly after he enlisted he was marched to hold Williamstown, where he with the rest of Captain Dark's company joined the Army then stationed there under the command of General Washington, he thinks, they remained at Old Williamstown 3 or 4 weeks, after this time the Virginia troops were ordered to March to Savannah in Georgia. The troops then with whom he served and himself marched to Savannah, after he had been some considerable time at Savannah, there was a battle between the Americans and British forces in which he himself was engaged. The fortifications at that place he recollects were completed before he arrived there. He remained stationed with other troops at Savannah until the expiration of his term of enlistment he was discharged at Savannah, and after he had proceeded some 25 or 30 miles on his return home, he recollects to have heard of the hard fought and bloody engagement at that place between the British and American armies. He obtained a written discharge in the same name that he enlisted in, but it has now become lost or mislaid so that he cannot produce it, he well recollects that when he removed from Berkeley County Virginia to Green County Tennessee he had his discharge which had been near 30 years since, he lived in Green County Tennessee about nineteen years, and when he left that County he left the discharge at the house of his mother who is now dead & he never has returned there since hence he presumes the discharge is lost. He recollects to have seen General Washington at old Williamstown in Virginia while there, then he likewise remembers to have seen Marquis de Lafayette there also. From Greene County Tennessee he removed to Green County Kentucky

and has continued to reside since. Shortly after his return from his services, above stated, he again entered the service, under Captain Morgan, in this service he enlisted for three years or during the war, and under the command of Captain Morgan, he marched to the Siege of York, and served in that siege until after the surrender, then he was discharged, and returned home, though his term of three years was not out, he enlisted in the County of Berkeley & State of Virginia the second time, he well remembers to have seen General Washington at the time the British Army surrendered to him, & lay down their arms – He has now no documentary evidence of his service, nor does he know at this time of any living witnesses by whom he can prove any of it. A few years past there were witnesses in Virginia & Tennessee living by whom he could have proven his service but he has since learnt that they are dead. His recollection is not very good, and though he once well remembered the colonels' and other field officers' names, he cannot now with any certainty speak of them. The Captains' names he remembers from the circumstance of being better acquainted with them. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever from the Government except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state of the Union. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ David Watson, X his mark

[Dandridge Tucker gave an affidavit somewhat like a standard affidavit.

State of Kentucky Green County Sct.

On this 26 day of April 1833 David Watson a resident citizen of said County came before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for said County, and being by me duly sworn according to law, stated in addition and amendment to his former declaration to obtain a pension from the Government of the United States, That in this service he performed under Captain Morgan and in his company at the siege of Little York he served from the time of his enlistment to the time of his discharge not less than sixteen months; from the loss of memory & old age, he cannot swear positively to the exact time, but will state that he is positive it was as much as sixteen months – and he thinks just about that time – as nearly as he can remember. In his former declaration he did not state the Christian name of the Captain, it was William Morgan who commanded the company, the Lieutenants & Ensign's name was he has forgotten, he remembers that a man of the name of Osborn was a Sergeant in said company his Christian name, he thinks was John – he recollects that he was discharged at Westminster in Virginia in the fall season of the year 1781 at which place there were a number of British prisoners at the Barracks at that place – his discharge, was given him by the Captain, William Morgan – he remembers that in the second tour (to wit the tour under Morgan) he messed with Henry Isler, William Carney & also William Morgan, Junior, as well as others, he was, acquainted with a man of the name of Matthew Duke¹ in Morgan's Company who served at the same time with himself, who is still alive and whom he has seen since fording his declaration (said Duke) has however now become insane and incapable of getting any testimony; – Robert Leatherdale, Benjamin Armstrong & Henry Farnsworth, formerly lived in the State of Tennessee, but whether any of them are living now he does not know, he expects however they are dead, by them he could have proven his services, under Captain Dark at Savannah – these gentlemen resided in Greene County Tennessee some 20 years ago. He also could have proven his services by Robert Tabb of Hardin County Kentucky, and went to see him last fall, but he had died a short time before he was over there to see him. In his former declaration he stated that in Dark's Company that,

¹ FPA S1199

Joseph Harlan was the Lieutenant, in this he is satisfied he was under a mistake, the Lieutenant's name was Blackburn, and he thinks his Christian name was John. Sworn and subscribed before me a justice of the peace in Green County Kentucky.

S/ William B Allen, JP

S/ David Watson, X his mark

[Thomas Eades, a clergyman, and Leonard Holms gave a separate affidavits residing most of the information required in a standard supporting affidavit. Leonard Holms added that he had learned from a sister of the veteran about 18 years ago that David Watson had been a regular soldier and that he was the youngest child of their mother.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 2 years service as a private in Virginia.]