

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Evan T. Watson S30770

fn18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 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: Warren County:

On this 29 day of August 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Warren Circuit Court now sitting, Evan T. Watson, a resident of said County and State, aged seventy four years on the 11th of January past, who, being first duly sworn according to the 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 U.S. under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He will answer the questions propounded by the War Office in this order.

1st : He was born in Albemarle County, Virginia on the 11th January 1759.

2nd : He has no record of his age. It is in the possession of a brother.

3rd : He was living in Albemarle when called into service. Since the Revolution War he has lived first in Madison County and at his present place of residence in Warren County in Kentucky.

4th : On four of his tours he was drafted and on another he was a substitute for a John Martin.

5th : On or about the 1st of September 1777 he first joined the Army of the Revolution from the County where at that time he lived as aforesaid. he rendezvoused at Richmond, Virginia under the command of Captain Robert Harris & Lieutenant Ralph Rogers. He does not recollect the name of the Regiment to which he belonged, he was not attached to any particular Regiment, but was commanded generally by General Nelson [Thomas Nelson]. From Richmond, his company marched to Williamsburg and after remaining there a few days, we marched to Little York, and then into Hampton. Here his company remained and your Petitioner was sent under Ensign Robert Field who belonged to the Company of Captain Landon & was (he thinks) fourteen miles from Hampton towards the mouth of the Potomac, where we lay as guard to that portion of the coast. While there he saw the British fleet under Lord Howe passing from the head of Elk where Howe landed on towards Philadelphia. Without performing other services he was at length recalled from his guard and marched back toward Richmond, where he gave up his arms. To the best of his recollection he was out fifty five days on this tour.

2nd [tour]: The next tour was in the fall of the ensuing year. As before, he rendezvoused at Richmond, Virginia. There received arms and marched under Captain Mark Leek and his son, William Leek, his Lieutenant, to Cablein Point [Cabin Point] and joined the army at that place under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. He lay there during this tour guarding the locals against an expected invasion of the enemy from three ships, which were cruising in the bay. He cannot recollect the name of his Major or Colonel. He was out, to the best of his recollections, forty days on this tour. He was marched back to Richmond. Others gave up his arms and he was discharged.

3rd [tour] His next tour was in 1781. It commenced, to the best of his recollection, in the month of May. He joined our army, commanded by Lafayette, near Richmond on its retreat from Cornwallis. He belonged to the Company of Captain John Martin, of the Regiment of Colonel Holt Richardson, who belonged to the Brigade of General Lawson, at that time commanded by General

Nelson, as senior officer. He marched through Hanover, lay seven days at Colonel Dandridge's in that country, thence through Louisa as far as Culpepper where we met General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] with his army. From there our united army crossed the Rapidan [River] at the Raccoon Ford, then by Boswell's ordinary to New Church Creek. There General Nelson received his commission as Governor. Your petitioner was placed on his guard and went with him to Staunton where the Legislature sat. Thence escorted him to Charlottesville to which place the Legislature had removed its settings and where your petitioner remained in said service 'till the expiration of his two month's service when he was discharged.

4th [tour] About two days after this, he substituted himself in the place of a certain John Martin in the company of Captain Benjamin Harris. He joined the army commanded by Wayne and Lafayette below Richmond. The junior officers of Harris' company are not recollected. He belonged to Colonel Richardson's Regiment. He marched with the main army to Williamsburg, stopping however at different places on our way (Chickahominy & others) several days at a time. He remained at Williamsburg in the service 'till three days after the expiration of his tour - being out in all on this tour 63 days.

5th [tour] Immediately upon the expiration of last tour, say on or about the first of September 1781, before he had left the army on his former tour, he was again drafted under Captain John Miller of Colonel Richardson's Regiment - marched under him to Yorktown and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis. He was on the commissaries guard while at York under Commissary Joseph Meshew. From York, he drove wagons to Winchester aiding in taking the prisoners captured at York to that place, where he got his discharge at the end of a sixty day tour, which he had served.


6th [Interrogatory] He received a discharge at the expiration of every tour. There was a law while he lived in Virginia that persons might pay their taxes with their discharges in part and the other part in money. Your petitioner paid this way in discharge of his taxes under that Law.

7th [Interrogatory] Thomas Sloss [?], Doctor William E. Payson, John White, Joseph Fielding, John Mason & Miles Coney are persons to whom he is know in his neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief in his service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Your Petitioner is unable to remember many particulars of his service which perhaps may be regarded as material. He will, therefore, add that by reason of old age and other consequent loss of memory he is unable to state the precise length of his service but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following State, namely nine months and eight days and for such service he claims a pension.

He hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state.

S/ Evan T. Watson



[Zachariah Morris and John Turner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 11: William Gillum, a resident of Logan County Kentucky aged between 71 and 72 years gave a supporting affidavit in which he states he saw the applicant in the service as a soldier he thinks twice once at Williamsburg and once at York at the time of the siege of York. The affidavit is attested on November 28, 1832.]

[[Facts in file: Veteran died June 15, 1834; there is no family data in the file although there is reference to a brother living in 1833 that his name age and residents are not shown.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months

service as a private in the Virginia militia.]