

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Watson S31458

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky, County of Barren Sct

On this 21st day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Benjamin Monroe Judge of the Circuit Court for Barren County aforesaid, now sitting, John Watson a resident of the said County of Barren in the State aforesaid, aged sixty 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 Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the war of the revolution under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: That in the year 1780 he was drafted in the Virginia Militia for a tour of six months, and served under Capt. William Mayho [sic: Mayo], in the Regiment Commanded by Col. [Ralph] Faulkner, in the Brigade commanded by Gen'l Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens]. Thomas Hubbard was a Lieutenant of the Company commanded by Capt. Mayho, but afterwards served as adjutant of the Regiment. The said Watson farther states, that at the time he was drafted as aforesaid he resided in Powhatan County, Virginia, that he entered the service at Scottsville (Powhatan Court House) and marched with the troops from thence to Hillsborough in North Carolina – from Hillsborough he marched with the troops to South Carolina & joined the army of Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates at Wateree Mills (as he understood the place was called) [probably Rugeley's Mill] said to be about 12 miles from Camden. That they marched immediately to Camden, and the battle of that place, in which Gates was defeated, commenced in the same night [before dawn of 16 Aug 1780]. The said Watson served in the said battle in the company commanded by Capt Mayho, but he understood Col. [Charles] Porterfield commanded the Regiment to which said company was then attached. Col. Porterfield was wounded in said battle & the said Watson understood from report, died of his wounds. The said Watson farther states, that after the battle, he was marched back to Hillsborough, from Hillsborough he went with his company to New Garden where he was stationed sometime, and afterwards proceeded to Hogans Creek, where the troops were disbanded, the said Watson among the rest, and permitted to return home, a few days before the expiration of six months from the time of his entering the service. After he got home he received a written discharge, which was sent to him by Capt. Mayho, but said Watson does not recollect whose name was subscribed to said discharge, but thinks it was that of Col. Faulker. He has lost the discharge, and cannot now produce it. The said Watson farther declares on oath that he afterwards enlisted in the Army of the revolution in the year 1781 for one year with Capt. Slaughter, and served in (to the best of his recollection) the sixth regiment of the Virginia State line, under the following named officers: Col. Charles Dabney commanded the Regiment, Major Dick the battalion, and Capt. Slaughter first, & afterwards Capt. Brown, the company to which said Watson belonged. The said Watson resided in the said County of Powhatan at the time he enlisted as aforesaid. He farther declares, that he joined the troops at Goochland Court House, marched thence to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] where he remained with the troops until the arrival of Gen'l. Washington, and then marched with the army to Little York, and continued at the Siege thereof until the surrender of CornWallis & his army in October [19th] 1781. After the surrender, the said Watson marched with his regiment to Hampton, crossed Hampton Roads, and went into winter quarters at Portsmouth where, in february or March 1782 a few weeks before the expiration of 12 months from the time of his entering the said Watson obtained his discharge, signed as well as he recollects, by Maj'r Dick. The said Watson saith, that he recollects that he afterwards gave said discharge to his father for the purpose of drawing his pay, and he does not recollect ever seeing it since.

The said Watson farther states that he has now no documentary evidence, & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. The said John Watson 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[signed] John Watson

State of Kentucky }

County of Barren } Sct

On this 20th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court for Barren County now sitting John Watson aged 70 years on the 18th November 1833 next coming who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration by way of amendment to his former Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed 7th June 1831 [sic].

That he heretofore to wit on the 21st September 1832 appeared before Benjamin Monroe Judge of the Circuit Court for Barren County and made out his Declaration for a pension and transmitted it on to the War Department and the same has been returned with objection "V" for want of precision in setting out his service – objection "XII" that there is no reason assigned for not obtaining a clergymans Certificate, – objection "XIV" not on the roll, and no witness; – and objection "XVII" that question "1, 2, 7" are not answered. For the purpose of amending this objection applicant now makes this amended Declaration. – Objection "V" – by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear precisely as to the precise length of his service but according to his best recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades–: in the year 1780 he entered the service in the last part of April & returned in November having served six months as a Private soldier. He would farther state in this Declaration that he served a Tour of 6 weeks which is not set forth in his former Declaration as he had not then thought of it. On the 10th December he was called out, being (perhaps) drafted as he thinks, for a Tour of two months at Powhatan Court House under Captain [Richard] Crump Lieutenant [David] Hughes and marched to Chesterfield Court House and joined the Regiment commanded by Col [Robert] Goode & Major DeCloseman – and marched down the River to Cabin Point [in Surry County] where they were relieved and discharged having served full six weeks as a Private soldier. From this six weeks service he received not written Discharge but was simply disbanded. As to his twelve months service he states that he enlisted in April 1781 and served until April 1782 the full period of twelve months as a Private soldier and for such (the above) services he claims a Pension As to Objection "XII" he refers to what follows for its amendment and to the Proof now offered which it is conceived will dispense with the necessity of Compurgators[?].

As to Objection "XIV" not on the Roll he refers to James Radfords[?] Affidavit herewith sent marked "A.a." which evidence he was not aware of when he made out his former Declaration.

As to Objection "XVII" He should say he was born on the 18th day of November 1763, in Powhatan County and state of Virginia. He has a copy of his age taken from the Record of his father which was taken from the Records of the Church of England in Powhatan County. He would name in answer to Question 7th – Zacheus Quesenberry, Bartlett L. Graves, John Gillaspie, John Jervis[?], Jacob Smith, James Jameson Esqr and David Garvin. He claims a Pension for the above services.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] John Watson