

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Watkins S3465

fn19NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/16/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Humphreys County: On this 23rd day of July 1833 personally appeared Samuel Watkins in open Court a resident of the State of Tennessee in the County of Humphreys aged seventy-three 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he volunteered in the Army of the United States in the month of September in the year 1780 with Captain Wall and served in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Wade. And he marched through three adjoining Counties (viz.) Anson, Richmond & Montgomery to subdue the Tories. And he remained in the same company and Regiment until General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] took the command of our Army above the Cheraw Hills with his Regular troops. He states that he went in company with General Greene thirty or forty miles but finding the Tories getting very troublesome in the neighborhood of Cheraws the Regiment under Colonel Thomas Wade returned to guard the three Counties first named in which service he served until the 1st of June 1781 -- [word obliterated, could have been "eleven"] months at his time he substituted for three months in the place of John James to go into General Greene's Army then in South Carolina near the Eutaw Springs just before the battle was fought at that place. At this time Colonel Wade sent orders to General Greene that the Tories were collecting on Drowning Creek North Carolina and was about committing many depredations in that part of the country and he was ordered to stay in that neighborhood. He states that he served at this time in the Company commanded by Captain Zack McDonald and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Wade. He states that he was at the Battle fought at Bettes Bridge [sic, Beatti's Bridge¹] on Drowning Creek on ^{about the 7th of August 1781} and that Colonels Crofford [,] Chiles & Williams was also at the battle fought at that place. He states that the night before the Battle was fought they marched about twenty miles and posted themselves near a bridge. And there was a company of 30 men picked out to guard said bridge and this deponent was one of the 30 -- and they captured one Tory in his attempt to cross said Bridge. After this Battle the Army marched back to their old camp ground near Haley's Ferry on Pedee [River].

About two weeks after the battle was fought at Beates Bridge [sic, Beatti's Bridge] in August Colonel Wade was defeated in about half a mile of the same place where the Battle was

¹ August 4, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/beattisbr.htm>

first fought at. Colonel Wade crossed the bridge and the Tories was laying in ambush and surrounded him before he discovered them, we lost sixteen men in that engagement and had to retreat across the River and camped at Joseph Martin's and guarded the Ferries. The Army stayed there one week and from thence crossed to their old campground, at that place we received information to meet General Rutherford's Army at Monroe's Bridge on Drowning Creek there they encamped all night and General Rutherford went down the Creek on the East side and Colonel Wade on the West there they marched to a place called the Burnt Cabin there this deponent's service expired immediately at the same time 1st of Sept He again substituted in his Brother Thomas Watkins place for three months under Captain Dudley Mask which company was attached to the same Regiment commanded by Colonel Wade. From there we marched down Drowning Creek to Coles Bluff now known by the name of Lumbertown [sic, Lumberton] where we crossed and met General Rutherford's Army from thence the two armies joined and marched to Elizabeth on Cape Fear River there they camped and the next morning the Army parted and Rutherford's Army crossed the River and marched through the Country to the N. E. fork of said River in Hanover County [sic, New Hanover County] to Bluford's Bridge and joined General Butler's Army before we got to said Bluford Bridge after staying at that place and neighborhood three or four weeks when and where we received the news that Lord Cornwallis was taken at Yorktown at that same place we was discharged 200 miles from home. He states that he received two discharges of three months service each one from Captain Zack McDonald and the other from Captain Dudley Mask and delivered the same discharges to Robert Webb a Senator from the County of Richmond North Carolina the purpose of getting something for his services but now does not know what has become of them --

He again volunteered with Captain Wall for six months under Colonels Williams & Crawford in Richmond County to range through the same County and down in South Carolina to break up what was called the Truce the object was to break up a set of Tories on Pedee, and that Campaign we caught 5 Tories and hung them.

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.

Test: S/ D. P. Hudson, Clerk

S/ Samuel Watkins, X his mark

Inty 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in NC Anson County on the 15 of June 1760

Inty 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: my Father recorded in his Bible and the Bible is in North Carolina

Inty 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: In Richmond County North Carolina and lived there until the year 1811 from there I removed to Stewart County Tennessee and lived there until the year 1819 from thence to Humphreys County Tennessee where I now live.

Inty 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I volunteered for 12 months if required and served 10 months then substituted for 3 months in the place of John James after that I substituted for 3 months in the place of Tho. Watkins after that I volunteered for 6 months and served till 1st April 1782.

Inty 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in

the revolution.

Ans: Abel Rushing, D. Rushing, Robt. Rushing, Jacob Browning, Champion James, John Seratt, Isaac W. Moore

As for the 5 & 6 Interrogatory I refer you to the body of the declaration where you will find them propounded to your satisfaction

Sworn to in open court 23rd July 1833

S/ D. P. Hudson, Clerk

S/ Samuel Watkins, X his mark

[Samuel Herrin, a clergyman, and Isaac W. Moore gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Carroll County: Personally appeared before me Samuel Ingram a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Mathew Covington² who being first sworn deposed and saith that he was born in the State of Maryland Queen Anne County on the 24th day of January in the year of our Lord 1760 and now a resident of Carroll County State of Tennessee, who can testify as to the service of Samuel Watkins in the revolution, states that from lapse of time and loss of memory he cannot swear positively to all the circumstances of said Watkins service but says that he the said Watkins entered the service about September 1780 under the command of Captain Wall as a volunteer soldier which company belonged to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Wade and continued in said Army until General Greene marched his Army above Cheraw hills at which time he was attached to Greene's Army and remained in said Army until said Army left there to Guilford Court House having been taken as prisoner myself, I cannot state further any facts from my own knowledge having remained a prisoner till sometime in February 1782. Also personally appeared James Cole³ who being first sworn deposes and says that he was born in the State of Virginia Bedford County on the 5th of September 1755 and now a resident of Carroll County and State of Tennessee who in testifying as to the Service of Samuel Watkins in the revolution states that he knew him the said Watkins from his birth was also well acquainted with him during the War was with him at sundry times while in service viz. at the Battle at Beaty's Bridge on drowning Creek in North Carolina in the year 1781 under the command of Colonel Thomas Wade. He was with him again the same year when General Rutherford's State troops came to Richmond County NC at which time said Watkins was serving a three months tour -- at which time and place He Joined the Army himself as volunteer which took place shortly after Governor Burke was taken prisoner. After this he was frequently with him the said Watkins in the service on scouting parties procuring for the Army etc. until 1782 or 3 -- Owing to lapse of time cannot recollect the precise dates and places any further, in fine he knows said Watkins had been a true and faithful friend to his country

S/ Matthew Covington

S/James Cole

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of July A.D. 1833

S/ Samuel Ingram, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months service in the North Carolina militia.]

² Sic, Matthew Covington FPA S2444

³ [James Cole S3174](#)