

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Watterson S39877

f34VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

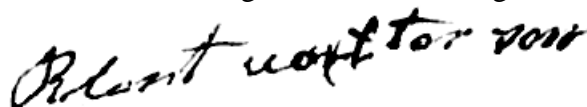
8/16/11: rev'd 3/2/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 14]

State of Virginia Princess Anne County to it

Robert Watterson aged about sixty three years a resident in the County and State aforesaid declares and makes oath that he served in the Revolutionary War in the Continental establishment four years. He enlisted with Captain William Davis in September 1775 and was attached to the first Virginia Regiment for twelve months, when he was discharged. He again reenlisted on the 26 December 1776 under Captⁿ. William Grymes [William Grimes] and was attached to the fifteenth Virginia Regiment and continued in service about three years having been discharged in the latter part of the year 1779 at Philadelphia. He further maketh oath & declares that by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, he is in need of assistance from his country. The said fifteenth was called the fifteenth until the Battle of Brandy Wine [Brandywine] in which this deponent was, when it was called the Seventh Regiment. His discharge has been sent in for the purpose of obtaining his wages and Land Warrant. Done this second day of June in the year One thousand eight Hundred and Eighteen.



[p 4]

At a Superior Court held for the County of Princess Anne the 4th day of April 1821

On this fourth day of April One thousand eight hundred and twenty one personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County of Princess Anne Robert Waterson [sic] aged Sixty five years a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served as a private soldier in the Army of the Revolution in a company of Infantry commanded by Captⁿ William Davis of the first Regiment Virginia Militia and that he served one year under said Davis and immediately after enlisted in the three years Virginia Requisition and served the said three years and was marched to Philadelphia and obtained his discharge from Major Webb. That he was inscribed on the Pension list Roll of the Virginia Agency at the rate of \$8 per month to commence the 2nd day of June 1818 as will more fully appear by reference to the Certificate Number (11.121) and dated the 28th May 1819 and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to

bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed to wit. One Negro woman and child worth about \$350 – One Horse worth \$60, Ten head of Cattle \$60, thirteen head of hogs \$13, Two old pine chests \$2, One loom &c. \$2, Six old chairs \$1, Corn and pork on hand \$10, One old safe 25 Cents, three iron pots &c &c. \$1, Some few hoes and axes and other trifles
(signed)

Robert Watterson, X his mark

That he is a farmer by trade; and has been for several years and Still continues unable except at times to pursue the said trade or business – that he has no white person in family residing with him, sworn to and declared on the same day and year first mentioned before the Superior Court of Princess Anne County by the said Robert Watterson. It is the opinion of the Court that the total amount in value of the articles of property annexed in the Schedule of Robert Watterson hand this day exhibited in Court is \$509.25.

A Copy

Test: S/ Thurmer Hoggard, C. C.

[p 10: On February 2, 1824 in Princess Anne County, the veteran aged 67 filed another claim listing the same services as set forth above and getting a new schedule roughly equivalent to that given in his 1821 schedule including the Negro woman and her child valued at \$350. In this document he states that he purchased the Negro woman with the proceeds from the sale of his bounty land warrant.]

[p 25]

Norfolk May 11th, 1824

The Honorable John C Calhoun

Sir

The case of Robert Watterson whose petition I presented to you for a renewal of his pension – is a hard one – this old man served five years in the revolutionary army, he is now 77 years old and is very infirm – The Negro woman he now owns is a cripple – and capable of doing very little service. She was purchased by the sale of the bounty Land he received for his Services. The property thus acquired I think should form no item in his Schedule required by the act of Congress. Had he thrown it away his situation would be at this moment more comfortable. As it is his prudence and care have made his condition every way cheerless. Permit me to ask the favor of you to review his Case. I have long known Mr. Watterson and I assure you I have frequently contributed my mite to relieve his necessities. I have done so since my arrival at Home. No person on the pension list in my opinion is better deserving a pension that he is. He lost an eye in the service of his Country and is utterly incapable of labor from age – and its afflictions. I am sorry to trouble you – but I never see the poor old man – without feeling his helpless condition. I am persuaded his case is not known. It is really difficult for the old and ignorant to avail themselves of that assistance of which they stand in so much need. It would afford me, and I know it would you also to make easy & tranquil the last moment of a man whose prime of life was consecrated to the service of his Country in her Struggle for independence.

I remain with great respect and

Consideration Yr Obt Servt
Thos. Newton [Thomas Newton]

[p 7: On November 5, 1827 in Princess Anne County Virginia the veteran filed another claim to which he attached a different schedule of his property and gave explanations for the changes in his property since March 18th of 1818. In this document he makes the following statement regarding the Negro woman and child listed in his schedule filed in 1821: "... The Negro woman is the daughter of a slave who was hired by me many years ago and was born at my house, she was a little favourite of my wife and at her request I purchased her while an infant to set her free, having made a will in which I gave her and her increase freedom they still remained in the care and service of myself and family, but I never did consider them as property, and finding them lately in the way of my pension I resolved to emancipate them at once and accordingly gave them Bone fide deeds of emancipation and they are now free; that he is a farmer by trade but is & has been for several years unable except at times to pursue his occupation & that he has no white person in family residing with him,..." He signed this document with his mark.]

[p 9]

To all persons, whom these presents may concern no ye, that I Robert Watterson of Princess Ann [sic] County in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in conformity to the Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth aforesaid regulating the manner of emancipating slaves have and by these presents do emancipate Negro woman slave Mary Mulatto boy Ivason [?]¹ and Robert children of said Mary her future increase – The aforesaid three slaves, to wit Mary and Ivason and Robert, to have, hold possess an [sic] enjoy all the freedom, rights and privileges which I the said Robert Watterson may or can give or grant unto them pursuant to the Act, or Acts of the General Assembly aforesaid. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my seal the 3rd day of June 1826.

Test

James McAlpine

James Johnston

Robert Watterson, X his mark {Seal}

[Note: [From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#) files the following image of the discharge given to Robert Watterson, a Corporal in the Virginia Line:

¹ *Ivason*

Robert Williams a Corporal in the 11th Regt. Virginia
having served the year in the service of the
United States, being the term for which he enlisted, is hereby
Discharged from any future Service in said Regiment
Given under my hand at Richmond
1789
Commissary was directed to give Discharge to the above
Private in his way Home to Prince George in Virginia
Paid - Col. Thoroughgood.

The discharge appears to me to have been signed by a "Colo. Thoroughgood" of whom I could find no record.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing June 2, 1818 for 4 years service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]