

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Watkins S39878

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 Oct 2014.

Virginia Campbell County August 4th 1819

This day John Watkins a resident of the county of Bedford aged sixty three years, personally came before me William Daniel one of the Judges of the general Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and being by me first duly sworn made the following statement & declaration – that is to say that he the said John Watkins enlisted in the service of the United States in the year 1777 with Captain John Holcombe of Prince Edward County for three years as a Serjeant in a Company attached to the fourth Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment in General Charles Scots [sic: Charles Scott's] Brigade – the Regiment was first commanded by Colo. Robert Lawson, & then by Colo. John Nevil [sic: John Nevill]. That he served the tour of three years, and was discharged at Fredericktown [Frederick] in Maryland in 1780, which discharge signed by Colo. John Nevil who then commanded the Regiment he thinks in the month of February, is now lost or mislaid. that in the course of the three years, he was at the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777], Monmouth Courthouse [28 Jun 1778] Paulus Hook [19 Aug 1779], Stony point [16 Jul 1780] & various other affairs, that the Company was called Capt. [Arthur] Smith's company, but he on account of bad health was chiefly absent, and the Company was commanded by the first Lieutenant Jason Reddick, or Radick or Reeduck (he is not certain how his surname was written) [sic: Jason Riddick] but that he the said Jason commanded the company in the various actions above mentioned & at the time when he the said John Watkins was discharged; & that he the said John at that time & for a considerable time before acted as quarter masters' serjeant and was discharged as such. That he the said John Watkins is now in reduced circumstances and needs the assistance of his country for support, being unable to obtain sufficient subsistence by labour by consequence of Rheumatism and the said John Watkins also produced to me the affidavits of Powell Hughes & Wm Beckham [William Beckham, pension application S37738] certified by John Harris jr a justice of the peace of the County of Buckingham, & the affidavit of Wm Walker certified by I. E. Woodson a justice of the peace of the County of Campbell, as corroborative of his declaration, which several affidavits are herewith sent enclosed.

And on this same day David Douglass of Bedford came also, and being by me first duly sworn saeth that he is well acquainted with the above named John Watkins who is in very poor & needy circumstances, & that he believes the said John Watkins by consequence of bodily infirmity is not able to labour for a competent support and I being thus satisfied that the said John Watkins was engaged in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War against the common enemy for the space of nine months & more, & that he is now in reduced circumstances and needs the assistance of his Country for support do hereby certify the same & send the proceedings before me had, to the Secretary for the department of War of the United States to enable the said John Watkins to obtain the provision lately made by an act of Congress for certain persons who were engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, under my hand & seal (there being no official seal) this the 4th day of August 1819

Wm Daniel

Virginia Bedford March County Court 1821 the same being a Court of Record the 27th day of March 1821 This day John Watkins aged about 65 a resident of the County and State aforesaid came into Court and made Solemn Oath that he enlisted in the army of the Revolution in January 1777 in Cumberland County Virginia under Capt John Holcombe and served in the 4th Virginia Reg't. on Continental establishment under Col John Nevill, first under Col Lawson & after his promotion [to general] under Nevill and served three years and was in the battles of brandywine, Germantown at Paulus Hook and at the taking of Stony Point and battle of Monmouth and was honourably discharged at Frederickstown in Maryland 1780 that his discharge was burned thereafter when his home got burnt that such are his

Reduced Circumstances in life that he needs the assistance of his Country for Support that he is by trade a brick layer but almost entirely unable from age and infirmity to follow his trade that he has Six Children living with him three sons and three daughters the eldest not quite fourteen years Old that the following is all the property he possesses to wit One Shot Gun Cost \$3 not worth more one Calf worth \$3 Two Iron pots & one Oven \$5 four Split bottom Chairs \$2 about 40 lb Bacon \$4.00 That he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th March 1818 & always was & Still is that he has not Sold or otherwise disposed of either directly or indirectly any species of property in order to bring himself within the provisions of the act of Congress of 18th March 1818 or 20 May 1820 That I have not nor has any other person in Trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any Income other than that contained in the above Schedule hereto contained & by me subscribed That he made his first declaration under the act of 18 March 1818 in Campbell Sup'r. Ct of Law the 4th Aug't 1818 & has Received a warrant from the war office under said act but never has drawn any thing under it

John Watkins

NOTE: Letters in the file state that Watkins died 11 Jan 1838 after three years "in a most infirm and helpless condition," leaving two heirs: Mrs. Witheron and Mrs. Wilcher.