

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Watters S40642

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Ohio Fairfield County SS.

On this sixteenth day of Sept'r. 1818. before me Elnathan Tufield one of the associate Judges for the County afforesaid, personally appeared James Watters, aged sixty-two years next February, resident in said Fairfield County, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the united States in the late revolutionary war." That he the said James Watters enlisted in St. Marys [Saint Marys] County, Maryland first of Feby. 1777. for three years, and sworn in for during the war under his brother Richard Watters, Lieut. of Capt. Drury Ragsdale's company of Col. Charles Harrison's Reg't. of Artillery Virginia, and continued in the service of the united States untill the end of the war, and was discharged at Hampton Virginia in Oct. 1783. to which place he came in a ship from Charleston, South Carolina, with about five hundred soldiers, where they found Capt. Lieut. Thos. Finn of the artillery then in command. That he was in the battle of Monmouth 28th June 1778, in the battle at Camden [SC, 16 Aug 1780], in the battle at Guilford Courthouse [NC, 15 Mar 1781], and in the battle of Eutaw Springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781], and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his County for support, and that he has no other evidence of his discharge, or his said services now in his possession.

State of Ohio Fairfield County SS

At a court of Common Pleas holden at Lancaster in and for the County aforesaid on the Twentieth day of June AD 1820 personally appeared in said court (being a court of record by the Constitution and laws of Ohio) James Watters aged Sixty five years a resident in Richland Township in the county and state aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows, being inlisted the first day of February 1777 in Capt. Drury Ragsdales company of Artilery in Col. Charles Harrisons Regiment in the Continental establishment for during the war, and was discharged some time in October 1783 the original declaration bears date the fourteenth day of April 1819 as stated on the certificate and numbered 9197 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 disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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 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 mare 20 years old one ditto 9 years old three Milks cows, one small steer, one yearling steer, 1 small heiffer three young calves, half of an old waggon & gears 4 sugar kettles one small Dutch oven & pot pair of fireshovals & Tongs one old wheat fan, one log chain, 6 chairs 2 common tables one set of fire andIrons one set of knives & forks 1 set of Tea ware one dozen plates and dishes 2 hoes and 2 axes Ten head of sheep & 5 lambs, one common cupboard one small Beaureau, 20 head of stock sheep 2 still barrels 1 washing tub, pale and 2 leaking[?] and the ages of my family are as follows, to wit; My wife aged 61 years unhealthy My son John now living with me aged Seventeen years healthy, — And the Debts which I now Justly owe are as follows [debts to Elkina Watters and 14 others totaling \$363.17]

I am healthy and a farmer by occupation and able to labour as persons generally are at my age and in addition to the property within mentioned I have three year old filly worth \$70.00 I hold a lease of 107¾ acres of the school reserved section in Richland Township for which I have to pay a yearly rent of \$90.53 which is more than the same is worth at this time and under present situation of things & the levies[?] the possession will be a burthen rather than a profitable My

personal property is not worth more than two hundred and fifty dollars.
[signed] James Watters

NOTE:

On 26 July 1824 James Watters filed a detailed revised schedule of his property that adds no new information about his service. He had sold much of his property to pay debts, including "one young creature of the cattle kind" to E. Watters. He also bought from and sold to his son, James, various items. He had ceded the land rented from Richland Township and was then living in the town of Lancaster in the house of his son-in-law, David Levayne. He described his situation as follows: "I am a farmer by occupation enjoy good health but am disabled very much in one of my arms and shoulder and it is with difficulty frequently that I can put on my clothes My wife is Sixty five years old very unhealthy and has for a considerable part of the last two years been under the necessity of having medical assistance, and this is all my family."

In the file is an extract of a "Survey for James Waters 400 acres of land on a Military land Warrant 1848 on the waters of Derbys creek."

A Treasury Department document states that the widow of James Watters received his pension from the last payment to the date of his death on 10 May 1838.