

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Watts (Watt) S7817

f13NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

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[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 5]

State of North Carolina Iredell County

On this 5th day of September 1832 personally appeared before me James Campbell a justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid James Watt a resident of said County and State aged 74 years and who I certify from his age and infirmities he is unable to attend at the Court of said County and who being first sworn according to law doth upon his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered as a volunteer under Captain Purviance [James Purviance] in the Militia of which Colonel Locke [Francis Locke] was commander under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and served from fall to spring, joined the Army under Caswell [Richard Caswell] at Fayetteville soon after the affair with McLeod,¹ Returned to Salisbury and was there discharged.

That after that he again entered a volunteer under the same officers and performed this tour of duty in scouring for Indians towards the head of Catawba [River].

That after that he served another tour of duty under Captain David Caldwell as a volunteer which was performed in South Carolina and in Mecklenburg County NC.

That his fourth tour of duty was performed under the same Captain down the Catawba near to Camden.

That he performed a tour of duty under Captain James Caldwell Crawford into which he was drafted and pursued some time on the rear of the British Army, joined General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army below Guilford Court house and about ten days before the Battle at Guilford Court house² his time expired and he was discharged.

That for six weeks he guarded the Jail in Salisbury where Bryant [Samuel Bryan] and other Tories were confined.

That he performed several other short tours. That he honestly and conscientiously believes that he was more than two years engaged in the active Service of his country during the Revolutionary war. That he was born in Rowan now Iredell County in the year 1757. His age is recorded in his father's Bible now in the possession of David White. That at the time he entered the service and ever since he has lived within a few miles of where he now lives & entered the

¹ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html

² https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

service as herein stated. And I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that I have no documentary evidence or other proof except the subjoined & that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

S/ James Watt, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed September 5, 1832 before me

S/ J. Campbell, JP

[Jeremiah Scroggs³ & David White gave the standard supporting affidavit. In addition, "Jeremiah Scroggs further states that he saw James Watts in the service at Cross Creek and also in Burke County."]

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State of North Carolina Iredell County

This day came James Watts before me the Subscribing Justice of the peace and being duly sworn doth upon his oath make the following additional declaration. That by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades.

That his first service was in the foot, he was a volunteer in

Captain Purviance's Company

3 months

his second tour started on horse, but left our horses to

pursue the Indians through the defiles of the mountains

1: 2 weeks

his third Tour was under Caldwell to South, in the horse

1: 2 weeks

his fourth tour down the Catawba in the horse

1:00

That his 5th Tour on foot drafted

3:00

his 6th tour was guarding the Jail at Salisbury in foot

1: 12

That he served a tour in the foot (not included in his

declaration) under Capt. ~~Niebers~~ James Crawford and pursued after Bryant

and the Tories and passed through Salisbury and then

to Guilford and to the Buffalow Creek where they were

stationed and marched & countermarched, maneuvering

against the British this tour lasted

3.00

and for this Service I claim a pension

14.2

He says that his services were rendered at different times from the time of Caswell's engagement with McLeod which happened during his first tour until the conclusion of the war.

That he was always a private and does verily believe that he served his country more than two years but is unable to specify further than he has done above.

He was always a private.

He was born the 17 Dec. 1857 [sic, 1757] in what was then Rowan but is now Iredell County and lives there still.

His age is recorded in a Bible in possession of David White.

He has stated that he has always lived near where he now lives.

He was sometimes drafted and at other times he volunteered.

He has seen Capt. Knox and Col. Davidson of the ten months men, also General Greene

He has had several discharges but took no care of them believing them to be of no value & they are all lost or destroyed.

³ [Jeremiah Scroggs S7455](#)

He refers to Jeremiah Scroggs and David M. White.
Sworn & subscribed before me this 27th day of May 1833
S/ J. Campbell, JP

S/ James Watts, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35.89 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months 28 days service in the infantry and 2 months 14 days service in the cavalry.]