

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Benedict Wadkins W11709      Barbara Wadkins      NC  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 Jan 2015.

State of Kentucky }  
Floyd County      }

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August One thousand Eight hundred and thirty two Personally appeared in open court before the Justices of Floyd County now sitting Benedict Wadkins a resident of the County of Floyd and State of Kentucky aged seventy one years of age who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he volunteered in the town of Sailsberry [sic: Salisbury] in the State of North Carolina in the spring of 1779 He thinks in the month of April but the day not recollected under a Capt [William] Bell of the North Carolina Malitia. his Colonel was by the name of Litle [sic: Archibald Lytle] for one year from the time of his engagement that the company and Regt. was ordered to remain in the vicinity Sailsbury Charlotte and the Haw fields [in present Alamance and Orange counties] during that period in the company to which he was attached was chiefly engaged in scouting against the tories. he states that in one of the skirmishes with the tories his Captain (Bell) was wounded in the Heel but no general engagement of consequence took place during the time afs'd. He again entered the service of the United as a volunteer under Captain Healy [sic: probably Joshua Hadley] in the Town of Sailsberry N.C. in the Spring of 1780 and our company was ordered forwith to march to the western part of South Carolina against the Tories the first battle that our Company was in a place called Monks Corner [sic: skirmish at Moncks Corner, 14 Apr 1780]. we then belonged to the horse, there was but a few of the Company that was in the battle afs'd. He with some others having been transfered to the horse. he further states that he was in the suprise at Laneaus ferry on the Santee River [sic: Leneud's Ferry, 6 May 1780] the Americans was defeated. He escaped with my horse and returned to Sailsbury where my former company had retired he remained with the company till he joined Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates & overtook him on the bank of the Cataba [Catawba] Yadkin River with several companies of the North Carolina Malitia My Colo. was by the name of Polke or Poke [sic: William Polk]. we marched incessantly till we arrived a Klaremount in North Carolina this side of Camden [sic: Clermont, Tory Col. Henry Rugeley's plantation 12 mi N of Camden in SC] his Colo took sick, and he was placed with his company under General Gregorys [Isaac Gregory's] division who got wounded early in the action [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] we got defeated gave way in a panic, we retreated to North Carolina till we arrived at Charlotte from there we still retreated to Sailsbury and from there to Hillsborough we remained there till our army was commanded by [Gen. Nathanael] Greene in the winter following who succeeded General Gates [on 3 Dec 1780]. the army was again marched back into South Carolina on to Pee dee at Hicks creek [near Cheraw]. we remained there till after the battle at at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781]. he states he was not in that battle the army then returned to North Carolina till we arrived at Guilford, after hard and forced march we retreated over Dan River [14 Feb] where the army remained but a few days we then went over Dan again. we was then reinforced by a Regiment of Virginia malitia commanded by his on Colonel. we skirmished and manuvred till the battle at Guilford Court House in 1781 [15 Mar 1781]. he was wounded badly in the battle in the head and taken prisoner. he states that seven besides himself the night after the battle escaped from the Pickett Guard 4 of which was wounded in the attempt, and by the assistance of his comrads he reached the army at the Iron Works [on Troublesome Creek] whither they had retired after the battle. I recovered from my wounds and we took up our line of march back again to the South. he was employed in guarding the prisoners that was taken. We kept up with the army, till we arrived at the Congaree and the army took Motes fort from the British [sic: Fort Mott SC, 12 May 1781]. we was again ordered into active service and remained till the Siege of Ninety Six [22 May - 19 Jun

1781], but here I was not in the battle being placed some miles in the reserve. the army then marched towards Camden on the high Hill [High Hills of Santee], where we remained till the battle at the Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] where Colonel Polk was wounded. My term of service having almost expired I again substituted in the place of James Wadkins who was drafted for 18 months he states that he was in no other engagement besides what has been stated. he was stationed on James Island in South Carolina at head quarters till he was discharged. he states one further circumstance that he was present in the skiff when Dr Lewis of North Carolina who was a surgeon in the army was drowned between James Island and Charlestown after the British had left charlestown [14 Dec 1782]. he states that he did not serve out the 18 months tour until he was discharged My discharge has been long since lost he knows of no documentary evidence in his favour. He states that he knew a great many officers during his service. Colo [William] Washington Gen'l [Daniel] Morgan Gen'l [Griffith] Rutherford, [Gen. Andrew] Pickens [Gen. Francis] Marion and Colo Crawford, & many more that I cannot now remember owing from the lapse of time – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state – Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
Benict hisXmark Wadkins

Questions propounded and answers by the Applicant

Question 1<sup>st</sup> by the Justice –

Where, and in what year were you born –

Ans by Applicant I was born in the Town of Sailsberry in the State of North Carolina in 1760 on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July

Question by same,

Do you have any record of your age and if so where is it

Ans I have and have the account of the same at my house

Q How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

An I volunteered twice for one year each time, and substituted for 18 months for James Wadkins the last time

Q State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service –

This applicant knew Col Willi Washington, Gen [William] Smallwood who commanded the 7<sup>th</sup> Marland regt – Gen Rutherford Gen Pickens, Col Marion, Col Cambel [sic: Campbell] Gen Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter]. he states that he entered as a volenteer under Capt Bell in Sailsbury N Carolina and his Col. by the name of Littel served out one year and then volenteered under Captain Healey for one year & Col Polke he states he was in the Battle at Gates Defeat and at Guilford where he was wounded. he was at the fight Monks Corner before and at the battle of Ninety Six and the Eutaw Springs after which he was stationed on James Island and discharged in October 1782 he served during all this time as a private soldier, which in all was thirty seven months and a half as near as he can recollect

Question by same Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it –

Ans. I got three discharges two for myself and one for James Wadkins my discharges I have lost or do not know what has become of them. the one I got for James Wadkins I gave to him my first discharge was handed to me by a Sergeant of the Company and signed by Capt Healey he believes but has no precise recollection of whose name is to the discharges as to James Wadkins discharge in whose place I substituted has forgotten who signed it but does not think that Headley did –

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of of Persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

I refer the Department to Jonathan Fitzpatrick and Lewis Haywood Esqr. to Samuel Reagan to the Rev'd C Stone and James P. Harris and Aulse Hicks, Hiram Hicks, David Hamilton, Chas Jones, Stephen Adams, Daniel Adams, Christopher Patton, Thos Fitzpatrick, and John Jones

The Deposition of Jonathan Pitts [pension application W26321] aged seventy six years of age, who being duly sworn, deposes and said that he was well acquainted with Benedict Wadkins a Soldier of the Revolution who states that he knew him from a boy (they was raised boys in the same neighbourhood) and that he knew him when he entered the service of the United States under the command of Colo. Little. this deponant does not recollect the name of his Captain he afterwards knew after Genl Greene retreated into North Carolina in the service of the united States although this Deponent was not in the war with s'd Wadkins. He states that he knew him to be a Malitia man of the North Carolina tro[ops] but whether the s'd Wadkins volenteered or was drafted he does not know but recolects to have seen him in the service frequently durring the years of 1780 and 81 but cannot say how long to his own personal knowldgte s'd Wadkins did serve. He states that when s'd Wadkins first entered the service he went out against the tories in 1789 [sic] but that he did not see him only when h started from our County.

Question Do you recognize this man Bendict Wadkins to be the same man.

Ans I do. for I knew from a boy we was raised in the same County.

Sworn to before me this 22<sup>d</sup> day of August 1832

The Deposition of Thomas C Brown [W9364] taken in open Court before the whorshipful Justices of Floyd county sitting being a County Court, at their august term 1832 who deposed that he was acquainted with Benedict Wadkins durring his services as a Soldier in the Revolution, he first saw him in the summer or autumn of 1780, his Captains name do not remember to my own recolection, I think was after the battle at Camden, he then belonged to the North Carolina Malitia at Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina, I reccolect he was in a Reigment of a malitia Colo. by the name of Polke. This deponant again saw him when the Americans retreated into Virginia under General Greene in the year following when I last saw him in the service. [see endnote] I understood from him that he has allready served above nineteen months. This deponant did not see him again the applicant until after the close of the war when Benedict Wadkins came to this deponants house, and lived with him for some time, he states that he saw the discharge of Benedict Wadkins, I think it was in March or February that he saw Bendict Wadkins in the army. The wound that is now to be seen on him was there when he came to my house as he then stated he received at the Battle of Guilford Court House. He states that he saw s'd Waskins discharge over and often & that the same was in this deponats possession. Further this deponant sayeth not.

State of Kentucky } Ss.  
Floyd County }

on this 5 day of June 1833 personally appeared before me Stephen Hamilton one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace for said County now sitting Benedict Wadkins a resident of the county of Floyd and State of Kentucky aged seventy two years of age who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. that he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated, that he volenteered as a common soldier in the Town of Sailsberry in the state of North Carolina the first day of April 1779 (to the best of his reccolection under Captain Bell of the North Carolina Malitia. his Colonel was by the name of Litle for one year from the time of his engagement & that the Company and Reigment was ordered to remain and defend in the vicinity of Sailsberry Charlotte and the Haw fields dureing that period the company to which he belonged was chiefly engaged in scouting against the Tories. He sttes that in one of the Skirmishes Captain Beel was wounded in the heel but no general engagement took place dureing the summer or fall or winter having remained in the service till my engagement expired to wit 1<sup>st</sup> April 1780. he rec'd his discharge in the month of May of 1780 This applicant again a second time volenteered as a common soldier in the service of the united states for one year in the Town of Sailsberry N.C. under Captain Hadley, and Col Polke the Regit and Company in which this applicant was in was ordered to march to the western part of South Carolina against the Tories the first Battle that the company was in was at Monks Corner, but this applicant was mounted and for some purpose belonged to the horse together with three others of the

Company and also that he was in the surprise at Lanceaus fetty on Santee River the Americans was defeated, & this applicant escaped to Sailsberry where his Company had returned, he there gave up his horse and went with the Company as he first set out. He remained there till his Company and Reigt found Gen Gates and marched to S Carolina and overtook him on the Banks of the Yadkin river together with several N Carolina Reigments, of Malitia his Colonel was still Colo Polke. The army marched till they arrivd to Klarement Colo Polke took sick and he was placed with his company under Colo. Gregory [illegible word] owing to our Col. Polke sickness he did not actively engge in the Battle on that day. Gen Gregory got wounded. this was on the 15 day of August 1780. The americans was defeated, and the company to which this applicant belonged gave way in panic and all retreated to Charlotte N Carolina from there to Sailsbury and from there to Hilsboro we all remained there till our army was commanded by Greene who succeed Gen Gates at Charlotte which was head quarters in December 1780. Greene marched the army back on to Pee dee at Hicks Creek This applicant there remained till after the Battle at the Cow pens. The army returned to North Carolina till the army arrived at Guilford Courthouse and after forced marches retreated over Dan and remained there but a short time and recrossed the river Dan when we was reenforced by a Regt of Malitia from Va commanded by Col Lee [sic: Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Continental Legion] After skirmishing and maneuvig till the Battle at Guilford Courthouse in March 1781 – in this Battle this applicant was badly wounded in the head and taken prisoner. Col Polke was the Col. under whom this Applicant was then serving, seven besides himself the night after endeavoured and did escape from the British, from the Picquet Guard, 4 of whom was wounded in the attempt, but by the assistance of his comrades he arrived at the Iron works, where the american army then was. The army then marched back to Camden on the high Hills of Santee where we remained till the battle some time, this applicant was in the siege of Ninety six but not engaged in the fight but was guarding prisoners – and after the fight on Hill on Santee, between Lord Rawdon and Greene in which battle this applicant was not in but was still guarding prisoners in the rear his term of service expired in May 1781. At the Battle of the Eutaw Springs Col. Polke was wounded. His time having expired to wit in May 1781 he then substituted for James Wadkins and was in the Battle of the Eutaw Springs in the fall following it was the last of August (the weather very warm) under Captain Hadley. James Wadkins was drafted fro 18 months. after the battle at the Eutaw Springs the army was marched to the sea coast, and this Applicant was stationed on James Island. His Colo. was now by the name of [Otho Holland] Williams and afterwards by Colo Malmedy a frenchman [sic: see endnote] he remained there for about one year after 1782 and was discharged and returned home. he was with Dr Lewis in June 1782 that ws drowned in the skift goeing from James Island to Charletown – his three discharges has long since been destroyed – he knows of no documentary evidence in his favor – he states that he knew a great many officers durreing his services. he knew Col William Washington. Gen Morgan Gen Rutherford Pickens and Colnel Marrion and Col Crawford of the Continentals. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present and declares his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Benedict hisXmark Wadkins  
[The answers to the seven interrogatories are similar to the above and not transcribed.]

#### NOTES:

In his own pension application Thomas C. Brown stated that he was in the area of Berkeley County (West) Virginia at the period when he supposedly saw Wadkins at Hillsborough and during the retreat into Virginia.

Col. Francis de Malmedy had been killed in a duel at the High Hills of Santee in November 1781.

On 8 June 1857 Barbary Wadkins, 72, applied for a pension and bounty land stating that she married Benedict Wadkins at New River in Virginia “about the year dont Recollect,” and he died 29 May 1852. She listed their children as James, Sylvester, Thomas, Bendict, Elisebeth, Rebecca, and Polly Wadkins. She stated that she had lived in Virginia until moving to Kentucky about 30 years before. She signed with her mark, witnessed by Herman Hicks, James Poe, Jonathan Skeans, and Joel Crisp, who also swore that she was recognized as the wife of Benedict Wadkins.

On 9 April 1858 Barbara Wadkins was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year.  
The file includes the following letter:

Prestonsburg Floyd Cty Ky/ Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 1857

To the Commissioner of Pensions at Washington City. Dear Sir. I take the liberty of addressing a few lines to you upon what I deem a very important subject all tho you may not think so, but this is the subject. I understand that David Cooly [David Cooley] of this County has procured a pension for Barbary Wadkins as the widow of Benedict Wadkins who was a pensioner and if such is the fact it is unjust for she never was the wife of sd Benedict. She did live with him several years and had several children whilst they lived together but she left him some 12 or 15 years before his death and tucking up with a man by the name of Ja's Poe and they are still living together when she left Benedict he married another woman and they lived together till about 1 year before his death she left him so that Barbary never was his wife and did not live with him for 12 or 15 years before his death so those are the facts which can be fully substantiated here for they have for 25 years lived close around Prestonsburg so you can treat the case as you think proper. we think that it is a grate swindle.

Jacob F. Patrick

After additional certificates were sworn that Benedict and Barbara Wadkins lived as man and wife, no further action appears to have been taken.

Federal census records for Floyd County KY in 1850 and 1860 show the following:

20 Aug 1850 David Cooly Ass't Marshal  
Benedict wadkins 95 Farmer born in NC  
Keziah " 50 NC  
Minta " 8 KY  
next door to:  
James Poe 60 No occupation TN  
Barbary " 50 VA  
Thomas " 14 KY  
Katharine " 12 KY

20 July 1860  
Barbary watkins 71 Seamstress VA  
James Poe 84 Blind TN

On 19 Nov 1863 Barbara Wadkins applied for a new pension certificate, charging that her agent, David Cooley, had "with-held and does now illegally with-hold said certificate from her."