

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Watson W18258

Hannah

fn24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/13/11

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Mathews

On the 17th day of May 1837 personally Appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the said County and State Hanner Watson [sic] a resident of said County aged eighty-eight years – who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July the 4, 1836.

That she is the widow of John Watson who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He entered the service of the United States in 1776 under Command of Captain Richard Billups at the time Lord Dunmore came to Groyns island and so continued in the service from time to time until the war ended. I do not recollect the number of his towers [tours] of duty he served with the other Militia that belonged to this parish and went out on guard whenever Captain Billups called on him the length of his towers of duty was from one to three months. I know of no Engagement that he was in Except the one at little York, my husband John Watson came to this parish just before the war he told me that he ran away from the British that was in Boston – she further declares that she was married to John Watson in February 1776 by Parson Fields. We were married at Church. I know of nobody that is now living that was present on that occasion and that her husband the aforesaid John Watson died in 1824 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

S/Hannah Watson, X her mark

[fn p. 6: family record:

Mary Watson was born March 10th, 1777

Joseph S Watson was born October 24, 1778

John Watson was born February 3rd 1781

James Watson was born October 8th 1794

Letishia was born March 28 1786

Nancy G Watson was born July 22, 1788

Betsy Watson was born January 20th 1795

[fn p. 8]

The deposition of William Morgan<sup>1</sup> taken before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in the County of Mathews and State of Virginia in support of the services of John Watson in the Revolutionary war. The Affiant being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make

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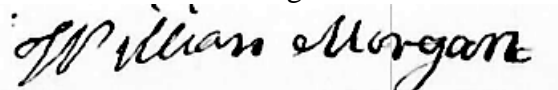
<sup>1</sup> FPA S7246

the following statements to which, he deposeth and saith that he became acquainted with John Watson on or about the year 1775 and so continued to be until his death which happened in the year 1824. I also know that he entered the service of the United States in 1776 as a private in the militia service under Captain Richard Billups who Commanded militia Company and went to Crick [?] Hill to stand guard on account of Lord Dunmore having possession of Groyns island and served a tour of duty of one month – Sir John Payton Col. [Col. John Peyton] – in 1777 he was again called out under the same officers and went to the mouth of Horn Harber [Horn Harbor] on the bay shore where the British were expected to land and served a tour of duty of six weeks – in the same year he was called out in a like order under the same officers and served another tower of duty of two months at new point and on the mouth of pepper creek – in 1778 he was again called out under the same officers and started to go to Hampton on account of the British being in the Roads and marched to Gloucester Court House and hearing there that the greater part of them had gone out we stopped there and after a while returned home there was one or two other Companies started with Captain Billups's Company they all return together – on that tower of duty he served one month – in the same year he was called out in like order under the same officers and served another tower of duty for two months at new point and other places in the Bay shore where ever a guard was wanting – in 1779 he was called out in like order under the same officers and started to go to Williamsburg on account of the British having gone of James River expecting that they were going to make an attack on that place we marched to Gloucester Court House and thence on to King & Queen [County] where we crossed the ferry and went on to Williamsburg where we were stationed for some time expecting the British to make an attack on us every night but they made no attack and after we being there some time we marched down to little York and there came [one or more indecipherable words] on that tower of duty he served two months – in the same year he was called out in like order under the same officers and went to lilly's neck [sic?] and served a tower of duty of one month – in 1780 he was again called out under the same officers on account of some Bargis [sic, barges?] coming up E. River and went down on the River shore where we had a little engagement with them after the Bargis had gone down the River Captain R. Billups marched his company to new point where they was stationed for six weeks and then was relieved by some other Company, in the same year he was called out in like order under the same officers when several other companies was called out to go to old Jamestown on James River on account of the British being up the River and marched on to King & Queen and crossed the ferry to the Brick House and then marched on to Birds Tavern where Colonel Page met us and stopped us there – a little while on account of our fatigue and gave us all something to drink and then marched us down to Williamsburg where we was stationed some time and then marched us down on James River to a place below Birrils ferry [sic, ?] and after being stationed there some time the British came along down the River and Colonel paage [sic] saw them coming he had us parade expecting that day would land and placed us under the side of the hill and kept up a continual march on the Brow of the Hill and then down in the valley so as to make out that we had a great many men but at the same time we did not have more than 3 or 4 hundred but the British did not land they passed on down the River viewing us as they went after they had gone we marched again to Williamsburg and thence down to little York where we fell in with the Balance of the Gloucester militia pound down to Hampton and they wanted us to go and let them go back again but our officers would not agree to it Captain Houlder Hudgins told the officers that was from Kingston parish to parade their men it was done Captain Hudgins placed himself in front and swore that not one of the men from Kingston should go to Hampton that they had already been from home long enough and that the

militia from the upper part of Gloucester might go if any went in the meantime one of the Continental Officers rode along by and asked what men there was Captain Hudgins told him that they was the Gloucester Kingston militia men commonly called the Blood Hounds the other militia went on down to Hampton and we came on home on that tower of duty he served 2 1/2 months – in 1781 he was again called out under the same officers and went to new point and served a tower of duty of one month – in the same year he was called out in like order under the same officers on account of Cornwallis coming to little York and went up on the linds [sic ?] where he was stationed some time and then marched down to Hubbard old field where we was stationed some time and then marched down near Gloucester town where we were stationed until the Battle came on and after the surrender of Cornwallis we was all discharged and came home on that tower of duty he served three months the way I knew that Watson served the above mentioned towers of duty I served the greater part with him and I saw him in the service frequently. Watson was an Englishman came to this country just before the war commenced and married and was as valiant a soldier as we had in the Army he had many little engagements with the British Bargis while stationed at new point the number of them I do not recollect.

I further declare that John Watson was married to Hanner taber [Hannah Taber] in the month of January or February 1776 I was not present at the marriage but it was said that they was married and I never heard it disputed by anybody. I saw them together a short time after they were married. They lived in this neighborhood all the time since their marriage and the family lived here. Now I was well acquainted with Hanner taber before Watson married her and I know that she has remained a widow ever since the death of Watson.

S/ William Morgan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Morgan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[fn p. 11]

The deposition of Richard Hurst<sup>2</sup> taken before me a Justice of the peace in the County of Mathews and State of Virginia in support of the services of John Watson in the Revolutionary war the affiant being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement to wit – he deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with John Watson late a resident of this County the said Watson was an Englishman who came [to] this Country just before the Revolutionary war and some time after he had been here he intermarried with Hanner taber who was raised in the parish and remained here the balance of his life and I do further declare after hearing the Magistrate reading the deposition of William Morgan about the services of John Watson in the Revolutionary war and having explained to him the difference towers of duty mentioned therein and [indecipherable word or words] he the said Hurst doth say that the different towers of duty set forth by Morgan in his deposition is Correct according to the best of his recollection at present for he served with him in the Revolutionary war I served with him at Gloucester Court House Williamsburg and at Gloucester town and many other places.

and I do further declare that John Watson was married to Hanner taber in the month of January or February 1776 and that they lived together in the parish as long as Watson lived I was not present at the marriage but it was a common talk in the neighborhood and I never heard anybody dispute it he had several children by her which now lives in this County Watson died in 1824 as well as my memory serves me and his wife Hanner has remained a widow ever since.

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<sup>2</sup> FPA S9593

S/ Richard Hurst, X his mark

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband's 12 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]