

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Watts W19587

Ann Watts

f40VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/17/11 supp'd 4/19/15

[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' 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.]

State of Virginia

At a Court held for the County of Norfolk the 21st day of April in the year 1818.

William Watts a resident of said County of Norfolk and a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia this day appeared in Court and made the following declaration on oath, "that he was a private soldier in Captain Bressies [?] company in the 2nd State Regiment on the Continental line, that he served for eighteen months in the said Company, and was honorably discharged from the service: and the Court being satisfied of the truth of that statement by the introduction of other testimony doth direct the same to be certified to the Secretary of War.

And at a court held for the said County of Norfolk the 15th day of June in the year last aforesaid mentioned, William Watts personally appeared in Court and made oath that from his reduced circumstances he is now actually in need of the assistance offered by the General Government to the Soldiers of the Revolutionary Army; the Court doth also certify that in its opinion the said William Watts is in such reduced circumstances.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & caused the seal of my office to be hereto affixed on the 20th day of June 1818 and in the 43rd year of the Commonwealth.

L. S.

S/ Wm Wilson, C. N. C.

Virginia Sc.

At a court held for the Norfolk County the 15th day of March 1819

William Watts who on the 21st of April last before this Court, made a declaration of his services as a soldier, and who on the 15th of June last made oath of his reduced circumstances so as to need a pension; this day again appeared in Court, and made oath that on the first day of January 1777 he enlisted a private soldier under Captain William Hoffler in the first Virginia State Regiment, that he served 6 months, when that company being ordered to the North, he exchanged places with a man in the company of Thomas Brassie who belonged to the 2nd Regiment Virginia; where he served one year & 3 months – that he was then turned over to the Continental service and joined General Washington's Army at Valley Forge, – That he then served in the Continental Army under Colonel William Blount and Lieutenant Colonel Dabney until first day of January 1780, when Lieutenant Colonel Dabney's detachment, to which he belonged, was discharged at Frederick town Maryland.

And it appearing by the oath of William Hoffler that the said William Watts did serve as a soldier as aforesaid for more than two years, the same is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of War.

In testimony and faith whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of my office to be affixed this 22nd of March in the year of our Lord 1819, and of our independence the 43rd.

S/ Wm Wilson, Clerk of Norfolk County Court

Virginia Sct.

At a Court held for Norfolk County the 20th day of April 1819

William Watts whom the 21st day of April 1818 made an application for his services as a soldier of the Revolutionary War, and who on the 15th day of June last made oath of his reduced circumstances, so as to entitle him to the provisions 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 revolutionary war;" This day again appeared in Court and being sworn declared, that he the said William Watts enlisted for three years on the first day of January 1777 in the County of Norfolk in the state of Virginia in a company by Captain William Hoffler of the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Blount in the line of the State of Virginia in the Continental Establishment; that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the United States until the first day of January 1780, when he was discharged from the service of the United States in Frederick town State of Maryland, which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War. –

In testimony whereof I William Wilson clerk of the Court of the County aforesaid have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of my office to be affixed, this 22nd day of April 1819 in the 43rd year of our Independence

S/ Wm Wilson

[p 6: letter dated May 11, 1819 from J L Edwards of the Pension office of the War Department explaining that the name of William Watts has been dropped from the list of pensioners because Captain William Hoffler is shown in the muster rolls of the state of Virginia as having served in the State troops, not the Continental line and explaining that the 1818 act provides relief only to Continental soldiers.]

[p 9: on November 16, 1839 in Norfolk County Virginia, Ann Watts, 73, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Watts, a soldier in the revolution; that she was married to William Watts on March 20th, 1781; that her husband died January 14, 1822 and that she has remained a widow ever since his death.]

[p 10: Samuel Watts offered evidence that the family Bible of the family of William Watts was made several years before the death of William Watts by the Reverend John Potts, a Methodist Minister, at the request of William Watts and remained in the possession of William Watts until his death and now is in the possession of his widow.]

[p 13: family record:

William Watts and Ann Pool were married March 20th 1781

Joel Watts son of William and Ann Watts was born February 26 1782 died March 11, 1819

James Watson son of do do was born August 25th 1784 died January 11 1817

William Watts son of do do was born September 16th 1786 died November 1790

Elizabeth Watts Daughter of do do was born August 6 1788 died October 1790

Ann Watts daughter of do do was born April 9th 1790
John Watts son of do do was born September 3rd, 1792
Mary Watts daughter of do do was born April 23rd 1795 died September 19 1797
William Watts son of do do was born May 14th 1797 died June 9th 1798
Dempsey Watts son of do do was born December 28th 1798 died August 4th 1800.
Robert Tucker son of do do was born December 22nd 1800 died
Isaac Watts son of do do was born November 6 1802 departed this life July 1869
Jesse Watts son of do do was born October 27 1804 died 26 July 1806
Sally Watts daughter of Wm & Ann Watts was born December 5th 1809]

[p 19: letter stating that the widow died February 1841 survived by two children, a son and a married daughter (neither named in the letter).]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836 for her husband's 18 months service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Norfolk (city) legislative Petitions

To the Honourable, the Speaker, and Members, of the Legislature of Virginia
Your petitioner a Citizen of the town of Portsmouth and the State of Virginia respectfully represents to your Hon. Body that he is reduced to a state of penury by unavoidable accidents and misfortunes,

Your petitioner further represents, that during the Revolutionary war, he served three years, as a soldier in the Army of the United States, and seven months and a minute company,

Your Petitioner further represents that ever since his discharge from the Army, he has been afflicted with sickness which he believes to be the effects of the hardships and fatigue which he underwent during the time of his service.

Your petitioner further represents that when the law was passed; providing for the soldiers of the Revolution, he not doubting that he should obtain a pension, made immediate application, but found that he did not come exactly under that law,

Your Petitioner further represents, that his case though very hard, is growing still worse, and in addition to his sickly state, he now has a troublesome cough with distressing pains, your Petitioner thinks he can safely say he has not enjoyed one days health for twenty years, but on the contrary has been afflicted both day and night with pains and fevers [?] which together with old age, has so much reduced and weakened him, that he could not have strength to follow any avocation which would support himself and family from the circumstance your petitioner hopes that your honorable Body will appropriate something to assist in the alleviation of his distresses, and your petitioner will ever pray.



[Reverse]

William Watts' Petition

December 20, 1819

Referred to Claims

Reasonable December 22nd

Reported December 23rd

Bill drawn December 30th