

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Yates W20142

Jemima Yates

f32NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/8/17

[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 North Carolina, Wilkes County: SS: In November 1834

On the 4th day of November personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the county and state aforesaid now sitting, John Yates, a resident of the County of Wilkes and State of North Carolina, aged Seventy Nine years, 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1776 just before the Declaration of Independence, the Cherokee Indians were very troublesome in the western and northwestern sections of North Carolina and particularly so on the western side of the Blue Ridge in that section of the country embraced within the boundaries of what is now Ashe County, but which was then a part of Wilkes County—that they had committed many depredations upon the white settlement upon the frontier, and that it became necessary to keep small bodies of the militia almost constantly under arms to repel their invasions—accordingly about the last of May or first of June 1776 this declarant volunteered his services in Wilkes County, North Carolina and joined a company of volunteer militia commanded by Captain Francis Hargrove and Lieutenant Lewis DeMoss—the company rendezvoused at a place known as Holman's Ford on the Yadkin River, and after being organized marched forthwith to the protection of the frontier settlements on the north side of the Yadkin, and between that and the Blue Ridge—after being engaged in ranging the country between the river and the mountains for some time without being able to meet with the Indians, or any portion of them, they were stationed at an eligible position on the north side of the river about equi-distant between the river and the mountains, where they constructed a fort and where they remained a considerable time for the purpose of protecting the frontier settlements—about the last of August or first of September and while this declarant was stationed at the fort above mentioned, orders were received by Captain Hargrove to march with his company forthwith to join Genl. Griffith Rutherford at the Pleasant Gardens in Burke County, preparatory to a general expedition against the Cherokee Indians.¹ Accordingly they set out immediately and proceeded to the Pleasant Gardens where they joined Genl. Rutherford with a large number of other troops. As soon as the whole were organized and prepared for the expedition they set out for their march on the Cherokee towns, and proceeded by the most direct route until they reached the Cowee towns. These towns they found abandoned by the Indians, and after destroying them, together

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

with the corn, stock, &c & such other property as they could find, they proceeded to the Middle towns where they expected to meet with the South Carolina troops, but in which they were disappointed. The middle towns they found also abandoned—and after destroying them as they had done the Cowee and other towns, Genl. Rutherford divided his army, leaving a portion of it at the Middle towns to guard the baggage and provisions, and also to take care of the sick, the whole of which were left at that place—Upon arriving at the latter place, however, they found that the Indians had principally fled—there being only a few straggling men, women and children to be found. These they captured, and after destroying the towns, they proceeded on their return to the Middle towns with their prisoners, and on the way meeting with the South Carolina troops (who were proceeding to join Genl. Rutherford at the Valley towns) they delivered the prisoners up to them and what afterwards became of them this declarant does not know. Upon the return of the North Carolina troops to the Middle towns they remained there some time, resting and refreshing themselves, having suffered greatly from the exposure they were subjected to and from eating green corn and beef without salt. As soon, however, as the troops were sufficiently rested to undertake the journey they set out upon their return to North Carolina, and having marched back into the interior of the settlements, they were severally disbanded by companies and each proceeded to their respective homes. In this expedition, this declarant is satisfied he served from the time he first turned out, not less than six months—having served three months under Captain Hargrove before joining Genl. Rutherford, and three months afterwards.

In the spring of the year following (as this declarant believes), the Cherokee Indians still continuing to annoy and depredate upon the frontier settlements on the northwestern side of the Blue Ridge, this declarant again volunteered his services for three months, and joined the company of volunteer militia raised by Captain Benjamin Cleveland at Wilkes Court house, and marched direct to Carter's Fort on the Watauga River on the northwest side of the Blue Ridge, where they were stationed for a considerable time (the precise period not recollected) and where they were employed principally in scouting parties to keep the Indians in check, and to protect the frontiers. After having remained at Carter's Fort for a considerable time, Captain Cleveland was ordered with his company to repair to the Long Islands of Holstein [sic, Holston River], where this declarant understood the Indians were about entering into a treaty of peace with the whites. They set out immediately upon their march, and upon reaching the treaty ground found a considerable number of the chiefs of the Cherokee nation, together with several persons whom he understood were commissioners appointed on the part of the United States, engaged in forming a treaty—After the treaty was concluded, Captain Cleveland with his company marched back to Carter's Ford, and after remaining there a short time, set out for home, which place this declarant reached he thinks some short time before harvest, having served in this expedition not less than three months.

About the first, or in the early part of August in the year 1780, this declarant again volunteered his services for three months, and joined the company of Captain David Viars, at Wilkes Court House, and thence marched to the defense of the southwestern section of the state, and it was understood that Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] was approaching from South Carolina with a large body of British and Tories. Having proceeded some distance into Burke County, they were joined by a considerable number of other troops—the whole being then placed under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland. While remaining in Burke organizing themselves and awaiting some expected intelligence as to the movements of Major Ferguson they were also joined by a regiment of militia from Virginia under the command of Colonel

Campbell [William Campbell]. The whole body of troops then moved on towards South Carolina, but upon the way (at some point not now recollected) intelligence was received that Major Ferguson was posting himself on Kings Mountain, upon receiving which it was immediately proposed that all who had horses or who could produce them should proceed forthwith with all possible dispatch in order to attack him. This declarant having no horse and not being able to procure one, was left behind with a large number of troops and did not reach the battle ground in time. The engagement having been fought [October 7, 1780] and the Americans with their prisoners being on their return some distance when they met them. After meeting the army on its return that portion of the troops which had been left behind rejoined them and returned with them assisting in guarding the prisoners until they reached Wilkes Court House where a considerable number of fresh troops were ordered out to proceed with them and where this declarant (being nearly destitute of clothing and his feet much cut to pieces for the want of shoes) was discharged by Col. Cleveland and went home, having served during this tour not less than two and a half months. This last tour of duty closed the services performed by this declarant during the Revolution except some short tour performed in the early part of the war, for which he declines to set up any claim.

This declarant was born in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia in the month of March 1754 as he was informed by his mother, but has no record of his age nor never had. He was living in Surry County now Wilkes [County], North Carolina when he was called into service and has continued to live in the same county ever since. All the services performed by this declarant were performed as a volunteer. The answer to the fifth interrogatory is contained generally in the body of this declaration. This declarant never received a written discharge from the service, nor has he any documentary evidence of any kind to prove his services, but refers to the testimony of Moses Watters,¹ David Laws² and William Viars,³ hereto annexed, all of whom served with him, and who can testify to his services. He also refers to the Rev. Thomas Fletcher and Joseph McNeill, as to persons to whom he is well known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Yates, X his mark

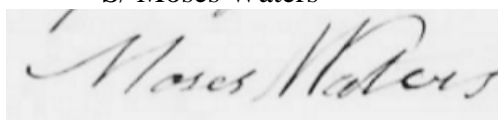
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[p 13]

On the day and year aforesaid personally appeared in open Court before the Court aforesaid, Moses Watters [sic] Esquire who being duly sworn according to law deposeth & saith that he was with John Yates the above applicant during the whole of the six months services set forth by him as being performed under Captain Francis Hargrove, and that the said six months tour of duty as set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration as having been performed by the said John Yates during the Revolutionary war, was performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Moses Waters

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moses Waters". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[p 13]

On the day and year aforesaid personally appeared in open Court before the Court aforesaid David Laws who being duly sworn according to law deposeth & saith that he served with John Yates the above applicant during the three months tour of duty set forth in the foregoing declaration as having been performed by him on the North Western side of the Blue Ridge against the Cherokee Indians, under Captain Cleveland – and that the said three months tour of duty as set forth & specified in the foregoing declaration, as having been performed by the said John Yates, during the revolutionary war, was performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ David Laws, X his mark

[p 14]

On the day and year aforesaid personally appeared in open Court before the Court aforesaid, William Viars being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he served with John Yates the above applicant during the two and a half months tour of duty set forth in the foregoing declaration as having been performed in an expedition to Kings Mountain in the company of Captain David Viars – and that the said tour of duty as set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration as having been performed by the said John Yates during the Revolutionary war, was performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ William Viars, X his mark

[Thomas Fletcher, a clergyman, and Joseph McNeill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 17: On May 18, 1841 in Wilkes County North Carolina Jemima Yates, about 82 or 83 years of age, made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of John Yates, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him some 2 or 3 years before the battle of Kings Mountain in Orange County Virginia and removed a short time after their marriage to North Carolina; that her husband died in the month of December 1835. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 5: Copy of a marriage bond dated March 8, 1779 issued to John Yeats and James Raper conditioned upon the marriage of John Yates to Jemima Raper. Certified by the clerk of court of Caswell County North Carolina.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$38.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 ½ months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

¹ [Moses Waters \(Watters\) S9518](#)

² [David Laws W5125](#)

³ [William Viars S9512](#)