

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Watts¹ W25895

Elizabeth

fn47VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/16/11

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[fn p. 18]

State of Virginia Accomack County: SS

On this 3rd day of July 18 51 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County, David Watts aged eighty-seven 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. I was engaged and served in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Charles Tunnell, which was commanded by Colonel William Selby. I have no record of the time I first entered on duty, but I think it was in the fall of the year 1776 or 1777. I was frequently called out during the war to keep guard and defend the exposed places on the seacoast. I was principally engaged in the upper end of the County, at Chincoteague Bay, Watts Landing and other exposed places in the vicinity of Horn Tower. I was in an engagement or skirmish with the British Barges in front of Chincoteago Inlet in the year 1778. I served under Captain Tunnell at the time. In this engagement one man was killed. Adding together the various times I was on guard, called out on alarm &c &c I verily believe that I was on duty near up three than two years. I was well acquainted with General John Cropper and Captain Samuel Waples, Continental officers in the night Virginia Regiment. I hereby relinquish 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. I have never made application before for a pension because I always understood that the claims of those who served in the militia of this County had been rejected by the government – At this late day I know of no one living who can testify to my service unless Robert Chase can.

I was born in the County of Accomack State of Virginia on the 25th day of August 1763.

S/ David Watts



[George H. Ewell, a clergyman and William Stran-Oustis [?] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 35]

¹ BLWt40932-160-55

[fn p. 12: On December 28, 1853 in Accomack County Virginia, Elizabeth Watts, 66, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of David Watts, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$80 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him in December 1832 and that her husband died April 23, 1853.

Elizabeth Watts]

[fn p. 35]

I Robert Chase ²aged about ninety years a Revolutionary Soldier and a Pensioner of the United States do hereby Certify that I know Captain David Watts Esquire of the County of Accomack and State of Virginia I am satisfied that David Watts Esquire was enrolled with the militia in keeping guard in the revolutionary war, how long he served I cannot undertake to say but as I believe all of the militia Companies at that time were on duty in my neighborhood was at various times, during the war in serving in the County aforesaid more than two years, many of them 3 or 4 years David Watts Esquire is a highly respectable Methodist Minister of the gospel and no man in the County aforesaid stands higher for truth and veracity. The highest and lowest will assert this fact he would not knowingly assert what is not true for all the money in Washington or elsewhere.

Given under my hand and seal this the 2nd day of July 1851.

S/ Robert Chase

Robert Chase

[fn p. 5: On May 8, 1855 in Accomack County Virginia, Elizabeth Watts, 66, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of David Watts in which she states her husband died February 10, 1854; that she married him in Somerset County Maryland in December 1833; that they were married by George Hambleton, a Methodist Minister; that her name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth Palmer; that her husband died in Accomack County Virginia.

Elizabeth Watts]

[fn p. 10: On August 14, 1855 the widow applied to have her pension benefit transferred to the Maryland agency. The petition was filed in Somerset County Maryland. She gave Mister reason for removing to Somerset County that it was the place of residence of her only sister [not named].]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the Virginia militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing April 23, 1853.]

² FPA W6910