

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Watters W3897

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } SS.
Chatham County }

Mary Watters, a resident of the county aforesaid, aged sixty eight years, 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 7, 1838, entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows": - That she is the widow of Capt. William Watters, late of the county of Orange in the State aforesaid, who was a Lieutenant in the North Carolina Line of the Continental Army, during the Revolutionary War, as she has been informed, always understood, and now verily believes. That the muster rolls, filed in the office of the Secretary of State of North Carolina, shew, that he was a lieutenant in Capt Thompson's company of the first regiment in the North Carolina Line, and that he was commissioned a lieutenant as aforesaid on the 5th day of February in the year 1777: That, although his name was omitted on the muster rolls, in June 1778, she believes his absence from the army was temporary, and the consequence of indisposition, as the warrant which was issued by the State of North Carolina for his military services during the revolutionary war, shews, that he served for the period of five years and six months in said army during said war: That she has been informed and believes, he was with the American army, during the period of their great privation and severe suffering at Valley Forge; that he was at the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777], and was with the gallant Nash after he received his mortal wound [Col. Francis Nash, died 7 Oct; and that he was in the battle of Camden, and participated in all the toils and dangers of Gates' disastrous defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]: That she has no personal knowledge of the time, place, or character of his services; nor of the battles in which he was engaged; nor of the country through which he marched; nor does she now know of any living person who served with him, or can prove the period, place, or character of his services:—

She further declares, that she is the daughter of Gen'l. James Moore, and was lawfully married to the said Capt. Wm. Watters, at the house of the late Judge Alfred Moore in the county of Orange aforesaid on the 12th day of August in the year 1788; that her husband, the said Wm. Watters, died in the county of Orange aforesaid on the 13th day of November in the year 1796, and that she has continued a widow since the death of her said husband; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794, viz: at the time above stated. She further declares, that she has been informed & believes her said husband entered the army at the age of 17 years as a volunteer & in that character performed military duty & rendered military services.

[signed 8 Jan 1839] Mary Watters

State of North Carolina

Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the continental line of this state in the revolutionary War, that William Waters a Lieutenant in Capt. Thompson's Company of the first Regiment, was Commissioned on the 5th day of February 1777 and was omitted in June 1778.

I do further certify that on the 20th of November 1784, a Warrant for bounty land was issued to the said William Waters for five and a half years or sixty six months service in said war, which warrant was issued on the certificate of a Field officer.

Given under my hand at Office in Raleigh this 21st January 1839
W. Hill

Washington City, Feby 13 1839

This will certify that from the year 1790 to about 1796, I was personally acquainted with

Capt. William Watters, then of Orange County, N.C. That he was my fathers executor, my father having died in 1790, when I was about eight years old; that afterwards until the death of Capt. Watters about the year 1796, I knew him and his lady as well as I did my own father and mother; that the said William Watters was then always called Captain, and always spoken of as an officer of the Revolution. His lady was Polly Moore, daughter of Genl. James Moore, and niece of Alfred Moore Esq. that I wrote to Mrs. Watters, (now of Pittsborough, [sic: Pittsboro] N.C.) last summer to apprise of the passage of the act in favor of widows married to officers of the Revolution since the peace of '83; that I knew that was her case as she was a very young married lady when I began to know her about the year 1790; and from all these circumstances I can certify to her identity, and that of her husband, and that his name was written and pronounced Watters, and not Walters, and pronounced exactly as waters. (The representatives of some of the districts of N.C. can testify to the same effect, as Capt. Watters and his lady were of the most respectable families in North Carolina.

Given under my hand.

[signed] Thomas H. Benton.
Senator of the U. States

NOTES:

The Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution (North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution, 1932) lists the following:

Waters, William, Ensn. 1st N. C. Sept, 19, 1776, 2nd Lt. Feb. 5, 1777; 1st Lt. Sept. 19, 1777; on roll for June 1778; is reported as transferred to Cavalry Regiment June 1, 1778.

Sen. Thomas Hart Benton (1782 - 1858) was granduncle of the painter of the same name.