

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Watson W3900

Jane

fn??¹NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/17/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

[fn p. 170]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: SS: On this 9th Day of May, 1846 personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the acting Magistrates in & for the said County, Jane Watson, a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged eighty-one 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 7 1838, Entitled an Act granting half pay & Pensions to Certain Widows, also the benefit of the act of March 3rd, 1843, and June 17th 1844,

That she is the widow of John Watson, deceased of Rutherford County, who was a private Soldier and an officer in the War of the Revolution and served as follows Viz.: in the year 1777, the said John Watson then residing in York County, Pennsylvania, and entered the Service as a volunteer in the militia under Captain William Gilliland, Lieutenant Perrigil Marshal and was marched on to Philadelphia or near there making a service of two months then was discharged. After the above service he the said John Watson removed to North Carolina, Rutherford County, and in the year 1780, he again volunteered in the Militia of North Carolina, under Captain Robert Gilkey, Colonel Andrew Hampton, and was marched from Rutherford County North Carolina, on to the Main Army in South Carolina & he the said John Watson was made Forriage Master [sic, forage master] under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] in which capacity he served out a tour of duty of three months & was discharged at Charleston, or near there, & then returned to North Carolina Rutherford County.

After the above service he the said John Watson received the appointment of Captain under Colonel Hampton and took the command of a company of Militia which he marched him to the Cherokee Nation, against the Cherokee Indians performing a tour of service of three months, which ended his regular tours of duty But that he was often out afterwards in the capacity of a Captain performing short excursions guarding & protecting the frontier settlements from the ravages of the Indians,

She further declares that she was married to the said John Watson in Rutherford County North Carolina on the 3rd day of January 1786 that her husband the aforesaid John Watson died

¹ On the day this file was examined on Footnote.com, the page numbers assigned to the digital image is appearing in the file were nonsensical.

on the 19th of July, 1812, and that she has remained a widow ever since his death. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that her marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, viz. at the time above stated.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first above written before me.

S/ Thos. Jefferson, JP

S/ Jane Watson, X her mark

[fn p. 206: marriage bond dated December 30, 1785 issued in Rutherford County North Carolina to John Watson & George Mitchell to secure the marriage of John Watson to Sarah Smart of said County.]

[fn p. 225]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: On this 9th Day of May 1846, personally appeared before me Thomas Jefferson one of the acting Magistrates in and for said County, Cornelius Clements,² a resident of said County of Rutherford, a pensioner of the United States, and made oath in due form of law, that he was in the days of the revolution well acquainted with John Watson of the County of Rutherford whose widow Jane is now a resident of said County and is applying for a pension due to her on account of the Revolutionary services of her said husband the aforesaid John Watson deceased.

This deponent further states, that the said John served a tour of duty to South Carolina under General Rutherford & Colonel Hampton as he then & has always since understood & believes, and after the above tour to South Carolina, and on his return home he the said John Watson was appointed a Captain of a Company of Militia and marched his men to the Cherokee Nation against the Cherokee Indians & served out a three months tour; that he deponent was one of the number that was to go under the said Captain Watson against the Indians, but did not in consequence of his horse becoming lame a few days before they started, but that the said Captain Watson with his company left to his personal knowledge & served out the time for which they had volunteered, to wit, three months and that on their return they said they had destroyed the Indians' Corn, and had taken three young Indians prisoners which they brought home with them & two of the same was raised in his County.

Deponent also states that the said Captain Watson was frequently out in the scouting service after the above tours but to give the particulars he cannot that the above service against the Indians was in the latter part of the year 1780 or 1781 -- further deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year aforesaid before me

S/ Thos. Jefferson, JP

S/ Cornelius Clements

[fn p. 250]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: SS: Personally appeared before me Thomas Jefferson one of the acting Magistrates in and for the said County William Watson,³ a revolutionary Pensioner of the United States, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, and made oath, in due form of law that he was a comrade in arms with John Watson deceased of Rutherford County whose widow Jane is now applying for a Pension due to her on the account of the Revolutionary Services of her husband the aforesaid John Watson deceased.

This deponent further saith on oath, that the said John Watson served in the Revolutionary War on the part of the United States in the following order, to wit, one tour

² [Cornelius Clements S8218](#)

³ [William Watson S7831](#)

amounting to two months as a volunteer in the Pennsylvania Militia under Lieutenant Perrigill Marshal & Captain William Gilliland in the winter of the year 1777 that they left home York County Pennsylvania and was marched on to or near Philadelphia and was discharged.

His next service was in North Carolina; that in the year 1778, they removed to North Carolina Rutherford County, and in the month of December 1779, he the said John Watson volunteered for 3 months under Captain Robert Gilkey, & Colonel Andrew Hampton of the Militia, and that soon after leaving Rutherford County they joined General Rutherford's Army and the said John Watson was appointed Forriage Master [Forage Master] under the said General in which capacity he served till his term of service expired and he was discharged at Charleston South Carolina on the latter part of March, 1780, -- His third tour of duty was as Captain against the Cherokee Indians; that after returning home from the above tour to South Carolina he the said John Watson received the appointment of Captain under Colonel Andrew Hampton under whom he served a tour of three months against the Cherokee Indians on the frontiers of the State which was in the fall of 1781 or 82, that after the above service he was frequently out on short excursions against the Enemy --

This deponent further states that between the above tours of duty the said John Watson served a tour of duty as a private under Captain Robert Gilkey & that they joined Colonel Campbell's Army on the West side of the Mountain, who was on his way to meet Ferguson's Army that was passing through the upper part of the State and that after joining Colonel Campbell he remained under him till sometime after the Battle of King's Mountain in the fall of 1780,

This deponent also states that the said John Watson was married some 3 or 4 years after the close of the Revolution to Jane Smart, and as husband and wife they lived together until the death of the said John Watson who died in the year 1812, and that his widow Jane has never since intermarried.

Sworn to & subscribed on this 9th Day of May 1846 before me

S/ Thos. Jefferson, JP

S/ William Watson

[fn p. 307]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: On this 12th day of May, 1846, personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the acting Magistrates in and for said County, William Dalton⁴ a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States, who being first duly sworn according to law, maketh oath, That he was in the days of the Revolution as well as since well acquainted with John Watson a Revolution Soldier now deceased whose widow Jane is now a resident of Rutherford County & an applicant for a pension.

This deponent further states on his oath, that the aforesaid John Watson was an officer & private Soldier in the Army of the revolution to deponent's own personal knowledge; that in the summer of 1780, deponent served a tour of duty in the Militia with the said John Watson who was a private soldier in the company commanded by Captain Robert Gilkey, Colonel Hampton McDowell's & others, that they left Rutherford County and marched on to Lincoln where they had an engagement with the Tories at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill,⁵ from thence they fled to the mountains and crossed one on to Holston River where they joined Colonel Campbell with whom

⁴ [William Dalton S8295](#) [Oddly, Dalton does not state in his own application for a pension that he was present at the battle of Kings mountain.]

⁵ June 20, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ramsours.htm>

they marched back to King's Mountain⁶ where they defeated Ferguson and that soon after that Battle the said John Watson left the Army having as deponent supposes served out a 3 months tour -- Deponent also states that after the above service the said John Watson was appointed a Captain, took the command of a Company and served 3 months tour on the frontiers against the Indians.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year first above written before me.
S/ J. Gilkey, JP S/ William Dalton, X his mark

[fn p. 730]

North Carolina Rutherford County: Personally appeared before me John Gilkey one of the acting Magistrates in and for said County James Ownbey⁷ a pensioner of the United States, resident in Rutherford County, and made oath in due form of law, That he was in the days of the Revolution well acquainted with John Watson late deceased of Rutherford County whose widow Jane is now applying for a pension.

This deponent further saith on his oath, that the said John Watson served, to his own personal knowledge a tour of duty amounting to three months under Colonel Hampton and General Lillington of the North Carolina Militia. That they left home Rutherford County about Christmas 1779 and joined General Lillington's Army soon after their starting and were marched on to Charleston South Carolina at which place they were discharged in the latter part of March 1780, having served out a three months Tour. That during the above tour said John Watson was with the Army, but did not serve in the ranks as a common soldier he was connected with the wagon & Team department but to say what his precise grade was deponent cannot further than it has been alleged he was forage master.

This Deponent also makes oath, the said John Watson after his return home from the above tour to Charleston was appointed Captain of a company of Militia and performed some service as such on the frontiers of the State against the Indians, But to say how long, or how much, deponent cannot.

Sworn to and subscribed this 5 day of December 1846 Before me
S/ J. Gilkey, JP S/ James Ownbey

[fn p. 65]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: Clerk's Office of the County Court

J. R. L. Gilkey Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County & State, aforesaid do hereby certify, that satisfactory evidence has, this day, then furnished and filed in my office, showing & proving that Jane Watson, widow of John, was a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$76.66 per annum, and that she died at her late residence in the aforesaid County on the 29th or 30th day of October, 1848 leaving surviving her four children viz.: James Watson, Elizabeth Gattes, Ibbey Sims, and Polly Watson, that since the death of the aforesaid Jane Watson, the said Ibbey Sims and Polly Watson have died, and that James Watson and Elizabeth Gattes are now the only living children of the aforesaid Jane Watson deceased, a pensioner as aforesaid -- That the proof in support of the above facts all the written affidavits of Joseph Reid Wm Flack Jr. and Jas. Watson, proven by Jas. M. Spratt, Esqr., a Justice of the Peace for said County which affidavits are filed in my office and true copy of the same are hereto appended.

⁶ October 7, 1780.

⁷ [James Ownby \(Owenby\) W3712](#)

In testimony of all which I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed my seal of office at office in Rutherford and this 5th day of April A.D. 1854.

S/ R. L. Gilkery, Clk

[Widow was pensioned at the rate of \$156.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1848 and ending October 29, 1848.]