

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Watlington W4097 Elizabeth Watlington VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Feb 2015.

[Originals of some of the documents transcribed below are in [bounty-land claims in the Library of Virginia](#), but they are transcribed here from copies in the federal pension file, which are more legible.]

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the peace for the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia Charles Hudson [pension application S5576] who being duly sworn according to law deposeth & sayeth that he was a soldier of the war of the Revolution, that he enlisted with Edward Moody in the year 1777 & served three years in the Regiment of State Artillery under col. [Thomas] Marshall, [Elias] Edmonds &c that he was well acquainted with John Wadlington of Halifax County & well remembers that he entered the service of the Revolution in the year 1777 as a Lieutenant & continued to serve as an officer in the said Regiment of State artillery for 3 years. This deponent further states that in August 1780 he was with the main army under Genl. Gates near Camden South Carolina, that on the day preceding Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] he was ordered as a guard to the public waggons, & came off some distance. That he then left John Wadlington as an officer his rank at that time he does not recollect (whether Lieut. or Capt.) under Colo. Edmonds of artillery. Soon after this his term of service expired, and he was with many others discharged. The loss of men at Gates' defeat & the number discharged about this time so reduced the Regiment of artillery that many of the officers became supernumerary. whether John Wadlington was he does not certainly know, but he returned home & remained to the close of the war. Given under my hand & seal this 13th day of September 1833.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Halifax in the State of Virg'a. Capt. James Thompson, who being duly sworn according to law deposeth & saith that during the war of the Revolution he lived in the County of Halifax a close neighbor to the father of John Wadlington, that he was well acquainted with him & his family, that he well remembers that the said John Wadlington left the said county, in the year 1777 to join the army as a Lieutenant of artillery, he was absent from the said county upwards of 3 years – during his absence he was several letters written by the said John Wadlington when in service at Portsmouth and other places to his father Col. Armistead Wadlington [sic: Armistead Watlington]. This deponent further states that he had a brother William Thompson who was a Capt. of artillery in Col. Marshall's Regiment. That after Genl. Gates was defeated in August 1780, he well remembers that his brother William Thompson, Capt. John Williams, & John Wadlington of the said Regiment returned home as supernumerary officers, & remained in that situation to the close of the War he heard his brother William frequently speak of the services of John Wadlington. This deponent further says that his brother William Thompson died in the year 1798 & that his heirs have recently received the half pay due to them. he is informed that the heirs of Capt. Williams have received his half pay, & & verily believes that the heirs of John Wadlington is justly entitled to the amount of his.

Given under my hand 23^d day of September 1833.

State of Virginia towit: [5 Nov 1833]

This day Capt. Paul Watlington personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Halifax in the State aforesaid, and being duly sworn deposeth and saith that in the time of the Revolutionary War he was a long time in the service, that he was commissioned as a Captain and acted as such in the Southern army. that his brother John Wadlington entered the service as a Lieutenant & acted as such at Portsmouth & other places in Virginia that in the year 1780 I well remember that he marched from Virginia to South Carolina in the Regiment of State artillery under Colo. Edmunds That he fought

with me in the battle near Camden South Carolina when General Gates was defeated in August 1780, that the said John Wadlington was promoted to a Captain, to the best of my recollection at Portsmouth Virginia, & commanded as such at Camden after which he became a supernumerary officer, & came home with myself & other officers to the County of Halifax and remained a supernumerary officer to the close of the war.

Paul Wadlington

Happy creek [in Warren County VA] Jany 1st 1834

Sir [Thomas Williams, Williams Store, Pittsylvania County VA]. I have no knowledge of Capt. Watlington (or Waddington) except that he marched with the Regt. of State Artillery in April 1780. I left him with the Regiment in North Carolina in June of that year & know nothing of him since At the close of the war a board of officers was convened of which my father [Thomas Marshall] was one, who returned a list of all the officers of the State Artillery who were entitled to half pay, this list is filed in the suits instituted by some of the officers in the Superior Court of Henrico County against the State of Va: where Capt. W's name will be found if he is entitled to half pay.

I am sir/ Yr. mo. ob./ J. Marshall

[John Marshall, pension application S5731; Chief Justice, US Supreme Court]

State of Virginia to wit:

This day Larkin Foster [W7306] who is a credible man, a resident of the County of Amelia, in the State aforesaid, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in the said County and made oath that he was a soldier in the war of the Revolution that he was acquainted with John Watlington of Halifax County Virginia, & well remembers that he was an Officer of the said Revolution that this affiant was with him at Hillsborough N.D. in the year 1780 and marched with him to Camden South Carolina – that the said Watlington commanded as a Captain of artillery – that he was under his special command in the battle when Genl. Gates was defeated, after which he was discharged & left Capt. Watlington in the service, and do not now remember when he left the service, but believes he became a supernumerary. Given under my hand this 19th April 1834.

I James Bates [W5787] of the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia hereby Certify that I was a Soldier and Ensign in the Continental Army of the Revolution. That I was well acquainted with John Watlington of said County and well remember that soon after the Comencement of the said War (I believe in the year 1777, he entered the service as Lieutenant and served in the Virginia State Regiment of Artillery at least three years. After Gen'l. Gates was Defeated in South Carolina, in the month of august or September in the year 1780 he returned to the County of Halifax where he remained untill February 1781 when he Volunteered his services to Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene, was accepted by him, and commanded as an Officer under him at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], he was Called and known as Captain Watlington but when he was promoted I cannot say. [illegible word] thing always with him, he was ever considered as, and believed to be a Brave and Meritorious Officer, and Respected as such he died in the County of Halifax some years since, and left several Children, Julious A. Armistead, &c. I am confident he was a Supernumerary Captain, at the close of the war: – Given under my hand this 21st day of May 1835. James Bates

To His Excellency D. Campbell Governor of Virginia

The undersigned one of the heirs at law of Captain John Watlington late of Halifax County, State of Virginia respectfully represents that he has frequently heard and verily believes that the said John Watlington at an early period of the Revolutionary war voluntarily entered the American Army and was appointed Lieutenant of Artillery in the year 1777, and acted as such in the Regiment of Virginia State Artillery under Colo. [Thomas] Marshall untill February or March 1780, when he was promoted to the rank of Captain, and commanded as such under Colo. [Elias] Edmunds; that he marched in the summer of 1780 into the State of South Carolina; that he was in the battle when General [Horatio] Gates was

defeated in September 1780 [sic], soon after which he became a supernumerary and returned home to the County of Halifax Virginia in the fall of the year 1780, where he remained until February 1781. He then volunteered his services to General [Nathanael] Greene, was accepted, and served under him in the battle of Guildford North Carolina, and was a Supernumerary Captain at the close of the war; that the said John Watlington departed this life in the month of January 1813 intestate, and left seven children which are the only heirs at law of the said John Watlington dec'd.; that application has been made for bounty land &c, and sundry depositions and references filed in the Executive Department that bounty land has not yet been granted; that your petitioner has other proof in support of his claims aforesaid and verily believes that himself and the other heirs at law are justly entitled to said Bounty land for the services of said Captain John Watlington dec'd.; and pray a reconsideration of their case and grant to them the Bounty Land agreeable to usage, and the laws of the Commonwealth
 Ambrose L. Bennett

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Halifax County Va. To wit:

This day came before me a Justice of the peace for said County, Charles Hudson and made oath that he the said Charles Hudson enlisted in the service during the revolutionary war in the year of our Lord 1777 for three years as a private soldier under Capt. Edward Moody of the county of Halifax Va. the said Moody being a Captain of the state Artillery, and that John Watlington (by many persons spelt and pronounced Wadlington) of the said County of Halifax enlisted under said Edward Moody as a cadet, and marched with him the said Hudson from Halifax to Portsmouth, that said Watlington continued in the service in Colo. Thomas Marshall's regiment of State Artillery until about the year 1780. Colo. Marshall's regiment was divided, part stationed at Little York, part at Hampton, and the other at Portsmouth. That part stationed at Portsmouth was commanded by Colo. Matthews. Some time in the early part of the year 1780, the said Hudson and Watlington marched to the south, with many others from Portsmouth, under command of Colo. Edmunds and that said John Watlington was promoted about that time to the office of a Captain or Lieutenant, and when at the south fought at the battle at Camden; that he the said Watlington served in the war three years. The said Watlington after serving a tour of three years returned home to the county of Halifax shortly after the battle at Camden and was always called Capt. John Watlington to the day of his death. And he the said Charles Hudson believes that he was a Captain, a supernumerary officer and further this deponent saith not, this 13th day of May 1831.

I do certify upon honor that I was Commissioned as Colo. of the Regiment of State Artillery some time in Novem 1777 and became a Supernumerary Officer by a reduction of the Regiment in February 1781. June 26, 1783
 T. Marshall

A list of Officers of the Va State line and Navy who were not reported as entitled to Half pay – who were proved to be entitled to it and have been paid under the act 5 July 1832.

Capt	Thomas Minor [W5374]	1 st Va Regt.
“	Thaddy Kelly [R15579]	2 nd “ ”
Maj	James Quarles [R17254]	“ ” “
Lt	John Piper [R17110]	“ ” “
”	James Withers [w4399]	“ ” “
Capt.	Thomas Upshaw [R18623]	State Gar[rison] Regt.
“	Benj Fields [Benjamin Field W3009]	Ill[inois] Regt.
“	Benj Roberts [Benjamin Roberts S31343]	“ ”
“	Mark Thomas [R18446]	“ ”
“	Thomas Val. Dalton [Valentine Thomas Dalton W3610]	“ ”

“	Jesse Evans [S15826]	“	”
“	Edward Worthington [R19205]	“	”
Lt	Thomas Ravenscraft [S1248]	“	”
Surgeon	Andrew Ray [R8611]	“	”
Lt	Timothy DeMontbrain	“	”
Capt	Stephen Turnbull [R18602]	State Artillery	
Lieut	Charles Vowles [R18701]	“	”
Surgeon	W. C. Selden [Wilson Cary Selden S4815]	“	”
“	John Applethwaite		
	[John Applethwaite R12129]	“	Navy
“	Philip Bartlett [R7]	“	”
Leut	Charles S Boush [R12]	“	”
“	George Catlett [W2524]	“	”
“	George Chamberlaine [R23]	“	”
Capt	John Cox [S8223]	“	”

a List of Officers, discriminated by the Board of Officers as not entitled to Half pay under their then circumstances, but who have nevertheless been allowed, upon the ground, that an officer could not be deprived of his Half pay by an ex parte proceeding – a mere inference against him – which might have been explained if a court had been convened. Viz.

Lieut.	Elliott Rucker [S46408]	1 State Regt.
“	Chales Russel [sic: Charles Russell R17603]	“ ”
“	John Russel [sic: John Russell BLWt1856-200]	“ ”
“	Churchill Gibbs [S46002]	“ ”
“	John Hardyman [R14719]	2 State Regt.
“	Ben Edmundson	
	[Benjamin Edmondson R13953]	“
Major	John Mazaret [John Mazarett R16059]	State Artillery
Capt	Thos. Clay [Thomas Clay S9319]	“
Lt.	John Baytop [R19357]	“

Halifax County Va. 23rd April 1832

This is to certify that I was several years in the service during the revolutionary war, and that my brother John Watlington (often spelt Wadlington by many persons) also entered also entered into the service as a cadet and was promoted to a Captaincy to the best of my recollection at Portsmouth; after receiving his commission he went from Portsmouth to the south and was with me at the battle or Camden as Captain of artillery, and that he was supernumerary officer. Given under my hand the date above written.



NOTE:

On 8 Oct 1840 Betsey Watlington, 65, of Caswell County NC, applied for a pension stating that she married John Watlington 6 Sep 1792, and he died 6 Feb 1812. In the file is the copy of a bond signed by John Watlington and Tillman Dixon in Caswell County NC on 4 Sep 1792 for the marriage of Watlington to Betsey Donoho. Dixon may have been Capt. Tilghman Dixon. Betsey Donoho was the daughter of Maj. Thomas and Keziah Donoho (W9838).

On 2 Sep 1841 John Yeates (S7988) certified John Watlington's service.

Various documents in the file list the children and heirs of John Watlington as follows: Susannah

Haskins, formerly Susannah Watlington; Julius S. Watlington; Keziah Jeffres, formerly Keziah Watlington, and her husband, Thomas Jeffres; Elizabeth A. Bolton, formerly Elizabeth A. Watlington, and her husband Joel Bolton; Mildred Hooper, formerly Mildred Watlington, and her husband John Hooper; Frances D. Bennett, formerly Frances D. Watlington, and her husband, Ambrose L. Bennett; and Hiram S. Watlington.

Not all the 131 pages in the federal pension file are transcribed here.

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Addendum to John Watlington W4097

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 23 January 2023.

[The following are transcribed from Virginia Half-Pay records on fold3.com. Some documents in the file are not transcribed because they repeat information transcribed above. Several documents relate to the character of Paul Watlington.]

Application of Elisha Barksdale, administrator de bonis non of John Watlington for Half-Pay under act 5 July 1832.

Applicant states that John Watlington entered the service of the Revolution in 1777 as a Lieutenant of Artillery, was afterward promoted to a Captaincy remained in active service till after the battle of Camden in August 1780 when he with many other Officers became supernumery.

It appears that he volunteered again in the early part of 1781 and was in the battle of Guilford, from which period he remained a supernuery to the end of the war.

These facts are made out by the affidavits of his brother officers & soldiers who knew him well in service and cannot be mistaken as to his identity with the Officer on the Rolls of that name.

The enclosed extract from the return of the Regiment of Col. Marshall [Thomas Marshall VAS494] of 7 Feb 81 shows he was then "on command with Christopher Roane [Christopher Roane X635]." This was a few weeks before the battle of Guilford.

He died in the month of January 1813 in Halifax County where his children & heirs now mainly reside. This application is now for the half-pay of a Captain of Artillery from 15 March 1781 to January 1813.

Very respectfully submitted by/ Elisha Barksdale Jr./ Admin'or de bonis non of John Watlington

A Return of the names & Rank of the Officers of the Regiment of Artillery raised for the defence of the Commonwealth of Virginia under the Command of Colo Thomas Marshall.

Thomas Marshall Colo.

Elias Edmunds Lt Colo [VAS2004]

Edward Moody Capt

Cowne Robert Capt Lt. [Robert Cowne VAS1927]

John Watlington Capt Lt. on Com'd w'th C Roan

I hereby Certify that the foregoing is truly extracted from a roll now on file in this Office I further certify that said roll bears date the Feb'y 7th 1781.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 4th day of October 1848.

Jas E. Heath A. P. Accts

I hereby certify that it appears by the Commissioners Book for the County of Halifax that John Watlington Sen'r was charged in 1811 with one Tytheable, eleven Slaves, and three horses, and that John Watlington Jr was charged with one Tytheable and one Slave. And in 1812 John Watlington Sen is charged with Six Slaves and two horses and no Tytheable, and that John Watlington jr is charged with one Tytheable and one Slave.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 5th day of March 1849.

Jas. E. Heath Aud P Accts

Stevensville King & Queen Co. Va. Feby. 26th 1850

Dear Sir [William Selden, U. S. Treasurer] This is to request you not to pay any more fund into the hands of Elisha Barksdale as admr. of Capt. John Watlington dec'd. va. state line in the war of the Revolution. He rec'd. some last March and refused to pay me any part of it, say that I was not an heir.

That I am an heir, I can prove beyond a doubt. By so doing you will oblige your most humble serv't.
Geo. Reed Finch