

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Laws W5125

Martha

fn51NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/7/10

[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.]

State of North Carolina County of Wilkes

On this 29th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, now sitting, David Laws a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, aged seventy-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 --

That he was born in the year 1755 in the County of Halifax & State of Virginia (the record of which was entered in a Bible lately the property of Mr. William Mitchell of Wilkes County, but which is now lost or destroyed, so that the record cannot be adverted to) where he lived until he was about eighteen years of age, when he removed with his father to the State of South Carolina, where he lived for about two years; when he again removed to Wilkes County North Carolina where he has lived ever since. In a short time after this deponent settled in the County of Wilkes, probably about the last of August 1776, he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer for three months, under Captain Francis Hargrove, and rendezvoused at Wilkes C. H. and as soon thereafter as they could prepare, they marched direct to the Pleasant Gardens in the County of Burke, where they joined the troops under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] -- (they longing however to the Regiment of Colonel Martin Armstrong) -- In a few days after joining General Rutherford, they marched as direct as they could, to what was called the Middle Towns of the Cherokee Nation -- where they expected to meet with the troops from South Carolina, but which, did not arrive as this deponent understood, until a day or two after he left that place. During the stay of General Rutherford's troops at the Middle Towns, a good deal of sickness prevailed among them from eating green corn & beef without salt; so that before they could advance from that place, a new organization of the troops had to be made -- accordingly General Rutherford issued orders for about 1000 or 1200 of the ablest, healthiest & stoutest of the troops to turn out for the purpose of marching to the Valley Towns, which was a distance of 50 or 60 miles -- this deponent was one of those who turned out on that occasion, & as soon as the required number was made up, they set out and marched to the Valley Towns -- Upon arriving at the latter place, they found that most of the Indians had fled, and abandoned the towns, leaving only a few straggling men, women and children, whom they took prisoners -- from thence about 50 of them marched a few miles down the River and destroyed a small town, and after having destroyed & burnt the Valley Towns & all the corn, & other property they could find, they returned to the Middle Towns, and rejoined the troops which had been left at that place. After resting a few days and recruiting themselves, the Army said out upon his return to

North Carolina, and when they reached the Pleasant Garden, the Company under Captain Hargrove received their discharges and returned home --

In the spring of the year following (1777) this deponent again volunteered himself for 3 months to march against the Cherokee Indians, and joined the company of Captain Benjamin Cleveland on Lewis fork [?], (a branch of the Yadkin [River]) and very soon thereafter, marched to Carter's Fort on Watauga [River], (in what is now called East Tennessee) -- where they were stationed a considerable time, during which, they were principally engaged in scouting parties after the Indians, who at that time were very troublesome in that part of the Country -- the appearance of troops however in the country gave the Indians some cause of alarm, and they abandoned that section of it and retired further into the interior -- where tranquility was restored, Captain Cleveland marched with his company to the Long islands of Holston [River], where they found some troops collected at a Fort, and where some persons were engaged as commissioners on the part of the United States in forming a treaty with the Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation -- after remaining there a short time Captain Cleveland with his company marched back again to Carter's Fort, where they remained for 2 or 3 weeks, and then set out for home -- which place this deponent believes he reached some time in the month of June -- When they had arrived within a short distance of whom, Captain Cleveland gave to each man a written discharge from the service -- but the one given to this deponent has been lost or mislaid for many years, so that it cannot now be found. This deponent further states that during the last expedition there was no higher officer in command than a Captain.

This deponent has lived in the County of Wilkes ever since the revolutionary War, and resides there at this time. He has no documentary evidence of any kind to prove his service, but refers to the testimony of Moses Watters¹ Esquire and Mr. John Yates,² hereto annexed, both of whom served with him during the war under General Rutherford, and the latter of whom served with him under Captain Cleveland to the Long Islands of Holston.

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 & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ R. Martin, C. H. CC

S/ David Laws, X his mark

On the day and year aforesaid, personally appeared in open court before the Court aforesaid, Moses Watters Esquire, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that he served with David Laws the above applicant during the 3 months tour of service performed under General Rutherford to the Cherokee nation in the year 1776, and further that the services set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration as having been performed by the said David laws under General Rutherford, were performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year aforesaid

S/ Moses Waters

On the day and year aforesaid, personally appeared in open court before the court aforesaid, John Yates, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and saith, that he served with David laws the foregoing applicant during both the 3 months tour mentioned in the foregoing declaration -- first under General Rutherford to the Cherokee Nation; and secondly to Carter's Fort and that he Long Islands of Holston; also against the Cherokee Indians under Captain Benjamin Cleveland -- and further, that the services set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration as having been performed by the said David laws, were performed by him.

¹ FPA S9518, his name is also spelled Moses Waters.

² [John Yates W20142](#)

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Yates, Y his mark

[fn p. 5: On January 17, 1843, in Wilkes County North Carolina, Martha Laws, 82, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of David Laws, a revolutionary soldier and pensioner; that she married him about the year 1778 in the County of Wilkes she thinks or Rowan it may have been; that the marriage took place before her husband's last service in the revolution; that her husband died December 2, 1841 and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 7: on January 17, 1843 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Shadrach Laws, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with David Laws and is wife Martha, formerly Martha Mitchell; that they lived together as man and wife; that he well remembers David entering the service under Captain Hartgroves or Hongroves; that the marriage of David Laws & Martha Mitchell took place in the year 1778 the month he cannot recollect; that they were married by John Greer, a magistrate of said County [Wilkes County I presume since he makes no specific reference otherwise].]

[fn p. on August 28, 1844 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Shadrach laws, 85, gave another affidavit in which he states he was present at the marriage of David Laws to Martha Mitchell at her father's house on Moravian Creek in Wilkes County in the month of February 1778.]

[fn p. 46: on August 28, 1844 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Elizabeth Mitchell, 79, gave testimony that she was present at the wedding when David laws a revolutionary soldier married Martha Mitchell at her father's house on Moravian Creek in the month of February 1778; that they were married by publication in the manner of marriages customary at that time; that she has lived close neighbor to them up to the time of his death and that they lived together as man and wife.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 46 months service in the revolution in the North Carolina militia.]