

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Watson W6411

Mary

fn45VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/12/11

[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.]

State of Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit:

On this 22nd day of February 1839, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Mary Watson, a resident of said County and State, aged 70 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 may by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows –"

That she is the widow of Jesse Watson late of the said County and State, who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia militia service, in the War of the Revolution – she declares, that she has no knowledge of the services of her late husband in the Revolutionary war, excepting what she has often and repeatedly heard from him in his lifetime, and from others, who served with him in the Revolutionary Army – She recollects distinctly hearing him say that he was a considerable length of time in the service, was engaged in several battles, and suffered many hardships and privations – That she is now quite old, very infirm and that her memory has failed in a great measure; in consequence of which, she cannot at this time call to remembrance the particulars of her husband's service, and therefore rely on the statements of those who served with him, whose certificates are filed with and accompany this declaration – and prayed to be taken and considered as part – She therefore declares, that for the same reason above stated she cannot state precisely the exact length of time he was in actual service altogether, but would suppose at the lowest estimate he was in service altogether twelve months for which length of time she claims a pension – she further states, that her husband departed this life long before the passage of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, and never enjoyed the benefit of the provisions of any pension law. In support of her claim, she refers to his Army records of the period, and the accompanying certificates of old and credible soldiers who served with him in the War of the Revolution.

She further declares that she was married to the said Jesse Watson on the 10th day of December 1790: that her husband, the aforesaid Jesse Watson, died on the 22nd day of October, 1812; 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: to wit, at the time above stated.

S/ Mary Watson, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and state aforesaid, this 22nd day of February, 1839 –

S/ Ellison Clark, JP

[fn p. 26]

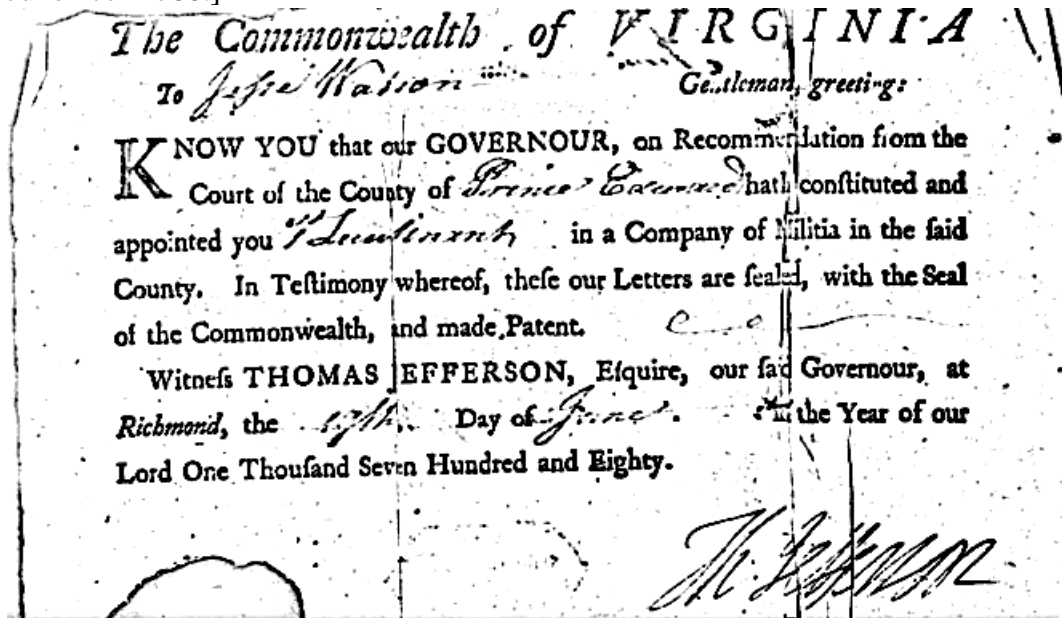
Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

I Thomas Harvey¹ of Charlotte, do hereby certify that I was acquainted with Jesse Watson formerly of Prince Edward [County] before and during the War of the Revolution: my first recollection of him in the Army was in the month of June 1780, in the South, under Captain Lorton² [? Thomas Lawton?] from Prince Edward – he then held the appointment of Lieutenant and was engaged in the battle near Camden the August following. He served on this occasion three months. My next recollection I have of him was in the fall of the same year, as Lieutenant, under Captain Charles Allen in North Carolina. He served about three months on this occasion. He also served as Lieutenant at Guilford and Siege of Yorktown in 1781, but how long each time, and under what Captains I have forgot. My impression is however, he served three months each tour; and at Guilford was again under Captain Charles Allen, and at Yorktown under Captain Joseph Michaux. He was an active, bold and efficient officer, and much thought of in the Army – I am in the 80 year of my age, and engaged in the war of the revolution –

S/ Thomas Harvey, X his mark

[attested September 28, 1839 in Charlotte County Virginia.]

[fn p. 23: Lieutenants commission in the Virginia militia signed by Thomas Jefferson and dated June 17th 1780.]



[fn p. 24: captains commission dated August 19, 1782 signed by Benjamin Harrison, Governor appointing Jesse Watson a Captain in the militia.]

¹ [Thomas Harvey R4715](#)

² *Capt. Lorton* IF this is indeed a mistaken reference to Capt. Thomas Lawton of the Prince Edward County militia, there is no record that indicates that Capt. Lawton was at the Battle of Camden on August 15-16, 1780.

The Commonwealth of VIRGINIA
 To Jesse Watson Esq. greeting.
 KNOW you that from the special trust and confidence which is reposed in your fidelity,
 courage, activity, and good conduct, our Governor, with the advice of the
 Council of State, and on the recommendation of the honorable court of the county of
 (Richmond) doth appoint you the said Jesse Watson Captain
 in the militia of the said county of (Richmond) IN testimony
 whereof, these our letters are made patent. WITNESS, (Genl. James)
 Esquire, our said Governor, at Richmond the 19th
 day of August 1782.
 Registered in the WAR OFFICE.

[fn p. 38]

This is to Certifie that Jesse Watson a Volunteer in my Copy [company] of the 1th [sic] Regt.
 have serv'd his time faithfully and is herby Discharge'd from the said Service
 Given under my hand this 9th day of December 1780
 Chas. Allen Capt. in 1th Regt.

This is to certifie that Jesse
 Watson a Volunteer in my Copy
 of the 1th Regt. hath serv'd his
 time faithfully and is herby
 Discharge'd from the s^d Service
 Given Under my Hand this
 9th day of Dec. 1780
 Chas. Allen Cap. in 1th Regt.

[fn p. 3: Marriage bond issued to Jesse Watson and Francis Watkins on the 10th day of December 1790 conditioned upon the marriage of Jesse Watson to Polly Meredith daughter of Pleasant Meredith of the County of Henrico, state of Virginia.]

[fn p. 40: oath of allegiance dated September 15, 1777 signed by Philn Holcombe [Philemon

Holcombe]

I DO hereby certify, that *Joseph Watson* hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly intituled An act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal, this *15th* day of *Sept^r 1777*
Philip Holcombe

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum for her husband's service of 9 months as a Lieutenant in the Virginia militia.]