

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Edward Watkins W6417

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia & County of Powhatan to wit:

[The following first paragraph appears to have been crossed out.]

On this 15th day of August in the year 1832, personally appeared in open Court before Saml. Jones, B. J. Morrison, Jno. C. Porter & C. Selden the Court of Powhatan County aforesaid, now sitting, Edward Watkins, a resident of the said County, aged 85 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.

Edward Watkins of the said County of Powhatan hereby declares that he is in the eighty-sixth year of his age - that he was born & raised in the same County - That he took the oath common at the time, by which he renounced his allegiance to King George - the exact year in which he took this oath he does not recollect, his recollection being indistinct as to dates — That he was in almost constant service under Capt. Williamson for about two or three years previous to the battle at Guilford C. H. in N. Carolina [Guilford Courthouse 15 Mar 1781]. That he went to the South in the early part of the year 1781 under the command of Capt. Williamson from the said County of Powhatan & crossed the Potomac [sic: Roanoke River] at Peyton's ferry - that he was shortly after this in the engagement at Guilford - in which battle he was taken prisoner - That he continued a prisoner for three days & then found the means of effecting his escape & came on home - that he was called on to go to York Town shortly after getting home, but procured a substitute. That he was in service for three years or more - that he remembers that Col. Beverley Randolph, Major [St. George] Tucker & Col. [John] Holcomb were officers engaged in the battle at Guilford — that he has not the original discharge — that he was not a volunteer or substitute, but that he was drafted.

State of Virginia, Powhatan County, towit:

On this 20th day of February in the year 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Court of the county of Powhatan aforesaid, now sitting Edward Watkins, a resident of the said county, aged 85 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 the said Edward Watkins is now in the 86th year of his age, that he was born and raised in the said county of Powhatan where he still resides, that on the 20th day of September 1777 he took the oath of allegiance and did duty as directed by an act of the General assembly entitled 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, as will appear by the certificate of Vincent Markham hereto attached. That in the early part of the Revolutionary war, he and one Edmund Wooldridge in pursuance of a law then in force furnished a substitute, a man named William Edwards to serve in the army for two years. That after the expiration of these two years, he was drafted in the Militia and marched from the county of Powhatan under the command of Capt. George Williamson of the same County, and proceeded to Williamsburg, crossing James River at the city of Richmond and passing down from thence on the north side of the River. that he was drafted for the term of three months and did serve in this tour that length of time. He does not recollect the precise time of his being called into the service or is discharge therefrom - he remembers that [Robert] Lawson commanded as General at W'msburg and Willis as Colonel. after his return to Powhatan he was again called on and drafted, and marched from the same County of Powhatan under the command of the said Captain George Williamson, to Cabin Point in Surry County in the State of Virginia - on his way to Cabin Point he passed thro' Petersburg. that whilst he was at Cabin Point there was a slight skirmish between the british troops and some of the americans, but he was, at the time, with the Guard. that he was drafted for three months and did serve in this tour to Cabin Point that length of time. The same Lawson commanded as General and Willis, as Colonel, at Cabin Point. That in the winter of 1780-81 he

was again called on and drafted in the said County of Powhatan for a third tour of three months and marched from the same County under the command of the same Capt. George Williamson, and proceeded to the South, crossing the Roanoak River at Peytons ferry. that he was in the engagement at Guildford Courthouse on the 15th of March 1781 where he was taken prisoner by the british. that he continued a prisoner three days and then found the means of making his escape and returned home. Capt. Williamson resigned after getting to Guildford, and he (the said Watkins) was put under the command of Capt. [Thomas] Hubbard where he remained a short time and was afterwards transferred and placed under the command of Capt. Wm. Hughes. Col. Beverley Randolph commanded the Regiment and Major St. George Tucker the battalion to which he was attached at Guildford. that in addition to the officers above named he remembers Genl. Lawson and Col. Holcombe were officers engaged in the battle at Guildford. that at the time he was taken prisoner by the british they took from him all his papers and to the best of his recollection his discharges from previous since. that he was engaged in the service at the time he marched to Guildford at least three months. That shortly after his return home, he was again called on to march to York Town, in Virginia, but at that time, he furnished a substitute, one Daniel Langsdon, who marched with the army and remained in the service until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. That he was engaged in the service, including the periods of time for which he furnished substitutes, at least three years. that he was not a volunteer or substitute, but was each time that he was called on, drafted, in the militia. He has no documentary evidence of his service, but he refers to the testimony of Seth Hatcher [pension application S4579] and Thomas Tucker [S7762] heretofore given and transmitted to the war department. He cannot date with certainty the different dates at which he was called into service or the times of his discharges from service.

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 and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[signed] Edward Watkins

NOTE: On 27 Jan 1837 Molly Watkins, 84, applied for a pension stating that she was married to Edward Watkins in Chesterfield County VA before the start of the Revolutionary War by Rev. Archibald McRoberts of the Church of England, and that her husband died 9 Apr 1835. Her application was supported by the deposition of their son, Spencer Watkins. In a separate document Spencer Watkins stated that he and an older brother were born before the beginning of the Revolutionary War.