

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Watkins (Wadkins)¹ W6779 Elizabeth Watkins f65NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/16/10: rev'd 6/8/17 & 7/27/21

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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State of Kentucky Floyd County} SS

On this 17 day of February 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the court of Floyd County now sitting Thomas Watkins resident of Kentucky in the County of Floyd and State of Kentucky aged Eighty three 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated -- under Colonel James Locke [sic, Francis Locke of the Rowan County Regiment] Captain Charles Gorden [sic, Charles Gordon] in the year 1780 in the month of December in the State of North Carolina and County of Rowan and, he entered for nine months as a drafted man in the militia of that State. He marched from Saulsbury [sic, Salisbury] in the aforesaid month (December, 1780) and was in the battle at Cross Creek in the high land Country with the Tories after this battle² he was marched back to Salisbury and was there placed under the command of General Sumner [Jethro Sumner], and was in a several fight[s] near Salisbury with Cornwallis' advanced guard, he then marched with the Main Army into Virginia and was at what was called the "hacking frolic"³ with Tories in North Carolina when the Tories were put to flight and many slain. He was in the battle at Guilford Court house in the spring of 1781.⁴ The date of the month not recollected after laying at the works after this he marched to the South State, he was then in the battle of Ninety Six,⁵ after this he was down on Pedee River in South Carolina, under Captain ___ to expel a few Tories that was at a ferry on the River and destroyed their boats, before he arrived at this place, the Captain was informed by some Whigs that the Tories were reinforced from Winnsborough, and they retreated back to the Main Army. Much was done alone by marching in the night he will state that he was

¹ BLWt45592-160-55

² I cannot identify any such engagement. The veteran MAY have been referring to the engagement at Moore's Creek Bridge on February 27, 1776 but obviously the date doesn't match and there is no indication that Capt. Charles Gordon's company was in that engagement.

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html

³ I believe he is referring to the engagement traditionally called Pyle's Defeat February 25, 1781.

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_haw_river.html

⁴ March 15, 1781. <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810315.htm>

⁵ Probably a reference to the siege of Ninety Six from May 22 to June 19, 1781.

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html

in the battle at Camden⁶ which occurred soon after the Army came from Virginia, he does not state that all of his service was rendered under the same Colonel or the same Captain, it being difficult, one day he was under one Colonel and another day transferred he was in several small engagements not mentioned here. He was in a running fight on the Santee River with some of the British Dragoons. This was just after the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] he was then transferred to a different Captain, Colonel to wit Colonel Hill, Captain Smith -- he was also in the battle of the Eutaw Springs⁷ and was commanded by General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] and Colonel Bell and Captain Clarke, after the battle was over, he was marched to Camden up the country. The British having left the Fort, he returned to Ninety Six where some prisoners were kept. He was here discharged for his nine months service.

At this place many of his acquaintance were, and still in the service, being dangerous too to travel home for the Country was full of Tories in many places -- North Carolinians then enlisted for eighteen months at Nelson's Ferry on Santee River under Colonel Ben Hemen [?] and Captain William Lewis in South Carolina, he does not know what the County was called if he ever knew, he has forgotten it.-- he was marched there October 1781, at which time he engaged the time mentioned to Georgetown, near the sea board, at the mouth of Pedee River, he there remained till next spring guarding some prisoners that had been taken in June 1782, he marched up to a little River, the name of which he has forgotten to attack some Tories, that were stealing, and plundering near the Georgia line about sixty miles from Augusta; he was under a Captain Allen, and was commanded by Major McCawley, he arrived at Edgefield, and there turned across the country to the Saluda River in a northeast direction, after being at Captain Marsh's place on that River, he marched then to Camden where the Americans had several hundred men stationed, from this place after resting about a week for he had marched a long-distance he proceeded down to Eutaw Springs in August 1782. He then marched to a place called Orangeboro [sic, Orangeburg] that the Americans had taken from the Tories and British, from this place after staying here till the middle of November 1782, he marched to Fort Watson and remained there till the Army took Charleston⁸ he marched into Charleston a few days after the Main Army had got in -- during this last year he was in a battle with the Tories on the Saluda [River] in July 1782 a few days before he arrived at Camden but after killing a few the rest fled in the swamp -- he then remained in Charleston or some times on the Island till May 1783 when the forces all broke up and this Applicant was discharged his services being no longer necessary, as peace being made, he thinks this was in May 1783, but knows it was in the spring of that year, he did not serve out his 18 months. -- nor will he state how long he did actually serve the last time as he was sick all the winter and spring in Charleston and was continued in the hospital. He knew many Regiments in the Continental service but he is not certain he could name them. He knew so many militia Regiments that it would be difficult to designate them. These were things that he never took any notice of. He knew General Greene [Nathanael Greene] (that is he has seen him often), Colonel Smith, Colonel Singleton, Colonel Johnson, General Caswell [Richard as well], General Sumner, General Hugar [sic, Isaac Huger], Colonel Baxter, General Rutledge, Colonel Henderson, General Moultrie [William Moultrie], Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse

⁶ Probably a reference to the Battle of Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781. The troops from Rowan County participating in that engagement were under the command of Capt. Daniel Bryson.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hobkirks_hill.html. The Rowan County militia known to have participated in that engagement were under the command of Major Martin.

⁷ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hobkirks_hill.html. The Rowan County militia known to have participated in that engagement were under the command of Major Martin.

⁸ The British evacuated Charleston in December 1782.

Harry" Lee], General Mason -- Captain Henry Adams, Captain George Frazer, Major Butler, Lieutenant William Young, Captain George Jamieson, Captain Robert Pearson, Major James Blair, these were captains & officers in the militia, most of the officers before named were regular officers, he saw General Marion [Francis Marion] in Georgetown during his service. He has no documentary evidence in his favor, to establish his claim, he does not know any person living that can bear testimony as to his last services, or all of the first.

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.

S/ Thomas Wadkins, X his mark

[Ezekiel Stone, a clergyman, and Reuben Marshall gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Questions and answers

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. N. North Carolina Rowan County in the year ___

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have it set down in a book at home

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. In Rowan County: which was always my home. And claimed that as his home even when he engaged for 18 months in South Carolina, many years subsequent to the revolution he emigrated to this County (Floyd Kentucky) where he now lives

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. He was a drafted man the first time and enlisted in South Carolina the second time

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. He knew General Greene, General Huger, Colonel Baxter, Colonel Washington & Colonel Lee, Colonel Howard, General Moultrie, Colonel Henderson, Colonel Hemen and General Caswell and many he has forgotten. The General's Circumstances of this applicants service are these -- he was drafted in North Carolina for 9 months under Colonel Locke and Captain Gordon in 1780, he was in a battle with the Tories at X Creek [Cross Creek, now Fayetteville] in North Carolina he was in a fight with the Tories when so many were killed he was in the battle of Guilford Court house [March 15, 1781]⁹ in North Carolina, he was in the battle of Camden when the Americans was defeated, he was at the battle of Ninety Six, he was at the battle of the Eutaw Springs, he then engaged for 18 months in SC and served from October 1781 till in the spring 1783 (but not in actual service all the time) for he was sick a long time in Charleston and did not perform duty. The last time he engaged in the service it was under Colonel Benjamin Hemen Captain William Lewis, he knows he got one discharge for 9 months but has no recollection about getting in April last time, peace being made before his time was up, and the Army almost all went home, during the year he last served, the Tories on Pedee and Saluda done more damage than the British and many were caught, some the Whigs hung and some was killed, and some put in Jail, his recollection has failed him much, and he has now very

⁹ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

little recollection of many little circumstances that transpired during his service in the Revolutionary war.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. He states he was discharged from service twice, received one discharge he recollects well, but he cannot state about the 2nd, he thinks that he was verbally discharged the last time, he does not remember who signed will gave him the discharge nor has he any knowledge what has become of it -- it is not among his papers, nor has he seen it for 50 years that he knows of.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

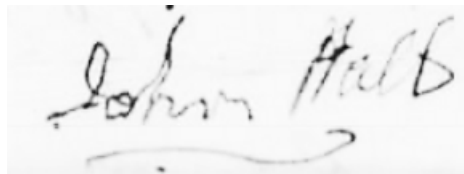
Ans. There is Francis Whitaker, Robert Patrick Esquire, Hugh Patrick, Colonel Lewis Poor, Captain John Montgomery, William Prater, E. Prater, River in Wallace Bailey, Michael Resener, John Salyers, William Marshall, Johnson Marshall, Reverend John Morris, Cudeth Stone, Charles Menix, Meredith Patrick Esquire, Reuben Fraley.

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Perry County

The deposition of John Hall¹⁰ aged seventy-nine years of age on his oath states that during the year 1781, 1782 he thinks during the Revolution he knew Thomas Wadkins and that he served for a long time in the Revolution as a Soldier in the American ranks. He was a good and faithful soldier, and further he states that he knows of there being "nine months men" in the service of North Carolina and he (Wadkins) belonged to that organization of the State of North Carolina there was militia drafts for 9 months & that the undersigned served forty days at one time and the nine months men there is no doubt of the service of the Applicant in the Army of the Revolution for a great while -- he does not pretend to detail all the services but he saw him in the service many times during the continued service of the Applicant -- when he went to Georgetown he never saw him afterwards until the close of his service in the year 1783.

S/ John Hall

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Hall". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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Perry County

Ezekiel Patrick¹¹ states on his oath that he knew Thomas Wadkins now of Floyd County State of Kentucky ever since he could recollect, that they lived in the same County in North Carolina, that he well recollects that Wadkins entered in the Army of the revolution, he knows when he served under Colonel Locke for nine months, he served out his time, and that he enlisted for eighteen months in South Carolina in the year 1781 and that two of his (Patrick's) brothers served with him at the same time they were however taken prisoners in the war and was carried off in the fleet when the British left Charleston in Carolina, Watkins was not taken

¹⁰ [John Hall S30451](#)

¹¹ [Ezekiel Patrick R7996](#)

prisoner and he came home after peace had been restored, he states that he has no recollection what day he got home from the war, and further he deposes that he did not serve with him, all the time he served during the 18 months service being the last he served but he knows he served he did service under Colonel Hemen but he can't say whether he was a militia man or a regular officer -- he has well as Wadkins was frequently changed from one commander to another -- he further states that there was "9 months men" out of North Carolina, they were not regulars but State troops, and that he served in one of the 9 months -- as to this being the same man he cannot doubt for he knew him from the earliest recollection to this day -- and further this deponent saith not.

State of Kentucky Perry County

I hereby certify that Ezekiel Patrick who has given the foregoing statement of Thomas Wadkins service in the Army of the revolution -- and that he is a credible witness. Given from under my hand this 2nd day of April 1834

S/ Andrew Willson

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State of Kentucky Floyd County

Thomas Waldkins [sic] here amends his original declaration of the 17th of February 1834 under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832.

He states that he rendered the service enumerated in his former Declaration and enlisted for the terms set forth, and served out each Tour as therein set forth -- as to Colonel Hemen he was not a Continental Soldier but nor does he rely on him as his Colonel, he served under Colonel James at the time he enlisted in South Carolina for a 18 months, he happened to have the command [of] the troops to which he belonged at the time of the engagement -- he here sets forth the length of each engagement

-- first in North Carolina State troops for 9 months

-- and then he enlisted for 18 months

These were not called tours or strictly drafts. He states he has been put to great trouble and expense, in procuring the testimony and bringing the witnesses from a distance.

-- He from the lapse of time he has forgotten many things which he should have remembered, one thing however he is certain that he performed his service stated in his former declaration of the 17th February 1834. There was no drafts it's true in the strict sense of the word in the militia for nine months yet they were so called all in the time of the revolution, but there was engagements for nine months under the State establishment for nine months. That were not deemed Continental troops -- This is a notorious fact, there were to his knowledge, many volunteer Companies for nine months in North Carolina for nine months he here submits his case to the department of war with the proof of his service.

S/ Thomas Wadkins, X his mark

[p 5: On November 27th, 1855 in Floyd County Kentucky, Elizabeth Watkins aged ___ years filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Watkins, a Revolutionary war pensioner; that she was married to him on March 29th, 1845 the Reverend John Morris; that her husband departed this life in Floyd County Kentucky on November 4th, 1854 and that she is still his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 10: November 27th, 1855 in Floyd County Kentucky, Elizabeth Watkins, aged 45 years, the widow of Thomas Watkins filed for her bounty land entitlement under the 1855 act stating that she married him March 29, 1845; that they were married by the Reverend John Morris; that her husband died in Floyd County on November 4, 1854 and that she remains his widow. She signed this application with her mark.]

[p 30: License issued in Floyd County Kentucky on March 29, 1845 for the marriage of Thomas Watkins to Elizabeth Shepherd.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 18 months service in the North Carolina militia as a private.]