I hereby [hereby] [Sertify] Certify that William Watkins Enlisted in the State [State] Caveley [Cavalry] July 20th [?] 1779 for the war and has served Until April 1783 and is now Discharged.

Given under my hand This 30 Day of April 1783

S/ Saml Tinsley, Capt. [Samuel Tinsley]
L D

To the General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of William Watkins of the County of York, humbly represents, that he enlisted early in the war of the revolution, a private in the 2nd company of Light Dragoons, commanded by Capt. William Armistead, attached to the State Legion, then under the command
of Lt. Col. Charles Dabney; that he served through the war; that from his ignorance of the course in which it was necessary to proceed, he never had his accounts for pay due him audited and adjusted; nor has he since received compensation for arrearages of pay due him for those services, that the original pay rolls of the company were (he is informed) transmitted to the office of the war department in the lists of Washington and destroyed in the conflagration of that office in the year 1804 [sic, 1800 & again in 1814] – which circumstance repels any hope of aid in adjusting his Claims. – Bending now under the weight of years, afflicted with complicated infirmities, most of them consequences attendant on the exposures incident to active field and camp duties; the prime of his youth, devoted to the service of his Country; and now suffering for the necessities of life; he approaches your honourable bodies in the humble confidence that the War worn soldier of the revolution, will not appeal in vain; that your humanity will not suffer him longer to languish in want; or consign him to poverty, to a premature grave. Your petitioner then prays that he may be placed on the pension list, with such pecuniary allowance for his future support through the short remnant of life that may be allocated him, – you in your wisdom shall deem just, and your benevolence award him; and as in duty, and in gratitude bound, he will ever pray &c

December 1827  
S/ Wm Watkins

Petition of William Watkins
December 14th, 1827
Referred to Claims
1827 Dir [?] 27th Laid on table
1828 January for Rejected
5 Reported
Th. Griffin

The following documents accompanied the petition of William Watkins, presented to the House of Delegates at its December Session 1827 –
2 Affidavits of Absalom Cox}
Do of William Watkins } Sworn to before Calthorp Howard
11th of October 1827
A Statement from Auditor assigning his reasons for rejecting William Watkins' application for pay as a soldier during revolutionary war

[** None of these documents are contained in this file as posted online]