

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Watts: W1009

Mary B. Watts

f81SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/20/10 & 6/7/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 11]

State of Tennessee, County of Jackson

On this sixth day of December A. D. 1832 personally appeared at the house of George Watts in the County of Jackson and State of Tennessee aforesaid before William Scanland a Justice of the Peace for said county and one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said county of Jackson being a Court of record, the said George Watts a resident of the County of Jackson and State of Tennessee aforesaid aged seventy 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in that part of the District of Ninety six State of South Carolina which is now Laurens district where he then resided sometime in the month of September 1779, the day of the month not recollected being drafted for three months, under command of Lieutenant Robert Finney and marched under his command to Savannah river at the town of Augusta in the State of Georgia, thence down said river to the town of Savannah in said State where he was attached to Captain William Davis's company and to Colonel Williams' [James Williams'] regiment of South Carolina militia and joined the army commanded by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. The British were in possession of Savannah at the time, and on the ninth day of October 1779 the American troops commanded by General Lincoln and the French troops commanded by Count D'Estaing attempted to storm the British works and after severe and obstinate contest in which a great many brae men fell, the combined American and French army retreated. Among the killed was the gallant and generous Pole, Count Pulaski. Count D'Estaing was wounded. Applicant was in the whole of the action and Captain Davis whilst standing by his side was mortally wounded by a grape shot and fell against him. Colonel Laurens a regular officer who commanded the infantry from Charleston, Col. Richard Parker a regular officer from Virginia who commanded a regiment of eighteen months men from that State, were in the action. Colonel Thompson's regiment from Charleston was also in the action. Applicant then marched under command of said Colonel Williams to Augusta in said State of Georgia and sometime in the month of December 1779 applicant's term of service having expired he was verbally discharged at said town of Augusta by Colonel Williams but received no written discharge. The day of the month on which applicant was discharged is not recollected but he served out his full term of three months. At the time applicant joined the army at Savannah which was ten days after he was drafted, he was appointed first sergeant by Captain Davis upon

the recommendation of his Colonel Williams and applicant served as first sergeant until he was discharged at Augusta as aforesaid which was three months lacking ten days.

Applicant again entered the service of the United States in that part of the District of Ninety six State of South Carolina now called Laurens district where he then resided sometime in the month of May 1781 the day of the month not recollected as a volunteer for six months under Captain Simmons and joined the army commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] the same day about five miles from the town of Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina, which town was then in possession of the British and besieged [May 22-June 19, 1781] by the American army commanded by General Green. The siege of Ninety six was raised about the 18<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1781 as well as applicant recollects, and applicant with the army under General Green retreated from Ninety Six pursued by the British under Lord Rawdon, along the road leading to Virginia, crossed Broad river at Island ford then changed course down Broad river on the East side of said river to near Congaree sometimes called Granby. At or near Congaree applicant's term of service having expired he was verbally discharged by Lieutenant Hutcheson (who belonged to the same company with himself) sometime in the month of November 1781 the day of the month not recollected. Applicant served out his full term of six months, no written discharge was given. During the last mentioned term of service applicant was not attached to any regiment, but was mostly engaged under Lieutenant Hutcheson who belonged to the same company with himself, in foraging and scouting parties. He acted as pilot to Hutcheson and they were engaged in foraging through the country for provisions with sometimes twenty and sometimes thirty men, whilst thus engaged they had frequent skirmishes with the British and Tories in which but few were killed. Hutcheson was sometimes called forage master. Among the killed at the siege of Ninety Six were Captain Armstrong a regular officer noted for bravery and Captain Joseph Pickens and many gallant soldiers. The names of the regular officers with whom applicant recollects he served during the last mentioned term of service were Colonel Wm Henderson [William Henderson], Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], Colonel Kirkwood [Robert Kirkwood] from Maryland Edmund Pendleton aid de camp to Genl. Green, Colonel Washington [William Washington] and Colonel Lee all the regular officers he recollects to have served with during said term of service.

Applicant again entered the service of the United States in that part of the District of Ninety six State of South Carolina now called Laurens District where he then resided between the tenth and twentieth day of November 1781, the precise day not recollected as a volunteer for the term of twelve months under command of Captain Samuel Moore and Lieutenant Joseph Reed, no Ensign (as is believed). The volunteer company was raised by order of General Pickens for said term to guard the frontiers of South Carolina. Applicant under the command of said Captain Moore marched through the District of Ninety Six and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December of the same year arrived within about twelve miles of the house of Edgel a Tory colonel, on Simmons Creek, where Colonel Hays [sic, Joseph Hayes] and his party were defeated [November 1781] by the Tories under William Cunningham [William "Bloodied Bill" Cunningham], where applicant & the rest of the company waited for General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] who came up that night and was joined by applicant under command of said Captain Moore. Next morning applicant marched under General Pickens, who attempted to cut off Cunningham's retreat, but failed to do so. Applicant then marched with the company under said Captain Moore to Michael Blain's the place of rendezvous about a mile and a half from Swanzy's ferry on Saluda river, where they halted to recruit (sic) themselves and horses. Applicant and company under said Captain continued guarding the frontiers for about four months when they

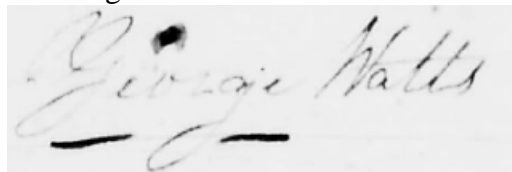
were attached by Cunningham and his party of Tories near the house of said Michael Blain where Captain Moore and John Calhoun were killed and applicant and the rest of the company escaped by swimming Saluda river. Applicant continued under command of Lieutenant Reed during the balance of his term of services guarding the frontiers of South Carolina when about the twentieth day of November 1782 his term of service having expired he was verbally discharged by said Lieutenant Reed no written discharge was given. Applicant served out his full term of twelve months during the last engagement. During this last term of service applicant was not attached to any regiment but Moore's volunteer company was still subject to Genl. Pickens' orders, tho not always with him.

Applicant again entered the service of the United States in what was then the District of Ninety Six in State of South Carolina where he then resided about the first of December 1782, as a volunteer for three months under command of Captain Robert Maxwell and Lieutenant Finney. He marched under said officers to a creek called Beaver dam in State of Georgia where he joined the army of seven hundred men commanded by General Pickens, then marched with said army to the Cherokee nation, proceeded very privately about nine days and a little after midnight arrived within about a mile and a half of a Cherokee town called Chota and about sunrise next morning commenced an attack upon the town the action lasted about two hours when the troops commanded by General Pickens were victors. Fort warriors of the Cherokee were killed and about 24 women & children taken prisoners. None of the Americans were killed or wounded. The Indians were taken entirely by surprise. On the same day about one o'clock P.M. applicant marched with the army under said officers to another town about ten miles distant called Santaw attacked the town about day light next morning took a few old squaws and some children prisoners. Then marched to another Cherokee town called the Country village about 14 miles distant from Santaw but the Indians had evacuated the town. Then Applicant under said officers marched back to Chota where the prisoners had been left under a guard, remained there two days, then marched with the prisoners to General Pickens' block house in that part of Ninety six district now called Abbeville District South Carolina where the prisoners were left about the last December of the same year, or first of January in the year following. The troops then separated under their respective captains by order of the General, and applicant under command of said Captain Maxwell marched by order of said General Pickens to Michael Blain's the place of rendezvous about a mile and a half from Swanzy's ferry on Saluda river where he remained under said Captain guarding the frontiers of South Carolina against the Indians and Tories until about the tenth of March 1783 when he applicant was discharged at said Michael Blain's by said Captain Maxwell verbally no written discharge being given. Applicant served out his full term of three months during his last engagement. Applicant was not attached to any regiment during the last mentioned term of service. There was no regular officer with the army during said term. General Pickens of South Carolina commanded the army in the Cherokee nation, both South Carolinians & Georgians. The militia field officers whom applicant recollects to have been with the troops in the Cherokee nation when he served were Colonel Anderson [probably Robert Anderson] and Major Tut [sic, Benjamin Tutt] of South Carolina, General Clark [Elijah Clarke] and Major Dooly [probably John Dooly] of Georgia.

Brigadier General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] commanded the Militia Brigade to which applicant belonged during his first term of service at Savannah. Applicant does not recollect the names or numbers of the Continental & militia regiments who were with the troops where he served. Applicant was born in Hanover county, State of Virginia on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1762, his age is recorded in the family Bible of his father which is now in possession of

his brother, James Watts in Laurens District State of South Carolina, he has no copy taken from said Bible but recollects to have seen it recorded as above stated and is certain that his recollection in that particular is correct. Since the Revolutionary War said applicant has lived in Laurens District State of South Carolina and Jackson County State of Tennessee, where he now lives, in which last mentioned county he has resided more than twenty years. He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, except William Cason who resides in Jackson County State of Tennessee on Hemby's Creek who lived within a mile and a half of said applicant when he entered the service, but was not in the service with him. The names of some of the persons to whom applicant is known is his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution are William Scanland, Jonas Griffith, Jon Swezea and Robert Richmond. 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.

S/ George Watts

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Watts". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There are some horizontal lines below the signature, possibly indicating a line of text or a signature line.

Sworn to and subscribed the  
day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Scanland, J. M.

[p 16: Jonas Griffith a clergyman and William Scanland gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 17]

State of Tennessee

County of Jackson

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 1833 personally appeared at the house of Jonas Griffith in said county of Jackson and State of Tennessee before me Jonas Griffith a Justice of the Peace for said county of Jackson, William Cason,<sup>1</sup> a resident of said county and State aged eighty four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement.

I William Cason, aged eighty four years resided in that part of the district of ninety six State of South Carolina now Laurens District and was a near neighbor to George Watts the applicant in the foregoing declaration then of said district and State during said period. I was not in the service of the United States with said applicant being advised by my Colonel Williams to hire a substitute inclined to toryism and remain at home myself to protect my family and the Whig interest, which I did, consequently cannot prove positively the service of applicant nor under what officers he served. I know of said applicant being from home a great deal during the War of the revolution and it was said by applicant's family and the neighbors generally that he was in the service of the United States. I heard at one time applicant was drafted and in the service of the United States and at other times that he had volunteered and entered the service of the United States. I think it was reported generally in our then neighborhood that applicant was

---

<sup>1</sup> I think this William Cason was the brother-in-law of George Watts. Someone by that name married George's sister, Nancy Watts.

in the service of the United States during the attempt by the American army to storm Savannah and during the siege of Ninety Six and heard of his being in frequent skirmishing parties and of his being in the service of the United States against the Cherokee Indians, but I did not at any time see applicant enter the service of the United States nor did I see him return home but it was generally reported in the neighborhood where we then resided that said applicant was in the service of the United States and I think from what I know of applicant being absent from home and from the report of the neighbors generally that said applicant was in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary war in all two years or more but cannot state even from reputation the different engagements nor the length of his term of service. Applicant was a true Whig both hated and dreaded by the Tories who were both numerous and troublesome in our then neighborhood. I believe applicant to be seventy years of age as stated in his declaration. I now live in the neighborhood of applicant he is very infirm not being able to perform labor of any sort & he is in very indigent circumstances. And from my own knowledge of said applicant as well as from his general character in the neighborhood where he now resides and has resided for twenty two years or more, I would give him full credit upon his oath in a court of Justice.

S/ William Cason "X" his mark

Sworn to and subscribed  
before me 11<sup>th</sup> February 1833  
S/Jonas Griffith, JP

[p 22]

State of Tennessee County of Jackson: SS

On this 24 day of July A.D. 1833 personally appeared at the house of George Watts in the County of Jackson and State of Tennessee aforesaid before me John Swezea a Justice of the Peace for said County and one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County of Jackson being a Court of Record, the said George Watts a resident of the County of Jackson and State of Tennessee aforesaid aged seventy-one years last January who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following additional declaration as an amendment to the foregoing declaration subscribed and sworn to by him 6th December 1832, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

1<sup>st</sup> I, said George Watts, was born in Hanover County, State of Virginia on the 11th day of January in the year of our Lord 1762.

2<sup>nd</sup> My age is recorded in the family Bible of my father, which Bible the last I knew of it, was in possession of my brother James Watts of Laurens District State of South Carolina, I have no copy taken from said Bible, but I recollect to have seen it recorded as above stated.

3<sup>rd</sup> When called into service at the different times mentioned in my original declaration I was living in that part of the district of Ninety Six now Laurens District State of South Carolina. Since the Revolutionary War I have lived in Laurens District, South Carolina and Jackson County State of Tennessee and I now live in said County of Jackson.

4<sup>th</sup> The first time I entered the service of the United States which was in September 1779 I was drafted. The second time I entered the service which was in May 1781 I volunteered. The third time I entered the service which was in November 1781 I volunteered in the fourth time I entered the service which was in December 1782, I volunteered. During the different times I was in the service of the United States as stated in my original declaration I served in the militia & volunteers of South Carolina but was not at any time in the Regular or Continental Service.

5. The names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where I served, our Colonel Laurens, Colonel Parker, Colonel Thompson, Count d'Estaing (French), Count Pulaski (Pole) and General Lincoln at the siege of Savannah: General Greene, Colonel Henderson, Colonel Lee, Colonel Kirkwood, & Colonel Washington at the siege of 96. I do not recollect the names or numbers of the Continental or militia regiments who were with the troops where I served. Colonel Laurens commanded a Regiment of light infantry from Charleston, Colonel Parker commanded a Regiment of 18 months men from Virginia, Colonel Thompson commanded a Regiment from Charleston & Colonel Williams commanded a militia Regiment from 96 District, and Count Pulaski commanded a Regiment of L. Cavalry, at the siege of Savannah -- Colonel Washington commanded a Regiment of Cavalry, Colonel Kirkwood commanded a Regiment of the Maryland line at siege of 96 & Colonel Butler commanded the Artillery at the same place. During my first tour of service of the United States I marched from 96 district to Savannah then in possession of the British we attempted to storm the British works, were unsuccessful Count d'Estaing was wounded Count Pulaski was mortally wounded -- We retreated -- I was then marched to Augusta under Colonel Williams where I was verbally discharged having served out my term of 3 months. During my second tour I was marched [several words line through and obliterated] of 96 and South Carolina, in possession of British & besieged by the American Army commanded by General Greene -- we retreated to Congaree where having served out my term of 6 months I was verbally discharged, during this term I was mostly engaged under Lieutenant Hutchison in foraging & scouting. During my third tour I was engaged in guarding the frontiers of South Carolina. I served out my term of twelve months & was verbally discharged. During my fourth tour I marched under General Pickens to the Cherokee nation. We took and burnt Chota killed 40 Indian warriors, took about 240 women & children prisoners marched to two other Indian towns which were evacuated, marched back to Chota then marched to Pickens Blockhouse where we left the prisoners. We then separated by order of General Pickens under our respective captains & I marched under Captain Maxwell to Michael Blains where we remained guarding the frontiers of South Carolina against Indians & Tories when having served out my term of 3 months I was verbally discharged. -- During all the time that I was in the service of the United States as stated in my declaration I served as a private except the first 3 months when I was appointed first Sergeant and served as such for 3 months lacking 10 days -- for a more full detail of my services I refer you to my declaration.

6. I never received a written discharge from the service but was verbally discharged at the expiration of my several tours.

7. The names of some of the persons to whom I am known in my present neighborhood and who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a Soldier of the Revolution are John Swezea, William Scanland, Robert Richman and Jonas Griffith.

During the whole time that I was in the service of the United States as stated in my declaration made 6 December 1832, I was a mounted militia man & volunteer I furnished my own horse and arms.

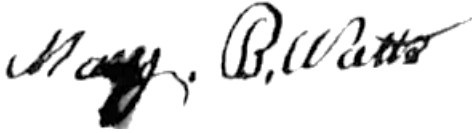
S/ George Watts

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Watts". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day & place above mentioned.

S/ John Swezea, JP

[p 5: On October 10, 1838 in Jackson County Tennessee, Mary B. Watts, 71, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of George Watts, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution; that she married him April 21, 1838; that her husband died on the 4th day of January 1835; that she remains his widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary B. Watts". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

]

[p 31: On February 17, 1840 in an affidavit given in Jackson County Tennessee, the widow authenticated the family record showing the births of her children.]

[p 4: family record]

Salley Watts was born March the 1, 1790

Martha T. Watts was born April 22 1792

James Watts was born January 31 1794

Mansfield Watts was born December 19 1795

Nancy W. Watts was born August 9, 1797

Lucindia Watts was born April 28 1799

Susannah Watts was born November 9 1801

Ann T. Watts was born February 23 1804

Fanney Watts was born January 4 1806

Eliza Watts Grandchild to G & Polley Watts was born December 21 1812

[Scroll down for an image of the family record]

Sally Watts was born March the 1. 1772  
 Martha T. Watts was born April. 22 - 1792  
 James Watts was born January - 31 - 1794  
 Mansfield Watts was born December. 19. 1795  
 Nancy W Watts was born August. - 9 1797  
 Suscinda Watts was born April 28 - 1797  
 Susannah Watts was born November 9 - 1801  
 Ann T Watts was born February 23 - 1804  
 Fanny Watts was born January 4 - 1806  
 Eliza Watts Grand child to G. & P. Watts  
 Watts was born December 21 - 1812

[p 30: on February 17, 1840 in Jackson County Tennessee Sally N. Osborn testified that she was 7 years old at the time that her sister Mary B. married George Watts and recollects well that the marriage took place April 21, 1789 and that the said George died January 4, 1835 and that her sister remains his widow. In an earlier affidavit (p55), Sally added the details that the marriage of her sister and George Watts took place in the home of their father in Laurens district South Carolina.

*Sally N Osborn*

]

[p 56: On October 10, 1838, Martha Walker, a resident of Jackson County Tennessee, testified that she is about 68 years of age; that she was well acquainted with George Watts and Mary B. Walker when they were children in the same neighborhood before their marriage; that she was present at their marriage in Laurens County South Carolina by a justice of the peace whose name was Brown; that she was one of the waiters who waited on Mrs. Watts and that the marriage took place April 21 1788.]



[p 59 & p 64-65: Certificate dated March 15, 1847 from the South Carolina Comptroller General Office in Columbia South Carolina showing the payments made to George Watts for military service during the revolution.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$83.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 21 months & 20 days service as a private and 2 months 10 days service as a Sergeant in the revolution. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]