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REPORT TO: File

SUBJECT: Revolutionary War Capt. John Watts of Camden District, South Carolina: Was He John Watts of Fairfield's Wateree Creek or John Watts of Kershaw's Lynches Creek?

BACKGROUND: Two (and only two) John Wattses appear on record in Camden District at the close of the Revolution when local records began to be kept.¹

1. John Watts of modern Fairfield County. In December 1783 he was one of 14 "former neighbors" providing a character reference for Lt. William Coggin, who was about to move to Georgia. In early 1792, John and his son Thomas moved to Washington County, Georgia, where Coggin then resided. Between the Revolution and the Watts' removal to Georgia, many documents provide two key means of identification:

- They name a consistent set of neighbors that place this John Watts on *Wateree Creek and Mill Creek*, near Dry Fork, Hog Fork, and Hornsby Fork, in east central Fairfield. Significant neighbors in that community cosigned the Coggin document.
- They document John Watts's 1784 purchase of land, in concert with **William Watts**, from the estate of the Loyalist colonel Ambrose Mills—and John's sale of that land 13 months later without providing evidence as to how he had the legal right to William's interest. Many associations imply that he was part of the William, Thomas, and Edward Watts Jr. cluster who obtained land in 1763 on the Wateree in modern Kershaw County but soon spread across the Wateree into present Fairfield.

2. John Watts of modern Kershaw County (about 35 miles to the east). In October 1792, as a son of **Thomas Watts** of Lynches Creek, he sold his paternal inheritance to Thomas's widow **Tabitha** and other heirs **Benjamin, Julius, and Isaiah Watts**. He identified himself at that time as a resident of Washington County, Georgia.

Various online bios and trees assert the following for the John Watts of Lynches Creek.²

- He was born in Virginia, and grew up in Craven County, later Camden District.
- He was the "Capt. John Watts" referenced in the RW pension application of Silas Hales of Darlington Co., SC a company attached to Gen. Sumter's brigade.

¹ See E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014; and Mills, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1820," report to file, 27 October 2014.

² For example, see Neal Watts, "John Watts," *GeorgiaGenWeb* [Washington Co., Ga. page] (http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gawashin/famconnect/watts_j.htm : accessed 29 December 2013), citing *Louisville Gazette and Republican Trumpet*, legal notice, Josiah Watts and Tabitha Watts apply for letters of administration on the estate of John Watts, deceased, late of Washington County."

- He, as a resident of Georgia in 1792, petitioned the South Carolina legislature to compensate him for his RW service “62 days in the militia as a sergeant, 40 days as a Lieutenant, 26 days as a Captain, 64 days as a Captain, 40 days as a Captain, and 36 days as a Captain, beginning 20 February 1779”—as proved by a “Certified Account of Col. John Marshall dated 26 Nov 1792.” His petition supposedly explained that he moved to Georgia shortly after the Revolution and did not know how to go about getting his compensation. He is also said to have moved to Georgia with one James Evans.³

Given that multiple John Wattses lived in Revolutionary-era South Carolina (not just Camden District but also Old 96 and the Low Country) and given that multiple John Wattses lived in post-Revolutionary Georgia (not just the two same-name men in Washington County but also others in Burke and Wilkes counties where many South Carolinians from Cheraw and Camden District had settled), this published bio raises several questions:

- What more can be learned about the service of “Capt. John Watts”?
- What is the evidence to identify *which* of the two John Wattses of Camden District and Washington County he might be?
- Can he be placed into any cluster of Wattses who supported either side of the conflict?

TASK: Gather all identifiable records for Patriot or Loyalist service in Camden District. Include known associated families, particularly Duke, Hornsby, Perry, Pickett, and Rawls.

Executive Summary

Capt. John Watts of Sumter’s Brigade, Camden District, was the John Watts who:⁴

- was the son of Thomas and Tabitha Watts of Lynches Creek, modern Kershaw;
- was a militia captain in 1781, drawing men from Kershaw County;
- left Camden District shortly after the war;
- was, on 22 February 1785, named to the first court of justices for the new county of Washington, Georgia;
- appears prominently in the meagerly surviving records of Washington County, being a land surveyor, lieutenant colonel of the militia, and the county’s first state representative;
- returned to Kershaw County in October–November 1792, at which time he (*a*) sold his inheritance from his deceased father to the other heirs; and (*b*) acquired from his former commanding officer a statement of his dates served and rank to support a SC legislative petition for compensation for his military service;
- died in Washington County in 1803.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Most of the bulleted points in this summary are developed, with documentation, in the “Research Notes” section. For Capt. John Watts’s civic role in Washington County, see E. S. Mills, “Testing the FAN Principle Against DNA: Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey of Georgia and Mississippi,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (June 2014): 129–52, particularly 140.

No evidence exists that Capt. John's father or brothers supported either side of the conflict. That fact may explain why Capt. John did not remain at home at the war's end.

The areas that became Fairfield and Kershaw had significantly different histories during the Revolutionary conflict:

- Fairfield County had a strong Loyalist faction—particularly northern Fairfield where we find John Watts, Thomas Watts Jr., and Edward Watts Jr. Most leaders of the Whig ("Patriot") forces (Winns, Woodwards, etc.) centered in central and lower Fairfield—the area occupied by William Watts and the much younger George Watts for whom Patriot service can be documented. In what was the first "Patriot" (aka Whig) success in South Carolina, the mostly yeoman class Tories were routed June 1780, when forces under the planter elite attacked the Loyalist gathering at Mobley's Meeting House on Little River near the land grants that had been made to William Watts. Some of the Loyalists escaped, some were killed, many were taken prisoner and sent to North Carolina.⁵ After that conflict, which pitted friends and family members against each other, Fairfield saw little action. Because of its strong Tory leaning and because it lacked a town of any size or military resource of any significance, British activities were minimal. Local families seemed to settle into an uneasy truce in which most families simply struggled to survive.
- Kershaw County saw considerably more action after the British focused on South Carolina in the last three years of the war. Its major town, Camden, was occupied by the British in 1780 as a central point for their activities in the Carolina backcountry. Multiple battles occurred throughout the county as Whig forces tried to oust the Tories.⁶
- A study of Revolutionary pensioners who claimed service under Capt. John Watts present Kershaw County as the locus of their enlistment and engagement during 1781.



Research Notes

MILITARY SERVICE: SOUTH CAROLINA

(Camden District—Fairfield & Kershaw Counties)

"Watts, George : R11214

b. Bedford County, Va.

d. 12 April 1834

m. Barbara Compton, 1780

"He was drafted, while residing in Fairfield District, under Lt. Thomas Otterson, *Capt. John Winn*, Col. *Joseph Kershaw* and Gen. Richardson. He was in the Snow Campaign. His next tour was after John Winn

⁵ The best account of the Fairfield activities during the Revolution seems to be Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005). Also see, for historical context, Alexander Gregg, *History of the Old Cheraws* (Columbia, SC: The State Company, 1925), chapters 7–16.

⁶ The best reference for Kershaw County in this period is Joan A. Inabinet and L. Glen Inabinet, *A History of Kershaw County, South Carolina* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2011).

became a colonel and Otterson became a captain. Next, he was in the Third Regiment under Ensign William Caldwell, Lt. Oliver Tolls, *Capt. Richard Winn* and Col. Thomson. He marched to Florida and was taken prisoner. After three or four months, he was exchanged and he returned to serve until the close of the war. At sometime, he was a lieutenant under Captain Thomas Parrott. (Moved to Ga.) A.A. 8278; U423."⁷

COMMENT BY ESM:

- This source also tells us the following about one of George's Fairfield captains:
"Winn, Richard. c1750, Fauquier County, Va. d. 19 December 1818. m. Priscilla McKinley. He moved to Georgia and then to South Carolina in 1768. On 17 June 1775, he became a first lieutenant in the Rangers under *Capt. Thomas Woodward* and Col. Thomson ... After the fall of Charleston, he joined Gen. Sumter. He became a colonel in the militia. ... [then] a brigadier general on 21 November 1783. He was a member of Congress from 1793 to 1797. (Moved to Tenn.) ..."⁸
- Richard Winn was also a leader of the Whig forces that attacked the Loyalists at Mobley's Meeting House.⁹

"Watts, Edward

"He served in the Fifth Regiment under Capt. Jervis and was in the militia during 1780 and 1782. At sometime, he served under *Colonel Winn*. (Johnson, E. E. S38885); A. A. 8277; Y859."¹⁰

COMMENT BY ESM:

This Edward Watts has not been identified. His service under Winn suggests that he was a son of one of the Little River settlers, Edward Jr. or William. Edward, at his 1810 death, did not have a surviving son who bore his name. One Edward Watts (and Francis Watts) did witness various family documents for Edward Jr.'s heirs there on Little River.¹¹ They appear to be sons of the William Watts who settled Little River with Edward Jr. in the 1760s.

"Watts, George

"He served in the light dragoons under Cat. Jacob Barnett, Co. Henry Hampton and *Gen. Sumter* during 1781. Salley, *Doc.*, p. 54; A. A. 8278; M281."¹²

COMMENT BY ESM:

This George Watts is the same George whose Revolutionary War pension is abstracted above by Moss. George's land lay in lower Fairfield, just a few miles east of the Winn plantations.¹³

"Watts, John

⁷ Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 972.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 1006.

⁹ Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005), particularly 92.

¹⁰ Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, 972.

¹¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T:294–96.

¹² Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, 972–73.

¹³ See the maps and many document abstracts and transcripts in E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014; also E. S. Mills, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1820," report to file, 27 October 2014.

MILLS: Revolutionary War Capt. John Watts of Camden District, South Carolina 2 November 2014

“He served under **Col. Marshall** as a sergeant during 1779 and as a *lieutenant* and *captain* during 1781. A.A. 8281; (Malone, Cornelius, S31834); (Malone, William, S31832).”¹⁴

COMMENT BY ESM:

This source also tells us the following about Capt. Watts’s commanding officer:

“Marshall, John. He served as a major in the militia under Col. Joseph Kershaw during 1780 and served as a colonel under Gens. Sumter and Henderson during 1780 and 1781. A.A.4121, 4786A, 6474; O29; O188; U498; Y29; N.A. 246.”¹⁵

“Watts, Thomas

“He served as a captain under General Sumter during 1781. (Jones, Samuel, S21844).”¹⁶

“Watts, Thomas

“He served in the Second Dragoons under Capt. Isaac Ross, Lt. Col. Myddleton and Gen. Sumter during 1781. Salley, Doc., p. 83; A. A. 8283; M396.”¹⁷

COMMENT BY ESM:

This Thomas appears to be the man who in 1787 Fairfield called himself “Thomas Watts Junior.”¹⁸ The Thomas who received a land grant on the Wateree in 1763 (together with Edward Jr. and William) would have been too old to serve. The locus of Thomas Jr. lay between George Watts on 25-Mile Creek (just south of Thomas Jr.) and John Watts on the Wateree (just north of Thomas Jr.)

“Duke, Robert

“He served under Capt. William Simmons, Col. Robert Goodwyn and Gen. Williamson and was on the Florida Expedition. (Moved to Miss.) (Wilson, William, R11688).”¹⁹

“Duke, Robert

“He served as a private, sergeant and lieutenant in the militia. A.A.2067A; W251; W252.”²⁰

COMMENT BY ESM:

Robert Duke shared 25-Mile Creek with George Watts and the Perrys.

“Perry, Jesse — S3655

“b. 15 March 1755, *Granville County, N.C.* While residing in Fairfield District, he enlisted and served under various men. He was with Capt. William Lang and Co. Robert Goodwyn on the Snow Campaign. Later, he was under Capt. John Smith and Col. Robert Goodwyn and was out after the Tories. Next, he served three months under Capt. John Taylor and *Col. Kirkland* and Capt. James Craig and Col. Hunter. In addition, he enlisted for one year under Capt. John Cook and Colonel Arthur Middleton and was in an engagement against the Tories at Juniper Springs. While at home, he was taken prisoner by Col.

¹⁴ Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, 973.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 656.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 973.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book X:82.

¹⁹ Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, 272.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

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Thompson (a Tory) and put in prison at Camden. *After he was paroled, he went to North Carolina and remained until the war ended.* (Moved to Tenn.) A.A. 5869; Z105.”²¹

COMMENT BY ESM:

- Jesse Perry of **25-Mile Creek** is named as a son in the 1780 will of Jacob Perry, who also named a daughter “**Ruth Watts.**” **George Watts** was a witness to the will.²² In 1793, when - Elizabeth Watts was charged by the state of S.C. with an unidentified infraction of the law, **Jesse Perry** and **George Watts** were her sureties.²³
- Kirkland land grants centered in William Watts’s neighborhood, Lower Fairfield—particularly between Jackson Creek (William’s location) and 25-Mile Creek (George’s location).

“Picket, Charles

“He served as a lieutenant on foot and on horseback in the militia. (Johnston, William, S18062); A.A.5938; Q561.”²⁴

COMMENT BY ESM:

- Charles Pickett in 1783 was the j.p. who signed the character affidavit for Lt. William Coggins, together with John Watts and 12 others, attesting that Coggins (a “former neighbor”) had been a peaceful member of their neighborhood and a resident of SC for 15 years.
- Throughout the 1780s, was a close neighbor and frequent associate of John Watts of Fairfield.
- Throughout the 1790s, after the Fairfield John removed to Georgia, Pickett remained an associate of William Watts of Fairfield.

Rachel/Rochelle: None found for this family that was closely allied with Thomas and Tabitha Watts of Lynches Creek, Kershaw.

Ralls/Rawls None served from Camden/Craven; none have been found residing in Kershaw

7 AUGUST 1775

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Military Pay roll.

“Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Captain Woodward’s Company.”²⁵

COMMENT BY ESM:

No Watts, Duke, Hornsby, Mobley, Perry, or Rawls.

2 SEPTEMBER 1775

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Military Pay roll.

“Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: *Robert Ellison’s Company.*”²⁶

²¹ Ibid., 766.

²² Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A:1”:150.

²³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 87.

²⁴ Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, 772.

²⁵ Fitz Hugh McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from ‘Before the White Man Came’ to 1942* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1980),120.

²⁶ Ibid.

MILLS: Revolutionary War Capt. John Watts of Camden District, South Carolina 2 November 2014

COMMENT BY ESM:

- No Watts, Duke, Hornsby, Mobley, Perry, or Rawls. The author, after presenting the companies of John Buchanan, Capt. Woodward, and Robert Ellison, adds: "There were men from Fairfield in other commands."
- Robert Ellison was a close neighbor of William Watts. In 1783, he sold his land on "Watts Branch" of Jackson Creek.²⁷
- Robert Ellison's brother John is shown on the 1790–91 census adjacent to Moses Hornsby, the son-in-law of the Fairfield John Watts.

AUGUST–DECEMBER 1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Military Pay roll.

"Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Pay Roll of Capt. John Buchanan's Company in the 6th South Carolina or The Continental Es[t]abishment Commanded by Lieut. Col. William Henderson from the first August to the first December 1779."²⁸

COMMENT BY ESM:

No Watts, Duke, Hornsby, Mobley, Perry, or Rawls.

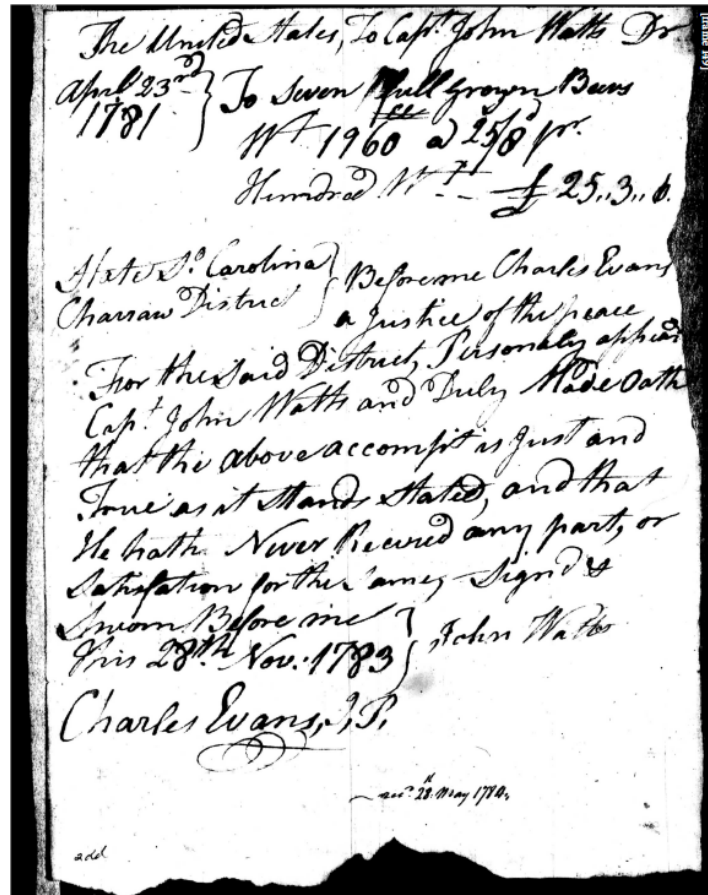
23 OCTOBER 1782–28 NOVEMBER 1783

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Military supplies.

²⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 174–79;

²⁸ McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from 'Before the White Man Came' to 1942*, 120.



“The United States, To **Cap^t John Watts** Dr. [i.e., “debtor”—the person to whom the debt was due] Aprl. 23rd 1781: To Seven full grown Beeves. Wt. 1960 @ 25/8d pr Hundred St. £25.3.6

State S^o Carolina
Charraw District

Before me Charles Evans, a Justice of the peace For the said District, Personally appeared. **Capt John Watts** and Duly Made Oath that the above accompt is Just and True as it Stands Stated, and that He hath Never Received any part, or Satisfaction for the Same—Signd & Sworn Before me This 28th Nov. 1783.

[Signed] Charles Evans, J.P.

John Watts”

“Recd. 28 May 1784.”²⁹

COMMENT BY ESM:

The signature of this *Capt. John Watts*, on the image above, does not match the 1783 signature of the “John Watts” who, one month later and with known residents of Wateree Creek, signed a character reference for Lt. William Goggins as he prepared to move to Georgia. This *Capt. John Watts’s* signature *does* match the 1792 signature (see p. 14) of John Watts, petitioner of Washington County, Georgia.

**5 DECEMBER 1783
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC**

²⁹ *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775–1856*, microfilm publication 8, 165 rolls (Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1985), roll 154, frame 149, for John Watts, File AA8281.

Neighbor.

“South Carolina. Camden District: William Coggin Lieut. The Barer here of has Removed to the State of Georgia and has Desired his **former Neighbours** to signifie his Character agreeable to his Deserts. We therefore Certify to all persons to Whom this present writing shall come that he the same William Coggin has Lived in our State this fifteen years and has behavd him self in A very honest quiet way of Living and is an Industress Man and is Quite inofensive person and has bin a friend to his Country. Certified under our hands this 5 day of December 1783.

	Chas. Pickett, J.P.	
Ralph Jones	Thos. Starke, Capt.	
Moses Knighten	William miller, Lieut.	
	John Hollis, Luft.	[Lieutenant]
	Moses <u>mims?</u>	
	John Watts	
	Thom. Roaden	
	John King	
	Jno. Yarbrough	
	Moses Hollis	
	Jesse Stevenson	
	James Rutland ³⁰	

COMMENT BY ESM:

On 9 August 1784, Coggins had not yet left and was still in this same neighborhood, where he went back before Chas. Pickett, J.P., to acknowledge the accuracy of a service memorandum given him by Thos. Taylor.³¹

³⁰ Pension application of William Coggin (Lt., Sumter’s Brigade, S.C., Rev. War), S2838; accessed at *Fold3* (www.fold3.com : 25 April 2014), specifically image 12739959. “Luftenant” (abbreviated Luft.)” is a centuries-old alternative to Lieutenant—one still used in some locales today.

³¹ Affidavit of claimant, 1 June 1852, William Coggins (Lt., Sumter’s Brigade, SC, Rev. War), no.S2838; accessed at *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com), image 12740238.

South Carolina
 Camden district
 William Coggin Lieut.
 The Bearer here of has
 desired his former Neighbours to signify
 his Character agreeable to his Deserts We
 therefore Certify to all persons to Whome
 this present writing shall come that he the
 same William Coggin has Lived in our State
 this fifteen years and has behav'd him self in
 a very honest just way of Living and is an
 Industrious Man and is Quite insensive person
 and has bin a friend to his Country Certified
 under our hands this 5 day of December 1783

Ralph Jones
 Moses Knighten

John Clarke Capt.
 William Miller Lieut.
 John Hollo's Lieut.
 Moses ...
 John Watts
 Thos. ...
 John ...
 Jesse Steven ...
 J. James ...

COGGIN, WILLIAM
 (S.C.)
 S-3238

COMMENT BY ESM:

Identifying the John Watts of this document rests upon identifying the individuals who said they had been “neighbors” of Coggins. Almost all of them are traceable, they all lived between Wateree Creek and Dutchman’s Fork in east central Fairfield, and they shared that neighborhood with John Watts.

- **Charles Pickett J.P.** appears in numerous documents executed by Fairfield’s John Watts and William Watts, as well as Thomas Watts Sr. of the Wateree River.³² On the 1790 census of Fairfield, Charles Pickett is 13 households from John Watts and John’s next-door-neighbor Thomas Watts.
- **Moses Knighten** appears on the 1790 census next door to Charles Pickett and 12 households from the Fairfield John and Thomas Watts. Knighten appears in the first document recorded locally for the Fairfield John Watts, as buyers at a neighborhood estate sale.³³ His land grant confirmed in 1786, after the state land office reopened, placed him on Layton’s Creek,³⁴ adjacent to land granted to Thomas Watts Jr.³⁵ In 1788, he and the Fairfield John Watts were called upon by the j.p. John King (also one of the signers above) to appraise an estray horse that had been reported.³⁶
- **John Hollis**, in 1790, was 3 households from Charles Pickett, 4 from Moses Knighten, 5 from fellow signer John King, and 16 from the Fairfield John Watts. In 1794, John Hollis bought the Mill Creek land owned by John Watts’s next-door neighbor of 1790, Rev. Edward Pigg. The document was witnessed by two fellow signers of the 1783 character affidavit, Moses Hollis and John Yarbrough.³⁷
- **Moses Hollis**, in 1794, was the adjacent landowner to the Pigg property on Dry Creek, where John Watts lived at the time of the 1790 census.³⁸
- **John King**, in 1782, he and fellow signer Moses Knighten were co-appraisers of a neighborhood estate. A fellow signer of this 1783 affidavit, Charles Pickett, was a buyer at that 1782 estate sale.³⁹ In 1784, after the land office reopened, the survey of his land placed him adjacent to Moses Knighten.⁴⁰ In 1790, he was enumerated next door to Knighten and 11 households from the Fairfield John Watts. In 1791, he applied for a land grant next door to Moses Hornsby, son-in-law of John Watts.⁴¹

³² See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file, 17 October 2014; and Mills, “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1820,” report to file, 27 October 2014.

³³ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1”: 295; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

³⁴ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book C, 1786–1788,” p. 220; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

³⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K:171–72; see also N:173–74 for James Barber’s sale of this tract to Robert Barber on 14 January 1801.

³⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Court of Common Pleas, Record of Estrays, 1788–1799, p. 6 (counting back from legible p. 10); FHL film 1,294,199, item 1. Much of these pages are faded to the point of illegibility.

³⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1”: 2; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. The filmed index begins with this statement: “Index to Wills: This Index was made by Mrs. Minnie Reese for W. L. McDowell & presented to Kershaw County, W. L. McDowell, May 3, 1934.” Some of the wills go back as early as 1771. Most of the inventories are in the early 1780s. All have been neatly recopied, apparently at the time Kershaw was created.

Many early Fairfield documents are found in this Kershaw estate book.

⁴⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book C:110.

⁴¹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book D, 1788–1791,” p. 181; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

- **John Yarbrough**, in 1792, bought land on Layton's Creek adjoining Frances Layton whose neighbor was Thomas Watts. The land had previously been the home place of Ambrose Mills, whose land the Fairfield John Watts bought from the Mills estate in 1784.⁴² In 1794, Yarbrough witnessed the sale of the Pigg land on which John Watts lived in 1790. The purchaser and a fellow witness to the document were both signers, with John Watts, of the 1783 character affidavit.⁴³
- **James Rutland** in 1785 took out land next door to fellow signer Ralph Jones.⁴⁴
- **Ralph Jones**, whose name appears at the head of column one on the character affidavit was a pioneer Baptist minister in Fairfield County who headed two churches, one on Little Wateree Creek (John Watts's neighborhood) and one a bit south on 25-Mile Creek (George Watts's neighborhood).⁴⁵

The John Watts of this 1783 character affidavit, beyond reasonable doubt, is John Watts of Fairfield, not the John Watts of Kershaw's Lynches Creek, some 35 miles to the east.

The fact that John Watts of Fairfield joined with leaders of the Patriot forces to sign this character reference suggests one of two things:

- He was one of those in the Wateree neighborhood who tried to maintain neutrality; or
- He simply did not serve because he had reached the upper limit for which militia duty was required, and/or the number of children that he had to support compelled him not to volunteer.

11 APRIL 1785

SC

Military Receipt.

"Mr. John Watts.

"Recd. 11 April 85 full Satisfaction for the Within, in an Indent No. 143, Book P, by an Order. [Signed] George Evans.⁴⁶

COMMENT BY ESM:

This document is the backside of the 1782 receipt and the 1783 affidavit that Capt. John Watts made before Charles Evans, J.P. Apparently, on leaving South Carolina for Georgia, he gave George Evans his power of attorney to pursue payment for the receipt.

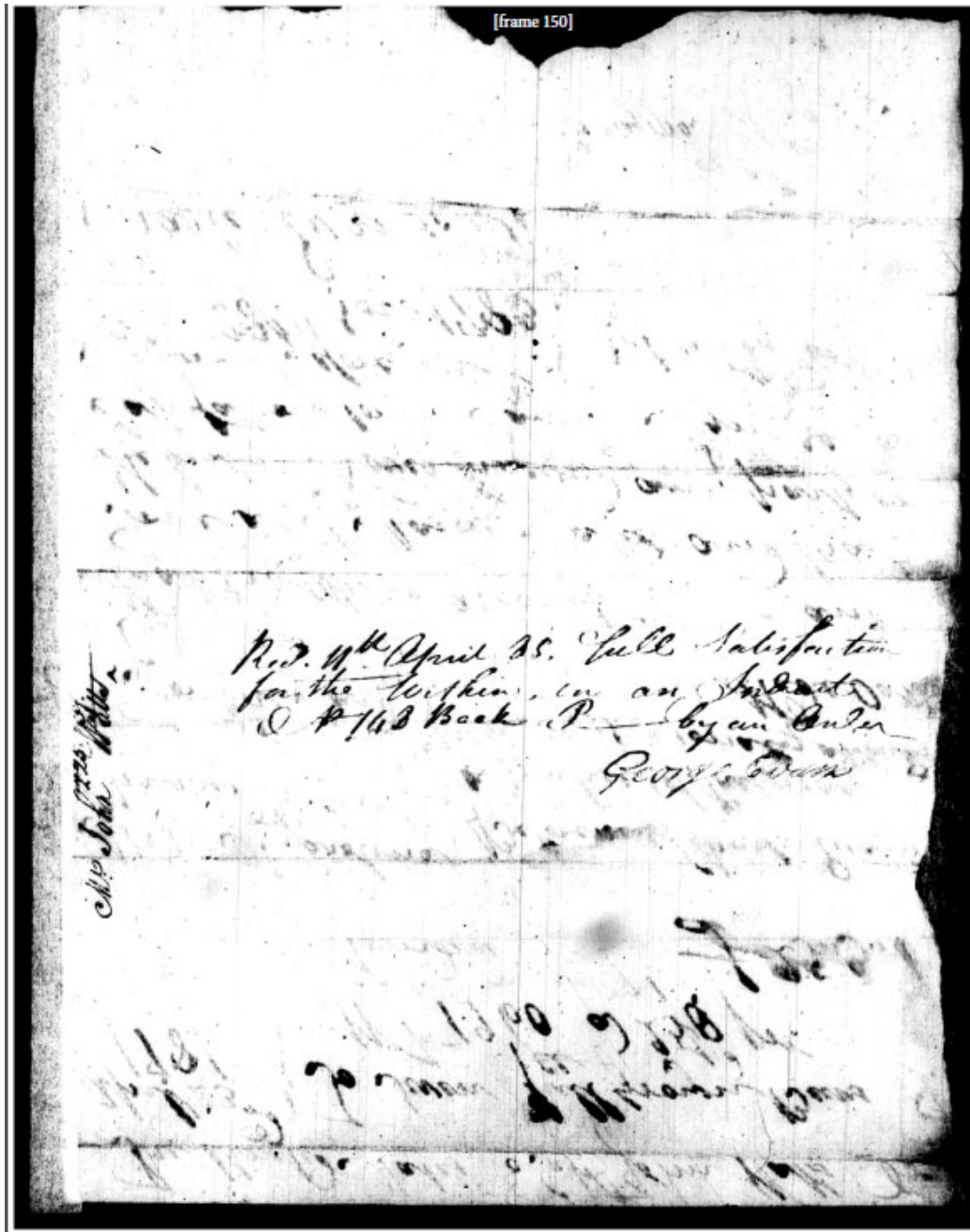
⁴² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 92-94.

⁴³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

⁴⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), Rutland, James," S213190, vol. 0020, page 00008, item 1, Plats for State Grants.

⁴⁵ Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805* (1935; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 147 for the quote; for Jones, also see 140, 145-47. Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:415-22, sale of land by Bryant McClendon, 25-Mile Creek, adjoining Ralph Jones. *Mills's Atlas* for Fairfield depicts the site of Joneses' 25-Mile Meeting House.

⁴⁶ *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, roll 154, frame 150, for John Watts, File AA8281. This file also erroneously contains paperwork for a Rebecca Watts Bochet, widow of John Watts, of Georgetown District.



13 OCTOBER 1792
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC
Estate Sale.

John Watts of Washington County, Georgia, appears before j.p. Francis Boykin to transfer to the other heirs of Thomas Watts, deceased, his inheritance as a son of Thomas. Witnesses included George Evans, the man to whom he gave the power of attorney in the document of 11 April 1785.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds B (1791–96): 276.

26 [2?] NOVEMBER 1792

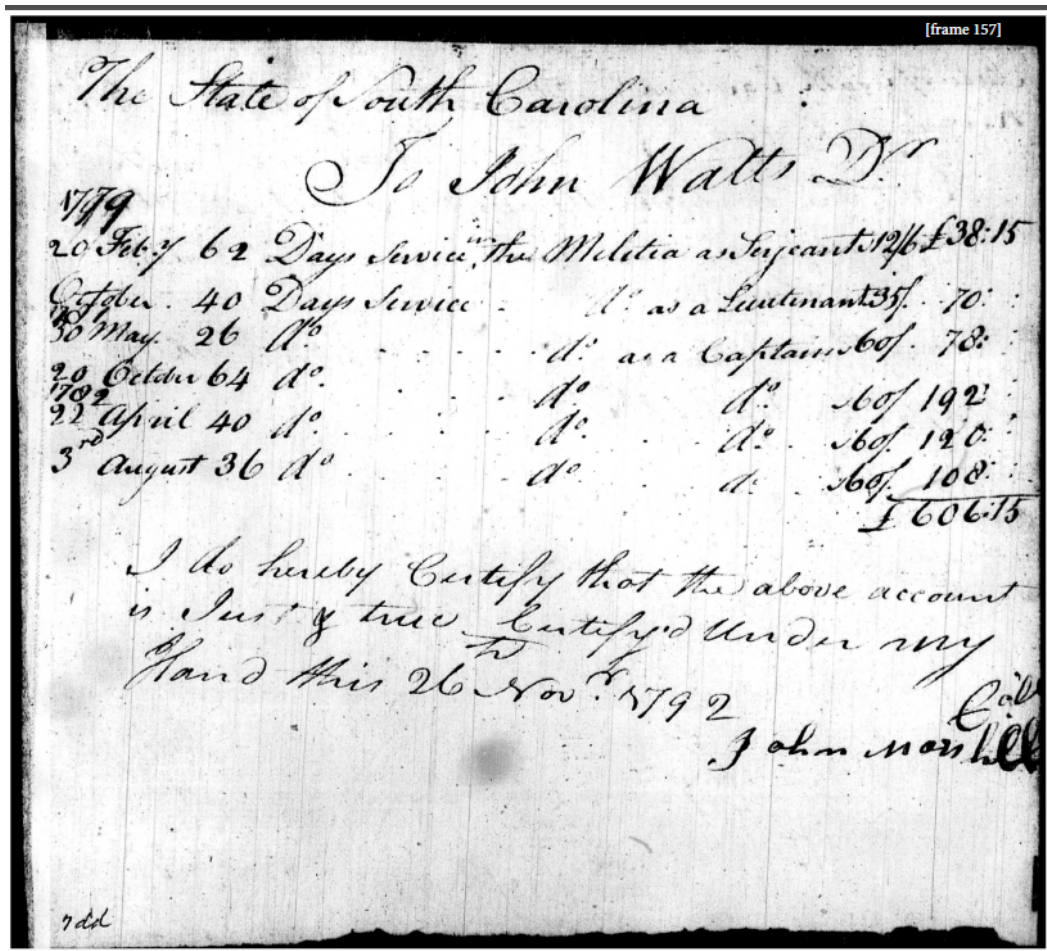
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Military service.

Col. John Marsh[a]ll supplies a affidavit attesting to the dates and ranks of **John Watts's** service. Watts then used this affidavit to petition the South Carolina legislature, stating that he was a resident of Georgia.⁴⁸

COMMENT BY ESM:

- The sequence of dates (26 November 1792 for the affidavit from the colonel in Kershaw; 7 December 1792 for Watts's petition, and 11 December 1792 for action in Charleston) suggests that John Watts personally obtained the affidavit before leaving Kershaw and then carried it to Charleston. No document has yet been found for him in Washington County, Georgia, that would interfere with this chronology.
- Note that the memorandum of service is dated 26 November, but the acknowledgment of it by John is dated 2 November. The acknowledgment would seem to be the misdated item.



⁴⁸ Accounts Audited of Claims Growing out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775–1856, roll 154, frame 157, for John Watts, File AA8281.

State of South Carolina Personally appeared John
Kershaw County } Watts and made oath
that the within account is Just and true
amounting to Six Hundred and Six Pounds
fifteen Shillings Old Currency
Sworn this 2^d Dec 1792 John Watts
of Francis Boykin J.P.

7 DECEMBER 1792

GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA

Petition.

"To the Honourable Speaker and members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina Now sitting in General assembly —

"The petition of **John Watts** humbly sheweth that he never Received any Compensation for his services Done in time of the British war[.] That by **Removeing to the state of Georgia soon after the war** and Not knowing when to make application till the time of making such Clames were Elapsed[.] But that in the year 1788 your petitioner then made out an accomp and Inclosed it in a petition to the assembly then sitting which accomp and petition was Lost or mislaid so that it as not presented and not knowing but what it had been passed[,] Living at so grate a distance[,] is the Reason of So Late an application and trusting in the Justice of your Honours has Induced him Now to apply and prays that your Honour will be pleased to take his case into an Searce Consideration and Grant him such Compensation as your honours from the Inclosed accoumpt may Think just and your petitioner as in Duty bound will Ever pray

— — — **John Watts.**⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Accounts Audited of Claims Growing out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775–1856, roll 154, frame 154, for John Watts, File AA8281.

[frame 154]

To the Honourable Speaker and members of the
House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina
Now sitting in General assembly

The petition of John Watts humbly sheweth
that he never Received any Compensation for his services
Done in time of the British war that by Removing
to the state of Georgia soon after the war and Not knowing
when to make application till the time of making such
Claims were Elapsed But that in the year 1780 your petiti-
oner then made out an account and Inclosed it in
application to the assembly then sitting which account
and petition was Lost or mislaid so that it was Not
presented and Not knowing but what it had been paper
Living at so grate a distance is the Reason of so late
an application and trusting in the justice of your
Honours has Induced him Now to apply and prays that
your Honours will be pleased to take his case into
your special Consideration and grant him such Compensa-
tion as your honours from the Inclosed account may
think just and your petitioner as in Duty bound
will Ever pray

John Watts

sdd

Petition
of John Watts
7th Decr 1782
Committee
Capt Chesnut
Maj McFarley
Col Bratton

11 DECEMBER 1792

GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA

Petition.

“Petitions were presented to the House from & **John Watts** respecting Claims on the State, which were received and severally read. ... The petition of **John Watts** humbly sheweth that he Never Received any Compensation for his services Done in time of the Brittish war, that by Removeing to the state of Georgia soon after the war and Not knowing when to make application till the time of makeing such Clames was Elapsed But that in the year 1788 your petitioner then made out an accoump[t] and Inclosed it in a petition to the assembly then setting which accoump[t] and petition was Lost or mislaid so that it was Not presented and Not knowing but what it had been passed Living at so grate a distance is the Reason of so Late an application and trusting in the Justice of your Honours has Induced him Now to apply and prays that your Honours will be pleased to take his case into your Searace Consideration and Grant him such Compensation as your honours from the Inclosed accoump[t] may Think just and your petitioner as in Duty bound will Ever pray. (10).

“Ordered, That they be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

“ (n10) Accounts Audited, No. 8281, roll 154, frames 153-54. The account mentioned in the text is filed with the petition and appears on frame 157.⁵⁰

18 December 1792

GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA

Petition to legislature.

“**John Watts’s** petition, is for payment of an Account for Services rendered during the War, which Account it does not appear to the Committee was delivered in agreeable to Law, they therefore recommend that it be rejected.”⁵¹

PATRIOT SERVICE: SOUTH CAROLINA

1778–1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Jury Lists.

“Grand Jurors to the Eastward of Wateree” [modern Kershaw]

COMMENT BY ESM:

About 125 men. **No Watts** or known Watts neighbors; does include Kershaws.

“Grand Jurors to the East Side of the Wateree, Waxaw”

COMMENT BY ESM:

16 men; includes Benjamin Perry, James Perry, and George Wade.

⁵⁰ Michael E. Stevens, ed., *Journals of the House of Representatives, 1792–1794* (Columbia: University of S.C. Press for the S.C. Department of Archives and History, 1988), 141, 143.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 203.

“Petit Jurors to the **Eastward** of the Wateree” [including **modern Kershaw**]

COMMENT BY ESM:

About 125 men. No **Watts** or known Watts neighbors; includes one Woodward.

“Petit Jurors to the **East Side** of the Wateree”

- Thomas Wright, Mathew Brunson, Hill Howard, Isaac Bruson Junr., Asberry Sylvester, Abraham Pettypoll, Robert Moses, William Moore, Thoms. Bradford. Willm. Dinkins, William Rees, John Rees, Isaac Jackson Senr., James McCormick, Thomas Robert, Hope Bridgway, William Williams, **Moses Knighton Junr.**, Nathan Ellis, John Barden, John Postell Junr. John Bradford, Hugh Rees, Willm Bracey, Isaac Brunson Senr., James Brunson, Moses Brunson, Thomas Compton, Samuel Tines, Chas Skinner, Timothy Dargan, Roger Roberts, John Deas, *John Jas Gibson*, Willoughby Adams, *Fenneous Gibson*, *John Perry*, *Silus Perry*, John Westberry, William Bennett, John Golden, Will. Brown, John Mitchell, Will Westberry, Burrell Brown, Robert Brown, William Davis, Francis Spivey, Roger Bradley, James Carter, Benja Cassells, Henry Cassels Junr. [SKIP ABOUT 90 NAMES WITH NO INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE KERSHAW OR FAIRFIELD WATTSES], William Ray, John Robertson, *John Evans*, *Francis Bettis*, Jacob Free, Fredk Rush, Abraham Rush, Benjamin Hall, Jacob Whitner, Jonas Griffin, Willm Clark, Willm Welsh, John Murphy, Robt. Mchaffy, John Countryman, Danl Horton, John Rutledge, Richd Anderson, John Horton, David Robinson, James McNamus, John Clark, Murry Read, Robt Gardner, Peter Baker, David Griffith, Jeremiah Lewis, Willm Neland, John Neland, Joseph Williams, John Parkins, Geo. Underwood, **James Rochel**, **Josiah Evans**, Willm Tamerlinson, James Marshall, **Lewis L. Bryant**, Robert Dixon, John Allin, Willm Norris, Luke Petty, John Ellerbee, Willm Maddox [SKIP ABOUT 30 NAMES], John Drakeford, Joseph Messel, **John Dukes**, Hugh Beard [& 18 MORE NAMES].

COMMENT BY ESM:

- This district covered present Kershaw County and counties to the east of it.
- **Thomas Watts** (husband of Tabitha) lived in this jurisdiction on Lynches Creek (the later boundary between Kershaw and Chesterfield. Thomas, is not found on any of these lists— even though he was the father of Camden District’s “Capt. John Watts.”
- **James Rochel**, **Josiah Evans**, and **Lewis L. Bryant** were adjacent neighbors of Thomas and Tabitha Watts on **Lynches Creek**.
- **Moses Knighton** was from 1783–92 a close neighbor and frequent associate of the Fairfield John Watts on the *west* side of the Wateree.⁵²

“Grand Jurors between Broad & Catawba Rivers” [including **modern Fairfield**]

Robert Ellison [bought land next door to Edward Watts], *William Kirkland*, *John Woodward*, *Joseph Kirkland*, *Henry Hunter*, *Thomas Woodward*, George Hencock, James Anderson, *John Winn*, James Hart, **John King** [1783–90 close neighbor and frequent associate of the Fairfield John Watts], Andw. Allison, Joshua English, Joshua Dinkins, **Thomas Starks** [Patriot Captain, signed 1783 affidavit with the Fairfield John Watts], William Whitaker, James Whitaker, *Henry Hunter*, James Harrison, Isaac Love, Richard Brown, Nazza Hunter, Simon Hirons, Joel Threewitts, Henry Chappell, Isaac Rayford, John Boyd, Joel McLemore, Howel Hay, Robert Rives, John Cook, Joseph Martin, Timothy Reeves Junr, Robert Hill, **John**

⁵² For all the associations flagged in these name lists, see E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file, 17 October 2014; and Mills, “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1820,” report to file, 27 October 2014.

Dorharty [when his son sold his land, George Watts was witness], John Witherspoons, *David Hay*, *John Allston*, Herman Hensler, William Strother, Drury Wyche, John Pearson, William Meyers, James Taylor, Joseph Loyd, John House, William Reeves, William Howell, Malachi Howell, Jacob Myers, Francis Goodwin, Ebijah Rimbart, William Grimes, John Russell, **John Allison** [1790 adjacent household to Moses Hornsby], *John Taylor*, *John Mickell*, *Robert Belton*, Philip Skaven, John Kennerly, Benjamin Everett, John Geiger, Nathan Centar, Thomas Taylor, Robert Hicks, Patrick Cunningham, Robert Goodwin, James Daniel, Philip Pearson, John Siley, John Price, Robert Gill, John Walker, James Knox, Samuel Adkins, Peter Culp, John Laly, James Patton, William McKenney, Hugh McDaniel, Thomas Gater, John Titchcoat, William Embry, Thomas Hughs, Daniel Price Senr, *John Lee*, Alexander Twiner, *Eliazer Mobley*, Philip Walker, William McDonald, Amos Tims, Michael Dickson, Robert Patton.

COMMENT BY ESM:

- All of the italicized names above were neighbors of the Fairfield Watts—John, Edward, George, William, and Thomas Sr.
- John Lee at this time owned land adjacent to Ambrose Mills, the Loyalist colonel who would be executed after King’s Mountain in 1780.
- Note that no Watts appear on this list, even though three of them (Edward, George, and William) had land grants there from the 1760s and 1770s.

“Petit Jurors between Broad and Catawba Rivers (including present Fairfield)”

Alexander McQuaters, James Owens, Hugh McKewen, Robt McCrary, John McMullin, Gaspar Bierly Barnaby Pope, David McGraw, Lewis Pope, Patrick Smith, **Henry Crumton** [his daughter married George Watts about 1780], Willm McMorris, Edwd McGraw, *Joseph Gibson*, Thomas Richardson, Willm McGraw, John Miller, Major Atkinson, Geo: Lightner, Isaac Rixpoper, Thomas Habert, Jessy Ford, William Babb, William Frazer, *Joseph Gibson*, John Robertson, Philip Rayford, Robert Rabb, John Grigg, Richard Nuley, William Newman, Thomas Marpole, John Chapman, John Philipps, Alexander Rasbrow, Miles Busby, Jacob Ingleman, Richard Gladney, John Potts, Moses Matthews, James Wallis, **Philip Hinson** [John Watts inventoried his estate in 1784], Alexr. Robinson, John Robinson, Nazares Whitehead, Thomas *Lewis*, Joseph Hardredge, Henry Page, **Micajah Piggot** [**Micajah Pickett** was John Watts’s 1790 neighbor and frequent associate of the 1780s], Samuel Armstrong, James Masser, Samuel Gladney, David Thompson, Hugh Smith, Archibald Pall, Roberty Martin, **Moses Hallis** [signed 1783 character affidavit with John Watts] John Philipps, Samuel Gamball, John Hutchison, James Russell, John Elliott, Joseph Owens, John Greaves Junr., **Priestly Tidwell** [21 households from John & Thomas Watts in 1790] Benja Owen, *Richard Winn*, **Thomas Stone** [1791 adjacent landowner to Moses Hornsby’s 1789–91 grant], John Agnew, John Martin, Zebukun Quant, Daniel Oquin, Theophilus Hill, Benja Pidgeon, Daniel Harkins, Andrew Lister, John Richardson, Willm Whitaker Junr., Richard Whitaker, Arthur Brown Ross, David Martin, Alexr Smith, Richard Stratford, Joshua Cherry, Roger *Gibson*, Robert Love, John Yarbrow [signed 1783 character affidavit with John Watts], Thomas Muse, *William Aldredge*, *Mathias Feller*, *Saul Ratlive*, *Nicholas Peay* [Aldridge & Peay lived along Wateree Creek near its fork with Wateree River], Thomas Hill, Canan Keason, **John Ellison** [1790 next door to Moses Hornsby], Edward Heard, John Bell Senr, John Bell Junr, Willm Hamilton, Willm Young, **Ralph Jones** [he signed the 1783 character affidavit with John Watts], **Francis Kirkland** [1760s, purchased the land grant of Edward Watts Jr. on Wateree River; 1790 neighbor of John Watts’s son-in-law Moses Hornsby on Wateree Creek], Isham Dansby, David Pauet, Dennis Corral, William Pannel, Charles Nix, William Jones, John McKenney, John White, John McClanahan, Elisha McKins, John Leonard, Samuel McKenny, Bird Wall, Alexander McKown, William Hamelton, David Baird, William Neeley, John Tombelton, Peter Robertson, John McGlomory, William Hamilton, Robert Martin, William McCammon, John Ellis, James Neeley, Michael Patton, James Greer, Augustion Culp, William Seaugon, Davice Leonord, George Sliker, William Simpson, William Farice, James Canmore, John Steel, Robert Elliott, Abros Cruse, Richard Crosby, John Crosby, *John Going*, Abra Smith, David Farice, Thomas

Medile, Samuel Doan, Andrew Miller, Nicolas Thompson, Elisha Dye, William Cloue, **John Tidwell** [1790 neighbor of John Watts], Joseph Helms, William Caa, James **Barber**, Isaac Sedge, John *Lewis*, John Reeves, Moses Reeves, William Collins, John Linn, Cleman *Mobley*, Samuel *Mobley*, George Holsey, Benjamin *Mobley*, Robert Nelson, William Hill, Francis Colman, Robert Alcorn, William Collins, John Turner, John Nixon, Thomas Taylor, Samuel Hamilton, Lewis Botner, *John Wilson*, Martin Sliger, Henry Brown, William Addison, Daniel Baker, William White, Willm Ledenham, Edmond Knowles, Bright Averit, Jacob Killingsworth, John Kennedy, Timothy Reeves [SKIP ABOUT 150 NAMES ... INCLUDING SEVERAL KNOWN SETTLERS OF FISHING CREEK IN CHESTER COUNTY] ... Paul Powers, Samuel Rowan, John Wells, William Rucker, William Harlow, Henry Croft, Jacob Lewis, *Henry Miley* [in 1774 he bought land from Robert Duke], John Armstrong, Peter Crim, *Robert Duke* [George Watts neighbor on 25-mile Creek], *Bryan McClendon* [owned land adjacent to Ralph Jones of the list above, Thomas Muse, John Tolleson, Nimrod Mitchell, James Hoy, Thomas Davis, [SKIP ABOUT 100 NAMES OF NO KNOWN CONNECTION], John Smith, Daniel Gagas, William Jones, John Carsan, Samuel Barber, Moses McCown, James Hemphill, *Gervis Dauhady* [Dougherty], Thomas Ford, **Robert Tidwell** [1790 next-door to John Watts], John Watson, Alexander Walker, [SKIP ANOTHER 75 OR SO NAMES OF NO KNOWN CONNECTION], Amenus Liles, Michael Loner, Jacob Cannamer, Jacob Barker, William Morgan, **Chrispen Morgan** [married daughter of Edward Watts of Little River], Edward *Mobley* [of Little River], ... [ABOUT 25 MORE NAMES]⁵³

COMMENT BY ESM:

- Not only is the Fairfield John Watts missing from patriot-service list, but all the other Watts from Lynches's Creek to Broad River: Thomas Watts Sr., Thomas Watts Jr., William Watts, Edward Watts Jr., and George Watts.
- George and a younger Edward [apparent son of William] would later serve from Fairfield.

16 March 1783

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Jury list.

"1783- Cooper-McCord #1172

"An Act for continuance of Process and Judicial Proceedings in this State.

"WHEREAS the several proceedings of the courts of Justice within this State have been discontinued since the surrender of Charles Town into the hands of the British, and it is necessary to revive and continue such proceedings. ... be it further enacted by the authority aoesaid that the Judges of this State or any of them shall at the first sitting of the courts of General Sessions and Common Pleas in Charles Town cause a **Jury to be drawn** for each of the Districts of this State out of the Jury lists of such Districts, annexed to this Act, and shall cause a Writ of Venire facias to be issued to the Sheriffs of such district respectively to summon such person who shall be drawn for such Jury to attend at such Courts for which such persons shall be so drawn as Jurors at the times and places appointed by Law, for the holding of Such Courts respectively ..."⁵⁴

1783 **WATTS, John** [County no.] 25 [Camden]

⁵³ Ge Lee Corley Hendrix and Morn McKoy Lindsay, *The Jury lists of South Carolina, 1778–1779* (Greenville, SC: Privately Printed, 1975), 44–56. The above extracts do not include petit jurors of the Waxhaw or the New Acquisition jurors, who were also in Camden District; it also omits the list of "special jurors for Camden District," which included no Watts neighbors.

⁵⁴ Mary Bondurant Warren, *South Carolina Jury Lists, 1718 through 1783; Compiled from Extant Laws* (Danielsville, Ga.: Heritage Papers, 1977), 19–20.

COMMENT BY ESM:

This is the only Watts on this 1783 list in Camden District. Edward, George, Thomas, and William are left unaccounted for.

Whether this John Watts is Captain John Watts of Sumter's Brigade or our John of Fairfield cannot be determined from this published list, which presents names in alpha sequence. The original lists should be sought to see the grouping in which this John Watts appears.

Scanning the entire volume for other "County 25" entries enables us to reconstruct a list of about 450 men for Camden. *That list includes about 10 of neighbors and associates of Fairfield Wattses—including some for John Watts—but there are striking absences.*

Adams, William; Adburn, Depsy; Adkins, Frederick; Ayers, Daniel; Bacott, Samuel; Bagnal, Ebenezer; Bagnal, John; Bagnall, Isaac; **Baird, Adam**; Baird, Robert; Baird, William; Ballard, Thomas; Barain, John; Bard, Adam; Bard, William; Bare, Nathan; Barkley, Robert; Barnett, Samuel; Barr, Nathan; Barrow, Ebrahim; Bates, John; Beard, Hugh; Bell, John; Bennett, Hugh; Bennet, Mathew; Bennet, Robert; Bennet, Samuel; Bennet, William; Benson, Benjamin; Bethney, Jacob; Biger, David; Black, George; Blane, James; Balsingame, James; Boogs, Joseph; Booth, Joseph; Boyd, John; Boyd, William; Boykin, Burril; Boykin, Samuel; Boykin, William; Bradley, James; Bradley, Rodger, Bradley, Samuel; Brandford, John; Brandford, Richard; Braton, Robert; Brewer, William; Brewton, John; Broughton, Edward; Brown, Burrell; Brown, Archibald; Brown, James; Brown, Richard; Brummitt, John; Brunson, David, Senr.; Brunston, Moses; Brunston, Peter; Brunston, William; Brunston, William; Buchannon, John; Burchmore, William; Burges, John; Bisu?, William.

Camel, Jack; Campbell, James; Cantey, William, Senr.; Car, Malcom; Carel, Thomas; Carson, John; Carter, Daniel; Carter, James; Cassills, Henry, Junr.; Casson, Walter, Junr.; Caston, Gless; Caston, John; **Cato**, Henry; Cattrage, William; Cahppell, Hix; Chappell, Laban; Chesnutt, Andrew; Chesnut, Andrew; Chesnut, John; Clacke, James; Clanters, David; Clanters, Richard; Clark, Henry; Clary, Ethelred; Clary, Robert; Clemmons, William; Cloud, James; Coffee, John; Colclogh, Alexander; Collins, William; Conbron, John; Conghian, Joseph; Conyers, Adam; Conyers, Daniel; Cook, Drury; Cook, John; Cooper, Jacob; Cooper, Sylvanus; Corbett, Brinkley; Cornelus, Robert; Cousen, Archibald; Crawford, James; Crawford, Robert; Crawford, William; Crecket, John; Crreighton, Joseph; Creighton, Thomas; Croft, Byer, Croft, John; Crokey, Robert; Cunningham, George; Curry, Dudley; Curry, George; Curry, George;

Daniel, James; Daniel, Joseph; Daniel, William; Davis, Benjamin; Davis, James; Davis, John; Davis, William Ransom; De Bruhul, Godard; Deason, William; Dennis, Richard; Denon, James; Dixon, Robert; Dixson, Mathew; Douglass, Jessey; Dubois, Elias; Duboise Andrew; Dukes, William; Dumlwe, Robert; Dunan, Jolin; Dunlap, John; Dunlap, John; Dunlap, Samuel Junr.; Dunlap, Thomas; Dunlop, Samuel;

Edwards, Abel; Elerbee, Thomas; Elerbee, William Sr.; Evans, Charles Junr.; Evans, Charles Junr.; Evans, Richard;

Fabre, John; Felder, Abraham; Felder, Frederick; Felder, Samuel; Felder, Samuel; Ferguson, Joseph; Finaley, John; Foster, Andrew; Fostt, Jesse; Fox, William; Frierson, George; Frierson, James; Fryerson, John; Fullerd, William; Furman, Genjamin; Furman, Joseiah; Furman, Josiah;

Gambell, Hugh; Gardner, Daniel; Garrett, Thomas; Gaston, William; Gay, Samuel; Gerralld, Gabriel; Gerving, Christopher; Gibson, James; Gibson, James, Gibson, John J; Gideon, Thomas; Gilem, Charles; Glaze, Thomas; Goodway, Jessey; Goodwin, Francis Senr.; Goodwin, Robert;

Gordon, James; Gordon, Moses; Gore, James; Grams, John; Gray, James; Griffiths, Joseph; Grimes, William; Guignard, John Gabriel;

Hackeson, William; Hainsworth, Henry; Hall, Benjamin; Hall, James; Hall, James; Hamilton, David; Hamilton, John; Hamilton, Robert; Hamilton, Robert; Hancock, Robert; Harley, Benjamin; Harper, James; Hart, James; Harvn, Richard; Hatfield, Samuel; Hayes, Jesse; Haywood, Elisha; Haywood, Lewis; Heard, James; Helton, Samuel; Henderson, John Hendrick, William; Henry, William Junr.; Herbert, Thomas; Hews, Thomas; Hicks, Robert; Hillhouse, John; Hill, Joseph; Hill, Thomas; Hill, William; *Hinson, Nenjamin*; Hodge, James; Hodges, Jonathan; Holden, Mathew; Holiday, John; Holiday, Thomas; Holliday, Daniel; **Hollis, Moses**; Holupkell, James; Horniser, John; House, James; House, Thomas; Howard, Kely; Howe, John; Howe, William; Howell, Robert; Howell, Samuel; Huests, James; Huests, William; Hunter, Henry Junr.; Hunter, Henry Senr.;

loore, George; Isaac, John;

Jackson, Capt. Stephen; Jackson, John; Jackson, Reuben; Jaxckson, Stephen; James, Benjamin; James, Benjamin [of] Cashaway; James, John Senr.; Jenkins, James; Jenkins, Thomas William; Johnston, James; Joiner, Joseph; Jones, Marshal; Jones, William; Jones, William;

Kennedy, John; Kennington, Edward; Kenny, Alexander; Kershaw, Joseph; Killinsworth, Jacob; Kimball, Frederick; King, Berry; **King, John**; **Kirkland, Joseph**; **Kirkland**, William; Kirkpatrick, Francis; Know, James; Koothors, Evan;

Lacey, Edward; Ladd, Benjamin; Langford, Thomas; Le Conte, William; Lee, Anthony; Lee, Robert; Lenore, Thomas; Leslie, John; Lewis, Jacob; Little, William; Lockart, Aaron; Love, Benjamin; Love, James; Lowry, John; Lowry, John; Lowry, John; Lowry, Robert; Lyons, William; Lyon, Goothridge;

Macey, William Magee, WElisha; Maples, Thomas; Marshall, James; **Marshall, John**; Martin, David; Martin, James; Martin, John; Martin, William; Mathews, Peter; Mattocks, Benjamin; May, Benjamin; May, John; McAdoo, John; McCarter, William; McCawley, James; McCay, James; McCleland, Robert; McCleton, Robert; McConnico, William; McCool, John; McCord, John; McCorker, Archibald; McCormack, James; McCrey, James; McCulley, Ephraim; McCulloch, William; McCully, Thomas; McCulogh, James; McDaniel, William; McDonald, Middleton; McFadgin, Thomas; McGinney, Charles; McKane, Patrick; McKane, Robert; McKeen, Alexander; McKelvin, Andrew; McKewan, Moses; McKinney, John; McKnight, John; McKnight, Robert; McKnight, Thomas; McKoy, Elijah; McKoy, John; McLane, Cornelius; McLemore, Joel; McMahan, Joseph; McWhater, Alexander; Meloan, John; **Mickal**, Barnard; Middleton, Richard; Miles, Charles; Miles, Frances; Miles, John; Milhouse, John; Miller, Charles; Miller, Charles; Miller, David; **Milling, Hugh**; Misial, James; Montgomery, Henry; Montgomery, John; Montgomery, Robert; Montgomery [sic], Nathan; Moore, John; Moore, Levy; Morton, William; Moses, Robert; Mosler, William; Mullet, Peter; Mullwee, William; Muraw, George; Murphy, Daniel; Murrell, William; Myers, Gerard; Myers, Jacob; Myers, William;

Neale, Thomas; Neilson, John; Nelly, James; Nelson, David; Nelson, James; Nelson, William; Nettles, Jesu; Nettles, William; Nettles, William; Neilson, Samuel; Nimes, William; Nutt, Andrew;

Odell, Thomas; Osgood, Isaac;

Palmer, [no first name]; Paris, Arthur; Pasley, Robert; Patton, Robert; Patton, Robert; Payford, Philip; Payne, George; Payne, Samuel; Payton, John Junr.; Peagues, William; Pearce, James; Pearson, William; **[no Peay]**; Peoples, John; Peoples, John; Perry, Benjamin; Perry, James; Perry, Job [J^{ob}? =Jacob?]; Perry, Zadeck; Philips, Mecager; **[no Pickett]**; Platt, David; Poole, Abram; Pope, Lewis; Porter, Thomas; Porter, William; Potter, Miles; Powell, James; Prescott, Aaron; Pringle [no first name]; Printee, James;

Rabb, Robert; Raffield, John; Raffield, Wiliam; Raford, Isaac; Raford, Mathew; Ragan, William; Rambert, Abijah; Reed, Murrow; Reese, Hugh; Reeves, Henry; Reeves, Robert; Reeves, Timothy; Reeves, William; Reid, Murraw; Richardson, Edward; Richardson, Edward; Richardson, William; Richardson, William, Richbough, James; Richbourgh, John; Ricks, John; Ridgell, John; Ridgell, William; Right, William; Roberts; John; Robertson, David; Robertson, John; Robertson, Nicholas; Robertson, William; Robins, Thomas; Rodgers, Claton; Rogers, David; Ross, Arthur Brown; Ross, George; Ross, William; Rush, James;

Sandifer, Philip; Scarff, Jonathan; Simcell, James; Simmons, Jerry; Simmons, William; Simpson, William; Simpson, William; Singleon, John; Sngleton, Joseph; Singleton, Mathew; Singleton, Richard; Singleton, Robert; Skirner, Charles; Sloan, William; Smith, Abeakin; Smith, James Junr.; **Smith, William**; Smith, William Junr.; Somerville, George; Sparr, Charles; Spradle, Charles; Stallfer, Martin; Stark, Douglas; Stark, Wililam; Steel, John; Stephens; William; Stevens, William Smith; Stone, Joshua; **Stone, Thomas**; Strother, Kemp; Stunt, William; Sutton, John; Swilley, John; Sylvester, Asberry;

Taylor, Jacob; Tahlor, James; Terral, Joshua; Thomas, Benjamin; Thompson, John; Thompson, Joseph; Thompson, Robert; Thompson, Thomas; Thompson, William; Thompson, William; Threewitts, Lewelling; **[no Tidwells]**; Tier, William; Tillmore, Jessey; Tisdell, John; Toms, Joseph; Trapp, Thomas; Trapp, William; Trentorn, Martin; Tucker, Wood Junr.; Turner, John; Twadle, William;

Vaughen, Henry; Vaughen, John (Bricklayer); Vertue, John;

Wade, George; Wade, John; [apparently Wades of Lynches Creek] Walden, Thomas; Warren, John; Wells, Richard; Wells, Willis; Welsh, William; West, Benjamin; Westfield, John; Weston, Robert; Wheeler, Henry; Wheeler, John; Whitaker, Whillis; Whitaker, William; White, George; White, Henry; White, Hugh; White, Robert; Wiggins, Samuel; Wiles, John; Williams, Daniel; Williams, William; Williamson, Rowland; Williamson, William; Wilson, James; Wilson, James; *Wilson, John*; Wilson, Roger; Witaker, William Sr.; Woode, James; Woods, Thomas; *Woodward, John*; Wright, John; Wright, William; Wych, John; Wylly, William; Wyly, William;

BOUNTY LAND WARRANTS: SOUTH CAROLINA & GEORGIA

SOUTH CAROLINA

"Watts, Thomas.	SC	—.	6 Feb. 1797.	19 acres.	[to James Timms, adm. in trust for heirs.]
"Watts, Thomas.	SC	—.	—.	81 acres.	[ditto]
"Watts, Thomas.	SC	—.	—.	100 acres.	[ditto] ⁵⁵

GEORGIA

"Watts, George.	Ga.	—.	—.	287½ acres.	
"Watts, Jacob.	Ga.	Minute Man.	17 May 1784.	—."	
"Watts, John.	Ga.	Soldier.	5 Sep. 1785.	—."	
"Watts, Thomas	Ga.	—.	21 Apr. 1784	500 acres.	

⁵⁵ Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996), 558–59.

1784

GEORGIA

Land Petitions.

“List of persons petitioning for land”⁵⁶

Watts, George, 287 ½ acres, Washington Co., No. 3201 [August Land Court books]

Watts, Jacob, May 17, Franklin Co., 103 [acres]

Watts, Jacob, 113 [acres] [no location, general label “from Washington to Franklin Counties”]

Watts, Thomas, April 21, Washington Co., on reserve 12 months (in modern writing 450), 500.

Watts, Thomas, “.2.,” April 21, Washington Co., on reserve 12 months [in modern writing 368], 400.

Watts, Thomas, May 17, 450 [no location]

“Bounty Warrants, May 17th 1784”

Watts, Thomas, 450”

COMMENT BY ESM:

- No bounty land is included for Capt. John Watts of Camden District, despite his extended service. However, he did not serve from Georgia.
- No evidence has been found that a Thomas Watts or George Watts settled in Washington county. One Thomas Watts, of an unrelated family, did settle in Wilkes County.
- *Others from Fairfield* whom I happened to spot among these Georgia land petitions (but have not systematically searched) include Daniel **Dumpaier** [in Washington Co.], **Henry Duke** and **John Taylor Duke** [both in Franklin and Washington Cos.], **Philip Hornsby** [Washington Co.], and several **Wootens**.

1784–87

WASHINGTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land warrants.

Watts, John	100 ac.	Headright Warrant ⁵⁷	6 April 1785
Watts, Jane	600 ac.	Headright Warrant Renewed ⁵⁸	3 May 1785
Watts, John	600 ac.	Headright Warrant ⁵⁹ [<i>Was this Jane’s?</i>]	19 December 1785
Watts, John	100 ac.	Headright Warrant not distinguished	July 1786 ⁶⁰
Watts, John	250 ac.	Headright Warrant	5 December 1786 ⁶¹
Watts, John	200 ac.	Headright Warrant	5 June 1787 ⁶²
DUKE, William			
[Alexander Miller	287½ ac.	Citizen Bounty on certificate of Wm Duke]	5 Sept. 1785 ⁶³
DUKE, William	400 ac.	Headright Warrant on a certificate	5 December 1785 ⁶⁴

⁵⁶ Mary Bondurant Warren, *Georgia Revolutionary Bounty Land Records, 1783–1785* (Athens, Ga.: Heritage Papers, 1992), 247 (George), 186, 206 (Jacob), 124, 188, 269 (Thomas),

⁵⁷ Mary Bondurant Warren and Jack Moreland Jones, *Washington County, Ga. Land Warrants, 1784–1787* (Athens, Ga.: Heritage Papers, 1992), 11.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 25.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 45.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 56.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 60.

⁶² *Ibid.*, 68.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 37.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 41.

COMMENT BY ESM:

One Duke appears amid the following chronological sequence of names rooted in Fairfield, SC

Jordan, Benj.	1000 ac.	Headright Warrant	
DUKE, William			
Perry, Joshua	287½ ac.	Bounty Warrant renewed	
EVANS, James	300 ac.	Headright Warrant	5 April 1785 ⁶⁵
EVANS, James	200 ac.	Warrant renewed without Distinction	6 December 1785 ⁶⁶
EVANS, James	95 ac.	Headright Warrant	5 June 1787 ⁶⁷

RW PENSION APPLICATIONS
With References to Capt. John Watts, SC

24 AUGUST 1830.

UNION DISTRICT, SC

Military service.

Affidavit of James Howard. Age "seventieth year." ... "I was also at Four Holes under Genl. Winn & Capt. **John Watts**."⁶⁸

7 JUNE 1832

MORGAN COUNTY, AL

Military service.

Affidavit of Cornelius Malone. Recites his various enlistments and engagements. "He entered the service of the United States on the 20th of Septemer 1780 under Captain Douglas Starkes and James Canty, Lieutenant ... private at Camden in South Carolina and from thence we marched to Scammenes? Ferry on Santee River where I was stationed and transferred to the Command of **Captain John Watts** ... Three weeks after I entered the service, before I got to this Station and remained at said station two months from which station I was Marched to Orange Burg ... five weeks ... again was marched back to Camden again under the same officers."⁶⁹

COMMENT BY ESM:

Land grants made to the Canty family center in the Lynches Creek area of modern Kershaw, site of the settlement of Thomas and Tabitha Watts and their son John.

7 JUNE 1832

MORGAN COUNTY, AL

⁶⁵ Ibid., 4.

⁶⁶ Ibid., 43.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 68.

⁶⁸ Affidavit of claimant, 24 August 1830, James Howell (Pvt., Branden's Regt., SC, Rev. War), no.S20406; "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com): accessed 25 October 1814), image 24614135 for the quote.

⁶⁹ Affidavit of claimant, 7 June 1832, Cornelius Malone (Pvt., Marshall's Regt., SC, Rev. War), no.S31834; "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com): accessed 25 October 1814), image 24175131 for the quote.

Military service.

Affidavit of Charles Raley. Age 68 and 6 months. Entered service “last of September 1781” and “about two months after Gates’s Defeat ... resided in Cashaw [Kershaw] County When he entered the service [as] a volunteer .. Engaged in one battle at Ratliff’s Old Field, another battle at Parker’s Ferry, Edisto Swamp, and the last at Eutaw Springs.” His field officers were Col. John Marshall and Major Ballard. Company officers were **Capt. John Watts**, 1st Lieut Charles Raley, 2d Lieut. William Jones.⁷⁰

30 OCTOBER 1832

DARLINGTON COUNTY, SC

Military service.

Affidavit of Silas Hailes. Aged 76 ... enlisted in Captain James Fair's [James Farr's] Company of volunteers for six months – equipped himself, in the company was no expense to the government ... brought to South Carolina ... at a skirmish with the British near McCallum's ferry under Col. Frederick Kimbrell and General Sumter. After defeat by British, they retreated to Anson County, North Carolina. Returned to South Carolina and **did duty under Captain John Watts about three months in Sumter's brigade**. Rode one month as a post rider carrying letters from Camden to General Greene at High Hills of Santee [Kershaw Co.] and at Four Holes. This was before the battle of Eutaw.⁷¹

29 OCTOBER 1833

KERSHAW DISTRICT, SC

Military service.

Affidavit of Nathanael Jones. Age 80. Recites his various enlistments and engagements. “Under Capt. McFarland at Fort Barrinton near Altamaha in Georgia while fighting against the Indians ... also afterward under the command of **Capt. John Watts** for a considerable time during which time they routed and killed great numbers of Tories on Black Creek, Chesterfield District, So. Ca.” “5th Tour [and last one] was among the **militia under Capt. John Watts** – Served Five days; had a skirmish with Tories on Black Creek, Chesterfield District, and killed a good number of them.”⁷²

NOVEMBER 1833

CHESTERFIELD DISTRICT, SC

Military service.

Affidavit of Abraham Blackwell. Born “On the Watyers of Drowning Creek in the State of North Carolina in the State of North Carolina, in the year 1764.” Lived on Waters of Black River in S.C., about 20 miles from Camden [Kershaw Co.] at the time of the war. Lived on Waters of Lynches Creek, about 40 miles from former residence, until 1816. Recites his various enlistments, ending with “Had a battle with the British on Lynch’s Creek and was defeated by them. He served the balance of the War under various officers all of whose name he has forgotten except **Capt. John Watts** and Ensign Holmes.”⁷³

⁷⁰ Affidavit of claimant, 7 June 1832, Charles Raley (Lt., Marshall’s Regt., SC, Rev. War), no.W5660; “Revolutionary War Pensions,” database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com : accessed 25 October 2014), images 27931988 and 27931978 for the quotes.

⁷¹ Affidavit of claimant, 30 October 1832, Silas Hailes (Pvt., Sumter’s Brigade, SC, Rev. War), no.W27546; “Revolutionary War Pensions,” database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com : accessed 25 October 2014).

⁷² Affidavit of claimant, [blank] November 1833, Nathanael Jones (Pvt., CaptMcFarland, SC Line, Rev. War), BLM 28680-W7918; “Revolutionary War Pensions,” database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com : accessed 25 October 2014), images 24207064 and 24206965 for the two quotes.

⁷³ Affidavit of claimant, [blank] November 1833, Abraham Blackwell (Pvt., Marion’s Brigade, SC, Rev. War), no.S18328; “Revolutionary War Pensions,” database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com : accessed 25 October 2014), image 11704845 for the quote.

31 MARCH 1840

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, SC

Military service.

Affidavit of Bentley Outlaw. Born in Chesterfield District [across Lynches Creek from modern Kershaw] Recites his various enlistments and engagements. First enlisted under Capt. McGee. Was captured while in Darlington County. "Shortly after [his escape], but the date he does not recollect, he entered the Service under **Capt. John Watts & Lieut. Evans** as a volunteer for six months; he was engaged during the whole time in scouring the Country for Tories; he served in Chesterfield, Kershaw, Darlington, Sumpter Districts; they they caught some Tories, but killed none; ... he afterwards served under Capt. McGee, Capt. Alexander McIntosh & **Capt. John Watts** until the end of the war [including] a skirmish not far from Eutaw Springs under Capt. Watts."⁷⁴

COMMENT BY ESM:

Note that this applicant cites battles in four counties around Fairfield—but none in Fairfield.

27 SEPTEMBER 1841

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Military service.

Affidavit of Burrel Cato. Recites his various enlistments and engagements, including "That on or about the 1st day of February, A.D. 1782, this Declarant was again Drafted into the Company of **Capt. John Watts** and marched to Murray's ferry on the Santee River, where he remained one month, and was then permitted to return home upon the same condition as before."⁷⁵

COMMENT BY ESM:

The Santee was the Wateree—the portion of it that lay below Kershaw Co.

1 JUNE 1854

GORDON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Military service.

Affidavit of William Coggins. Age 99. Born and raised in Barnwell District, SC. Was in Camden District when he enlisted as private under Captain Thomas Starke, Thomas Taylor's regiment, and Sumpter's Brigade. Later promoted to lieutenant. As proof of service he offers

- a 5 December 1783 character affidavit signed by "former Neighbours" in Camden District—including Thos. Starke, Capt.; William Miller, Lieut.; "**John Watts**" [no "Lieutenant" after his name, and eleven other men who were associates of John Watts of Fairfield.
- a 9 August 1784 acknowledgment, before Chas. Pickett, J.P., [Fairfield] of the accuracy of a service memorandum given him by Thos. Taylor.⁷⁶

⁷⁴ Affidavit of claimant, 7 June 1832, Bentley Outlaw (Pvt., Capt. Magee's Co., SC, Rev. War), no.R7833; "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com : accessed 25 October 2014), image 25579153 for the quote.

⁷⁵ Affidavit of claimant, 27 September 1841, Burrel Cato (Pvt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), no.R1813; "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com : accessed 25 October 2014), image 14667711 for birthplace, birth year, and residences; images 14667703 and 14667705 for the service quote.

⁷⁶ Affidavit of claimant, 1 June 1852, William Coggins (Lt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), no.S2838; "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com : accessed 25 October 2014), image 12739840 for age; images 12739863, 12739959, and 12740328 for the service data.

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