

George Watts (1756–1834) & Wife Barbara Crumpton

Research Notes

George Watts Family Summary:

Born: 25 December 1756, Bedford County, Virginia¹
Married: c.1780, **Barbara Crumpton**, daughter of Henry; d. April 1840²
Died: 12 April 1834, DeKalb County, Georgia³
Residences: Bedford Co., VA (1756)
Craven Co., SC. (1757–1769)
Camden Dist., SC (1775–1782)
Pendleton Dist., SC (bef. 1800–c.1817)
Richland Dist., SC (1817–c.1824)
DeKalb Co., GA (c.1824–1834)

CHILDREN:

1. SARAH "SALLIE" WATTS, b. 1781; m. **Aaron Turner**; moved to Macoupin Co., Ill.; died after 1850.⁴
2. MARY WATTS, b. c.1782–83; m. 26 October 1803[?] **William Steele**; moved to Maury Co., Tenn.; d. after 24 August 1852.⁵
3. THOMAS WATTS, b. c.1784–86;⁶ m. **Lavina** [Huntley?]; died after 2 January 1822.⁷

¹ George Watts affidavit, 4 November 1833, DeKalb Co., Georgia; George Watts Pension Application (Sgt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), File R11214, Widow Barbara; accessed via "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 September 2014), particularly 28052942 and 28052948. George states that he was "aged 76 years Christmas last."

² Fairfield Co., Will Book 5: 182, will of Henry Crumpton naming daughter Barbara Watts, proved 4 April 1807. Barbara's death date is from Edward Watts affidavit, 24 August 1852, George Watts Pension Application, particularly images 28052950 and 28052951.

³ Edward Watts affidavit, 24 August 1852, George Watts Pension Application.

⁴ According to Edward's affidavit, his sister Sallie was the eldest child in the family, born about 1781. The 1850 census places her birth at 1786–87; however, that census age would make her some five years younger than the census age given that year for her younger sister Mary (Watts) Steele. 1850 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., p. 221 (stamped), dwell./fam. 7, Aaron Turner 73 b. SC, **Sarah Turner 71 b. SC**; enumerated 22 houses from her sister Nancy (Mrs. Moses) Steele.

⁵ See Edward Watts affidavit, 24 August 1852. Also 1850 U.S. census, Maury Co., TN, Dist. 4, p. 317 (stamped), dwell./fam. 1037, W. D. Steel 72 b. SC, **Mary 67 b. SC**, Sarah 15 b. TN, Moses 13 b. TN, James 11 b. TN, Geo. 9 b. TN. The Steeles are 4 households from Mary's sister Eleonor "Denham." tvmoore6, "Moore Up" tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/77581651/person/32372733336/facts> : accessed 29 November 2017) asserts that Mary was born 13 April 1784; married 26 October 1803 in Pendleton; and died 4 April 1859 in Maury Co., Tenn., with burial in Bryant Station Cemetery. tvmoore6 also asserts, erroneously, that Mary was daughter of one Samuel Watt and Jannet Lesley of Abbeville, SC. The only evidence cited for any of this is other Ancestry trees.

⁶ On 23 December 1818, George Watts made a donation to "my son Thomas Watts," which was cosigned by Barbara Watts and witnessed by William Watts, J.P. and Elizabeth Watts; see A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818-1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 199. Thomas was not named as a living child of George and Barbara by their son Edward in 1852. The semi-alphabetized 1820 census of Pendleton shows two Thomas Watts, consecutively, on a list semi-alphabetized by surname. The sequence is Robert Watt; Freeman Willis; *Thomas Watt* (male 16-26, female 16-26, male child 0-10); **Thomas Watt (male 26-45, female 26-45, 3 male children 0-10)**; James Watt, James Watt Junr., William Watt (male 26-45, female 26-45, 1 female 10-16, 3 females 0-10, 2 males 0-10). Robert, James Jr., and the younger Thomas appear to be the son of the not-yet-identified James Watt Sr. who was in the county by 1790. Thomas-of-George should be the male 10-16 in George's 1800 census household; see U.S. census, Pendleton, Dist., p. 151, line 8.

⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818-1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 200.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

4. ELEANOR “NELLIE” WATTS, b. ca. 1789–90; m. **Robert Dunham (Denham)**; moved to Maury Co., Tenn.; d. after 24 August 1852.⁸
5. NANCY WATTS, b. ca. 1791–92; m. **Moses Steele**; moved to Macoupin Co., Ill.; d. after 24 August 1852.⁹
6. [MALE] WATTS, b. ca. 1794–1800; enumerated in 1800 census household; d. before 1810.¹⁰
7. [MALE] WATTS, b. ca. 1794–1800; enumerated in 1800 census household; d. after 1810.¹¹
8. MARGARET WATTS, b. ca. 1801–6; m. **William Cox**; d. after 24 August 1852.¹²
9. EDWARD WATTS, b. ca. 1804; died after 24 August 1852.¹³

BIRTH FAMILY:

Son of Thomas Watts Sr. and wife Sarah Mills who appear in the records of Lunenburg, Bedford, and Albermarle Cos., VA, 1748–57, then settled a grant on Wateree River (Craven Co., SC; later Kershaw Co.) in 1763. Thomas’s birth family, several of whom appear in SC records with George, were¹⁴

- EDWARD WATTS, SR. , grandfather, first appeared in Lunenburg, 1752.¹⁵
- WILLIAM MILLS (wife Mary), maternal grandfather who made his will in Albemarle Co., 1755, naming daughter Sarah Watts; died, 1766, after Amherst was cut from Albemarle.¹⁶

⁸ Edward Watts affidavit, 24 August 1852, names Nellie’s husband. For personal data, see 1850 U.S. census, Maury Co., TN, Dist. 4, p. 316 (stamped), dwell./fam. 1033 shows **Eleanor Denham 60 b. “GA”**; Mary 23 b. TN, Nimrod Andrew 34 b. TN, Nancy 32 b. TN., Robt. 12 b. TN, Saml. 10 b. TN, Andrew 7 b. TN, Mary 5 b. TN, George 2 b. TN. The adjacent household (1034) is that of A. W. Denham 30 b. TN, Mary 22 b. TN, and Allicia 5 b. TN. The two households intervening between the Denhams and the Steels are headed by (1035) Basley J? Flowers 24 b. TN, with Rebecca 21 b. TN; and (1036) James Sawyers 42 b. VA, Martha 39 b. VA. Household 1045 is Martha Denham 26 b. TN with 5 children.

⁹ Edward Watts affidavit, 24 August 1852, names Nancy’s husband. For personal data, see the 1850 census, Macoupin Co., Ill., p. 223 (stamped), dwell./fam. 1, shows Mosses Steele 62 b. SC, **Nancy Steele 58 b. SC**, with Moses [Jr.] 28 b. SC, Elijah A. 20 b. SC, and Elizabeth R. 18 b. Ill.

¹⁰ 1800 U.S. census, Pendleton Co., SC, p. 151 (stamped), line 8.; 1810 U.S. census, Pendleton Co., p. 152A (penned midpage at right), line 5.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Margaret, as the wife of William Cox in 1850, is said to be 44; see Anderson Co., SC, Eastern Subdivision, p. 246, dwell./fam. 112. However, Edward stated in his 1852 affidavit that he was the youngest in the family. The 1820 census shows a Wm. Cox 16–26 with wife 16–26, and female child 0-10, living 25 houses from George Watts, 15 houses from James Crumpton, and next door to “Widow Turner.”

¹³ Edward’s 1852 affidavit begins by saying he was “fifty [small blank space] years.” The 1810 census places his birth after 1800; see 1810 U.S. census, Pendleton Co., SC, p. 272 (penned). The 1820 census shows only one child left at home in the George Watts household: a male 10–16, presumably Edward; see 1820 U.S. census, Richland Dist., SC, p. 24 (penned, top left corner). The 1850 census gives his age as 47; see DeKalb County, GA, Black Hill Dist., folio 192 (recto), dwelling [illegible], family 121.

¹⁴ See E. S. Mills, “Frontier Research Strategies—Weaving a Web to Snare Parents and Origin: John Watts (ca. 1749–ca.1822),” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 104 (September 2016): 165–90. For abstracts of all the relevant records referenced in this article, see the following three underlying reports archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research Reports” tab.

- “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.
- “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1820,” report to file, 27 October 2014.
- “Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and Revolutionary Bedford County (formerly Lunenburg and Brunswick), Virginia,” report to file, 5 January 2015.

¹⁵ Edward’s pre-Lunenburg origin appears to be in the part of Spotsylvania Co., VA, that became Orange Co. in 1734. Y-DNA of Thomas and Edward’s offspring matches that of testers claiming descent from one William Watts of Orange. See Barbara Van Camp and Neal Watts, group administrators, “Watts/Watt /Watson Families Reconstruction Project,” database, FamilyTreeDNA (<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/wattsfamilies/default.aspx?section=yresults>.)

In 1749, Culpeper Co. was created from Orange. Culpeper’s Will Book A: 10 offers the 1746 will (proved March 1749) of one Thomas Watts who named wife Esther, sons **Edward, John**, Benjamin, Thomas, **Jacob**, and **William**, along with daughters Esther, Ann, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Franky. The names bolded here match four Wattses who settled Lunenburg (later Bedford), but I’ve not yet done adequate research to prove or build a case that the four Lunenburg-Bedford men were the same-name men of Culpeper. It seems probable, but is not yet proved.

¹⁶ See E. S. Mills, “William Mills (ca.1699–1766); Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes,” report to file, 2 June 2016; archived at *Historic Pathways* (www.historicpathways.com) under “Research Reports” tab.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

- WILLIAM & EDWARD WATTS JR., paternal uncles who migrated to the Wateree with Thomas.
- AMBROSE MILLS, maternal uncle and Loyalist colonel who also migrated to the Wateree.

Proved Siblings: As established by the estate settlement for George's brother Thomas Jr:¹⁷

- JOHN WATTS, born c.1749, m. [–?–] c. 1768, Craven Co./Camden Dist. (later Fairfield) along Wateree Creek. Subsequently lived Washington, Montgomery, Tatnall, and Laurens Co., GA, and Lawrence Co., MS; d. 1821–22, Covington Co., MS.¹⁸
- MARY WATTS, born by 1755, m. **Francis Kirkland**, RW militiaman; widow by 1800, Fairfield Dist., SC.¹⁹
- ELIZABETH "BETTY" WATTS, b. by 1755; m. **Richard Duggans**, RW militiaman; widow by 1800, Fairfield Dist., SC.²⁰
- WILLIAM WATTS II, b. by 1763; last on record, Richland Dist., SC, 1840 census.
- THOMAS WATTS JR., b. by 1765; died ca. 1820, Richland Dist., SC; died unmarried, without legal offspring. One son Joseph taken to Ouachita Parish, LA, 1819.²¹
- EDWARD WATTS III, b. by 1765; RW militiaman; died after the 1823 distribution of Thomas Jr.'s estate. No wife or children have been identified.
- SARAH WATTS, married **James Smith**; widow by 1823, Fairfield Dist., SC.
- AGNES WATTS, married **Christopher Addison**, RW soldier; widow by 1823, Fairfield Dist., SC.

RESEARCH NOTES

1775–1782

CAMDEN DIST., SC

Military service.

"Watts, George R11214

b. Bedford County, Va.

d. 12 April 1834

m. Barbara Compton, 1780

¹⁷ *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 14 October 2015), South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Richland > Probate Court, Estate Records > 1799–1955, Box 033, Packages 801–825, image 21. Also see Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, "Thomas Watts of S. Carolina." For brief, documented bios on each of these, see Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies."

¹⁸ See Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies," for nutshell biographies of each. For the brother John, see E. S. Mills, "Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749–ca.1822); Spouses: 1: [Smith?]; 2: Judith "Judy" [Rawls?]; Research Notes," report to file, 15 June 2016; archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.HistoricPathways.com>) under the "Research Reports" tab.

¹⁹ 1800 U.S. census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 239a, adjacent households for Betty Duggans and Mary Kirkland.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Richland Co., SC, Probate Box 33, Package 801, Thomas Watts file, image 17. Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, estate of "Thomas Watts of Richland District, S.C."

George Watts (1756–1834)

Wife: Barbara Crumpton

“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 [November–December 1775]. His next tour was after John Winn 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. Thompson. 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.”

“Watts, George

“He served in the light dragoons under Capt. Jacob Barnett, Col. Henry Hampton and Gen. Sumter during 1781. Salley, Doc., p. 54; **A.A. 8278**; M281.²²

1 OCTOBER 1784

COLUMBIA, SC

Acct. Audited Receipt.

“Lib. [Book] M, No. 281

“Issued the first October 1784 to **Mr. George Watts** late private in Garnetts troop, G. Hampton’s regiment, Sumpter’s Brigage [*sic*], State troops for ninety four pounds Sterling being ballance pay and Bounty due him for Services in that troop together with interest thereon from the first April 1782 to date hereof agreeable to resolution of General Assembly of the Eleventh March last.

£86.10.8

Principal 94.9.9

Interest 6.11.7

Compt. Genls. Office. Columbia.

16 May 1853.

“I hereby certify the above to be a true copy from Indent Book M, page 281. Given uner my hand (there being no saeal of office). W. T. Arthur For Compt. Genl.”²³

COMMENT:

This indent appears in the pension application file of George Watts of Fairfield, Camden District. **However, the service belongs to the George Watts of Old 96 District. See comment below, at the end of these stub indents.**

1 APRIL 1785

COLUMBIA, SC

Account audited receipt.

“Lib. O[?] No. 150.

“Issued first April 1785 to me **George Watts**, for twenty-three pounds eighteen Shillings & Six pence Sterling, for a horse lost in 1777, and for eighty days militia duty done in 1782, pr. account audited.

Principal £23.18.6

Interest 1.13.5

No. 15

Compt. Genl’s Office

²² Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 972–73.

²³ George Watts Pension Application, image 28052989.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

Columbia
16 May 1853

"I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from Indent Book O, page 150. Given under my hand (there being no seal of office), W. T Arthur, for Compt. Genl."²⁴

COMMENT:

The possibility remains that this particular warrant does apply to George of Fairfield.

7 JULY 1785

COLUMBIA, SC

Accounts audited receipt.

"Lib. W. No. 423

"Issued the 7th July 1785 to **George Watts** for forty pounds eight shillings & eleven pence for militia Duty per account audited.

Principal 40. 8.11

Annual Interest 2.16.7

State of South Carolina

To **George Watts** Dr. [Debtor]

Duty pr **Col. Anderson's** Return

Currency 283.2.6

Mg [?] 40.8.11

Recd. 7 July 1785, full satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 423, Book 2. **Richd. Watts**.

April 1st 1786

State of South Carolina

"Gentleman: Please to deliver to Mr. Ricd. Watts my Indent & Indent for Services done the State & Returnd. by **Col. Robert Anderson** & in so doing Gentleman you will much oblige, yours.

George Watts

I do hereby certify that I see the above named George Watts 'assign' his name to this order this 17 day of April 1786. **Robert Gillam, J.P.**

16 May 1853

"Compt. Genl's Office. Columbia, So. Carolina. I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from Indent Book W, page 423 & also of the account &c upon which said Indent was issued. Given under my hand 16 May 1853 (there being no seal of office), W. T. Arthur, For Compt. Genl."²⁵

COMMENT:

- This set of indents appears in the pension application file of George Watts of Fairfield, Camden District. As with the indent of 1 October 1784, **the service belongs to the George Watts of Old 96 District (later Laurens Co.)**. Evidence exists of three types:
 - George Watts of Fairfield identified completely the officers under which he served—in two different affidavits. He claimed no service under Col. Robert Anderson or Gen. Hampton.

²⁴ George Watts Pension Application, image 28052980.

²⁵ George Watts Pension Application, images 28052996, 28052999.

George Watts (1756–1834)

Wife: Barbara Crumpton

- Old 96 District was subdivided postwar into Newberry and Laurens Counties. Four years after the 1786 document above, the J.P. **Robert Gillam** was enumerated in what is now Newberry County; the George (of this service) was in Laurens in 1790.
- The Richard Watts to whom George of Old 96 gave his power of attorney was likely his son of that name.²⁶ Hundreds of hours of research in the published and unpublished records of Old Camden District yield no Richard Watts in the Watts cluster to which the Fairfield George belonged; indeed no trace of a Richard Watts has been found in Camden District.
- Records unrelated to the pension applicant do occasionally appear in pension files. Typically, the irrelevant material is introduced when a pension applicant wrote the Comptroller General's office and asked for a copy of audited receipts for a certain name. If the inquirer did not supply details as to units, officers, etc., the CG's office made copies of whatever documents they had for that name. In this case, George's son Edward, 18 years after George's death, attempted to get a children's pension, needed proof that his father was not alive to supply, and wrote the South Carolina Comptroller to see what indents existed under the name "George Watts."

AUGUST 1790–FALL 1791

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Census

Background: The official census date was the 1st Monday in October 1790. However, this Fairfield census (p. 130) begins with certifications by the census officials—including these statements:

14 June **1792** "Before John Winn, Esqr. Personally appeared Martyn Atken and made oath that he received from James Craig a Copy of a return of the number of Inhabitants in Camden District assigned by James Craig and John Gray, assistants to the Marshall of the State aforesaid, which said Copy he put up in the Town of Columbia **some time last fall**. Sworn to **June 14th 1792**. Martyn Atken."

4 August **1792** David Evans, Clerk of Fairfield County, attested that he posted a copy, signed by James Craige and John Gray, Assistants to the Federal Marshal of S.C., "upon the Court-House Door in Winnsborough. Done before J. W. Yongue, J.P."

Watts, George:

COMMENT:

Only one George appears—the George of 25-Mile Creek. Both his neighbors and his household composition attest this identification.

The absence from this "1790" census of the slightly younger George Watts and his wife Barbara Crumpton suggests a time frame for their removal from Fairfield to Pendleton. As shown above, the first draft of Fairfield's census of 1790 was not ready for public posting until "sometime in the fall" of 1791. The Pendleton census was taken in March–May 1791 and certified on 20 May 1791.²⁷

²⁶ Laurens Co., SC, Will Book D-1: 90, will of John Watts naming son Richard, proved 26 October 1812; original copy in loose probate files bundle 74, pkg. 1.

²⁷ 1790 U.S. census, Pendleton Dist., p. 15 (verso).

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

1790

PENDLETON COUNTY, SC

Census

Background: Certified 20 May 1791

Watts, George: No
Crumpton, James: 1 male 16+ 3 females²⁸

COMMENT:

I read every column of every page of this census in search of a George Watts whose name might be garbled in the database. The “James Watt” who lived near George and Barbara Watts on the 1800 Pendleton census was there in 1790, but I found none of George’s other 1800 neighbors, except James Crumpton.

No other entry has been found on the 1790 census of South Carolina that could conceivably be George.

In 1852, the 66-year-old Isaac Steele went before a notary in DeKalby County, Georgia, to testify on behalf of the heirs of George and Barbara, saying “that he was well and intimately acquainted with **George Watts** and his wife **Barbara Watts** from his earliest recollection, that they then lived in **Pendleton District**, South Carolina.”

Taking Steele’s words literally, he was born 1785–1786. His “earliest recollection” should have been about the time of the 1790 census. Online trees assert that he was born 18 July 1786 in *Anderson County, SC*, where he is said to have married Cynthia Cox.²⁹ Coxes were indeed close neighbors of George Watts on the 1800 Pendleton census. Anderson County, in 1786 and 1790, was part of Pendleton.

James Crumpton, in 1800 Pendleton, was 14 houses from George Watts. In 1810, he was 10 houses away. Thus far, I’ve found no other researchers working on him or any online trees that include him.

5 FEBRUARY 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

Harley Miles to Lewis Haygood. Sale of 50 acres, land granted to John Delahunt? 10 May 1773 on **Cedar Creek**. Witnesses: **Geo. Watts, Conrad Coon**, Saml. S. Miles.³⁰

COMMENT:

- Little Cedar Creek and Big Cedar Creek lay in South-central Fairfield, about 5 miles to the west of George & Ruth (Perry) Watts’s location on 25-Mile Creek and about 10 miles east of William Watts’s location on Jackson’s Creek of Little River.

²⁸ This James Crumpton is not named as a son or relative in the previously cited will of Barbara (Crumpton) Watts’s father Henry Crumpton, filed in 1807.

²⁹ jerrylois55, “Page Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/12154932/person/12446217156/facts?_phsrc=aam651&_phstart=successsource), Isaac Steele Jr. profile. Although an exact date of birth and death are shown for him—along with Anderson as the specific place—no evidence is offered to support this.

³⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 112–13.

George Watts (1756–1834)

Wife: Barbara Crumpton

- In addition, *Mills's Atlas* also shows a **Cedar Fork** of Dutchman Creek which lies about 1 mile northeast of the tip of Big Cedar Creek.³¹ The configuration suggests that Cedar Fork and Big Cedar Creek might have once been a continuous stream.
- in 1790, George "Coon" was 6 households from **John Watts**, brother of the George who married Barbara Crumpton.

Although both the 1790 census and the 1792 tax roll of Fairfield show only one George Watts³²—the man who should be George of 25-Mile Creek—the associations for the George who witnessed the document above are not the associations of the George of 25-Mile Creek. Meanwhile, Barbara Watts's father remained in Fairfield until his death c. early 1807.³³ For George and Barbara to make visits back to Fairfield to visit kin, after their move to Pendleton, would not have been uncommon.

2 JUNE 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale

Henry Crumpton (H) to members of **Brick Meeting House** (many members named) on **Little River**, sale of one acre, "including the above mentioned Brick Meeting House." Witnesses: Jno. McCoy, Thos Pollyr. Proved by McCoy before John Gray, J.P. on 6 June 1793.

COMMENT:

Little River is known to have two meeting houses in this period. The oldest was Mobley's Meeting House in upper Fairfield. After the Whig rout of the Tory stronghold at Mobley's in 1780, that church waned. By the 1790s, there was a Gibson's Meeting House on Little River, in lower Fairfield. Whether Gibson's is one and the same as the Brick Meeting House is unclear.

JULY 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minute.

"James Hanna vs **George Watts**. S.P. Decree for Eight pounds with interest from the 10th June 1792, the note cost by D. Brown Esqr."³⁴

COMMENT:

I have not yet associated these two men (Hannah and Brown) with George Watts of 25-Mile Creek, suggesting that the record may relate to the younger George-of-Thomas, husband of Barbara.

7 MARCH 1797

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

³¹ Robert Mills, *Mills's Atlas of the State of South Carolina* (1825; reprinted, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1980), Fairfield Co. map.

³² Tony Draine and Edd Bannister, *Fairfield County, SC, Tax Returns, 1792* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publications, ca.1991), Watts, George 200 acres state tax; 200 acres county tax; 0 polls.

³³ Fairfield Co., Will Book 5: 182, will of Henry Crumpton, proved 4 April 1807. Also see 1800 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., SC, stamped p. 199 verso, line 9.

³⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 105.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

Stephen Wallace (x) sells to Dennis Wallis “for diverse good Causes and Valuable Considerations me hereunto moving ... all my household stuff” cattle, etc. Witnesses: **Geo. Watts, Elizabeth Wattu**. Proved 23 March 1797 by **George Watts** before Wm. Robertson, J.P. Recorded 29 March 1797.³⁵

COMMENT:

- Wm. Robertson, J.P., is shown on the 1800 census 5 houses from Samuel Mobley of upper Little River and 14 from Micajah Pickett, suggesting that the witness George might be the husband of Barbara. This should be central Fairfield, not the 25-Mile Creek area.
- No Elizabeth Watts is known for the family of George and Barbara. One Elizabeth Watts has twice before appeared in company with the 25-Mile Creek George. In 1793 and 1795, that George posted bond for her when the State of SC charged her with some uncited infraction, at which time Jesse Perry (brother of Ruth Perry Watts) was George’s surety.³⁶

1800

PENDLETON COUNTY, SC

Census.

[Geographic region undetermined]³⁷

Enoch Early

Anne Barnette

John Nall

Phrancis Hambly

William Turner

James Black

John Trainer

George Watts	1 male 45+ [George]	1 female 26-45 [Barbara?]
	1 male 10-16 [Thomas]	1 female 16-26 [Sallie]
	2 males 0-10 [–?–]	1 female 10–16 [Mary]
		3 females 0–10 [Eleanor, Nancy, Margaret]

John Buchannon

James Cox

Mary Cox

John Simpson

Robert Richards

John Barnet

George Brooke

William Coy

John Buchannon

James Watt [This James Watt, with no ‘s’, was also there in 1790]

John Watt [This John was not a household head in 1790; he is a likely son of James]

John Buchannon

Ebenezer Buchannon

James Crumpton

Thomas Blare

John Skelton

³⁵ Fairfield Co., Deed Book K: 413–14.

³⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 87.

³⁷ 1800 U.S. census, Pendleton Co., SC, p. 151 (stamped), line 8.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

William White

1810

PENDLETON COUNTY, SC

Census.

[Geographic region undetermined]³⁸

Francis Hesterler

John Cheek

Wm Burns

Amos Burnett

George Watts	1 male	45+	[George]	1 female	26-44	[Barbara]
	2 males	10-16	[Thomas]	1 female	10-16	[Nancy?]
	1 male	0-10	[Edward]	1 female	0-10	[Margaret?]

Nimrod Kelly

Wm Berry

Edd Sanders

Saml. Mitchell

Jno. Steele

Wm. Wilbanks

Wm Turner

Robt Davis

Joshua Brown

Jas. Crumpton

Ewd. Yeargan

Henry Wilbanks

Geo. Brooks

Wm. McPherson

Moses McKerby

James Stewart

Freeman Hardy

Thomas Haynie

James Armstrong

David Bealy

Jas. Roach

Thomas Simpson

Wm. Steele

Nimrod Kelly

Saml. Smith

Wm. Cox

Widow *Turner*

12 AUGUST 1815

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

John Watts, Thomas Watts, Susannah Watts, and Milly Watts, for \$400, sell to *Burbage Woodward* "all that plantation or tract of Land ... on **Woodward's Creek**, a branch of **Little River**, being part of a tract

³⁸ 1810 U.S. census, Pendleton Co., SC, p. 272 (penned).

George Watts (1756–1834)

Wife: Barbara Crumpton

originally granted to **Edward Watts [Jr.]**, bounded on one side by the *remaining part of the original grant now in possession of William Woodward* and by Lands of *Robert Milling*, being the same on which the said Burbage Woodward now Resides Containing **one hundred acres** more or less.” Signed John Watts, Thomas Watts, Susanah Watts (X, her mark), Milly Watts (X, her mark). Witnesses: **George Watts** and *Jacob Woodward* (X). Proved 9 Sept. 1815 by Jacob Woodward before Wm. F. Pearson.³⁹

COMMENT:

The identity of this witness George Watts is unproved. The deceased was a brother of Thomas Watts Sr. (Bedford Co. Virginia > Wateree River SC) whose son George married Barbara. Thomas. Thus far, no association has been found between the Edward Watts clan on Little River and the George Watts of 25-Mile Creek who married Ruth Perry.

23 DECEMBER 1818

PENDLETON & RICHLAND DISTRICTS, SC

Witness.

“**George Watts** {or Wats} (**Richland Dist, SC**) to **my son Thomas Watts**; for regard gave 138.75 ac on waters of Little Generestee {Cr}; reference to plat Dec. 17, 1818 by *Joseph McPherson* for metes & bounds; part of 2 grants: (a) in 1784 to *Joseph McClesky* and (b) in 1787 {to J McClesky?}. {signed} **George Watts & Barbary Watts**’ mark ‘X’ (sic); (witness) **William Watts & Elizabeth Watts**; wit. Oath Feb. 14, 1819 by ‘**Elebeth**’ **Watts** before **William Watts JP**; Feb. 25, 1822 recorded & examined by Joseph Grisham, D clerk; book P p412.”⁴⁰

COMMENT:

- The 1852 affidavit of George and Barbara’s son Edward, naming children of George *and Barbara*, does not include either Thomas or a William Watts who might be the J.P. and the witness above. It could be purely coincidence that George chose a J.P. of the same surname; but, more likely, this William Watts also stems from the Watts family of the Wateree.
- Note above that George, by 1818, had left Pendleton and relocated in Richland County. That county lay just south of the 25-Mile Creek area where the slightly older George Watts (of unproved parentage) lived with his wife Ruth Perry.
- As shown below, the 1820 census places the Richland George in the proximity of his brother **William**.
- From the published abstract of this deed, it is not clear whether the deed was executed in Pendleton or Richland. That point is important to determining the identity of the “William Watts JP” to whom George went to execute the deed. If the deed was executed in Richland, then the William who was a justice of the peace was likely George’s brother of that name.

TO DO

- **Search for a record of George’s purchase of this land, to more closely date his settlement n Pendleton. (The book of abstracts cited above does not seem to have a purchase record for this land unless George’s name is garbled therein.)**
- **Obtain a copy of the recorded deed, itself, and study it more closely. In fact, ALL Pendleton records need to be worked for him—with page-by-page reading of every deed and court book for buried references to him.**

³⁹ Fairfield Co., Deed Book Z: 7.

⁴⁰ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 199.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

19 OCTOBER 1819

RICHLAND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Kinship.

“In the name of God amen. I **Thomas Watts** of Richland District, State of South Carolina, being in full possessison of my faculties But calling to mind the uncertainty of life and the certainte [sic] of death, after commending my sole to Almighty God through the _____? Of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and my body to be buried at the Discretion of my hereafter named Executor. ITEM, I will that all my property both real and personal be sold and the monies arising from the sales to be divided as followeth: First, I give and bequeath to **Joseph Watts**, six thousand Dollars, then after all my just Debts and funeral Charges are paid, the balance of the monies to be equally divided between **my brothers and sisters**. ITEM, I do appoint and ordain my friend William Guphill my lawful Executor. Given under my hand and seal this 19th October in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, in the forty fourth year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America. [Signed] Thomas Watts.” Witnesses: Jane Killingsworth (X, her mark), Anne Guphill, Archelaus Watkins.

“Personally appeared Archelaus Watkins who being duly sworn made oath that he saw Thomas Watts sign and publish, pronounce and declare the within Instrument of writing to be his last will and Testament, that he was then of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, according to the best of this deponent’s knowledge and belief, and that he with Jane Killingsworth and Anne Guphill, at the request of the Testate in his presence and in the presence of each other, witnessed the due execution thereof. [Signed] Archelaus Watkins. Sworn before me 21 December 1820, James S. Guignard, Ordinary.”⁴¹

COMMENT:

- As seen below, this Thomas Watts was George’s brother and George was one of those “residual heirs” not personally named above.
- Land and court records have been destroyed for Richland (whose county seat is the state capital, Columbia). Only probate records remain.

1820

RICHLAND DISTRICT, SC

Census.

[households are rearranged in semi-alpha order]⁴²

Wood, Sampson Senr.

Wood, Sampson, Junr.

Williamson, Sterling C.

Weston, William Senr.

Weston, William Junr.

Woodard, Llewelin

Woodard, Isom

Ward, Michael

Wade, James T.

Wages, Dawson Senr.

Wages, Dawson Junr.

⁴¹ Richland Co., Will Book G: 150–52. Page 153 offers the inventory and appraisal of Thomas’s estate, undated, but created about January 1821.

⁴² 1820 U.S. census, Richland Dist., SC, p. 24 (penned, top left corner).

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

Wages, Moses					
Wages, William					
Whipton, Tobias					
Wilson, Patrick					
George Watts	1 male	45+	[George]	1 female	45+ [Barbara]
	1 male	10–16	[Edward]	1 person engaged in agriculture	
Williams, Green					
Whitmore, Richard					
Woodard, Mary					
Williams, Eli					
Whitecotton, Acton					
Williams, Harriet					
Winn, Robt.					
Watts, William	1 male	45+		1 female	45+
	1 male	16-26		1 female	16-26
	1 male	10-16		1 female	0-10
	1 male	0-10		4 persons engaged in agriculture	
Watts, Thomas Junr.	1 male	16-26		1 female	16-26
				1 person engaged in agriculture	
Wilson, David					
Wilson, William					
Wilson, Alexander					
Wilson, James					

COMMENT:

- The William Watts who notarized the George-to-Thomas conveyance filed in Pendleton District is not enumerated in Pendleton District.
- The William Watts of this census is William-of-Thomas, formerly of Fairfield and Kershaw.
- The “Thomas Watts Junr.” of 1820 Richland is likely William’s son. William’s brother Thomas, who formerly used the designation “Thomas Watts Junr.” while his father was alive, does not appear as a head of household on this census. Given that the will of William’s brother “Thomas Jr.” was *filed* on 21 December 1820, it appears that he died shortly before the census was taken in his neighborhood.

21 DECEMBER 1820

RICHLAND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Kinship.

Will of Thomas Watts, filed in Richland.⁴³

COMMENT:

Thomas’s estate would be probated in two places: Richland District, SC, and Ouachita Parish, LA. In 1819, Thomas had moved his “natural” son Joseph out to Louisiana and set him, his wife, and her kinsman up on land. He also left other property with him. At Thomas’s death, that Louisiana property had to be probated.

⁴³ Richland Co., SC, Probate Box 33, Package 801, Thomas Watts; FHL microfilm 24,445.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

Thomas's and George's nephew William Duggans also moved out to Ouachita Parish in this period. Duggans protested Thomas's will and attempted to prevent Joseph from administering Thomas's Louisiana property or inheriting any of it. Because Joseph's wife's kin had been enslaved, William attempted to take possession of them also.

Amid those proceedings, Duggans's attorney filed documents that discussed George Watts, brother of the deceased:

DECEMBER 1821
OUACHITA PARISH, LA
Probate.

John Fort Muse, attorney for William Duggans, presents his petition "stating to the court that he (said Duggans) has purchased of **John Watts**, one of the brothers of the said Thomas Watts, decd., and one of the heirs of the said Estate, his share of said Succession, and therefore prays to be admitted as one of the Heirs. ... which sale from said John, duly authenticated, he has now here ready to shew to the court; he therefore prays to be admitted, or his said attorney for him, as curator of that part which belongs to the absent heirs, to wit, **Edward Watts, Amey [Mary?] Kirkland, George Watts, Elizabeth Duggans, Aggy Atteson, Sally Smith, and William Watts**. ... and that **Joseph Watts**, a man of color of said parish, be cited to shew cause why a negro woman named Minta, and a Roan Horse, formerly the property of the said Decedent, and the crop made the present year by the slaves of said Estate, shall not be inventoried as property of said Estate, and show cause why he delivered out of his possession two slaves named Bob and Aggy, put into his possession with the other slaves of said Estate, by the deceased, to keep and support with the others; and that **Nancy Watts**, a woman of color, of said parish, who has in her possession said slaves Bob and Aggy, may be cited to show cause why said two slaves shall not be inventoried as the property of said Estate, and that in refusal to show cause as aforesaid, that your honor will make such order as will compel a compliance with the citation, or to secure such property, for which cause is not shown, from the removal from said parish, until the rightful title to the same be settled judicially, and that such property as shall appear to belong to said Estate, your honor, will Inventories and have appraised to be administered with the other property ..."⁴⁴

COMMENT:

Other records in these estate proceedings for Thomas suggest that Minta may be (a) Native American; and (b) his mother.

2 JANUARY 1822
PENDLETON DIST., SC
Land sale.

"**Thomas Watts** (Pendleton Dist) to Henry Adams (same); for \$310 sold 130 ac on Little Generostee {Cr}, a branch of Savannah R; except 28 ac sold to Garner Brooks; part of 2 granted in 1784 & 1787 to Joseph 'McClusky'; reference to plat Dec. 17, 1818 for metes & bounds. (signed) **Thomas Watts**; (witness) William Wiley, Samuel McGee, & Moses D Harris; dower renounced Jan. 25, 1822 by **Lavina Watts, wife** of Thomas, before James McDill JQ (signed) Lavina Watts' mark 'X'; wit. Oath Jan. 2, 1822 by William Wiley before James McDill JQ; Feb. 25, 1822 recorded & examined by Joseph Grisham, D clerk; book P p.413."⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession Book C: 35.

⁴⁵ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 200.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

COMMENT:

- This Thomas should be Thomas-of-George.
- One Lavinia/Lavina Huntley of Anson Co., NC, born about 1775 to Thomas Huntley and wife Zilpha Meadors, is said to have married a Thomas Watts.⁴⁶ Her sister Zilphy Huntley is said to have married the Rev. Joel Gullede, son of William Gullede and Barsheba Watts.⁴⁷ The families are said to have gone to Anson from Bedford County, Virginia, where George Watts was born. George's brother John Watts named two of his older daughters the not-common names Barsheba and Zilphy.⁴⁸ *If* correct, then Barsheba Watts Gullede would seem to be a daughter of George's grandfather Edward Watts of Bedford, for whom no daughters have been identified.

29 NOVEMBER 1821

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Kinship.

John Watts of Covington County, Mississippi. conveyed to "my nephew" William Duggans, all his rights in and to the estate of his brother Thomas Watts of Richland District, South Carolina.⁴⁹

30 MARCH 1824

OUACHITA PARISH, LA

Power of attorney

Thomas Watts Heirs, power of attorney to James Fort Muse, attorney for William Duggans.

South Carolina, Richland District. Heirs giving the power of attorney were "**George Watts**, Edward Watts, Watts & Gibson [identity uncertain], Wm. Watts, in presence of Warren Andrews [and] Metcalf Passmore. Proved by Warren Andrews on 3 April 1824.⁵⁰

COMMENT:

George obviously moved from Richland to Georgia after March 1824.

1830

DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Census.

Consecutive entries

M____ Davis

John W. Walker

Thomas Eli

David Thirmond

Benjamin Little

Benjamin Thirmond

George Watts	1 male	70-79	1 female	60-69
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⁴⁶ For example, see Daniel Huntley Redfearn, *History of the Redfearn Family* (Miami, FL: P.p., 1954), 102.

⁴⁷ For example, see Margaret R Frasier, "Rev. Joel Gullede (d. date unknown)," *Genealogy.com* (familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/f/r/a/Margaret-R-Frasier/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0258.html : accessed 2 January 2008.

⁴⁸ Elizabeth Shown 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.

⁴⁹ Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vol. C: 31–38, succession of "Thomas Watts of S. Carolina"; Clerk of Court, Monroe.

⁵⁰ Ouachita Parish, LA, Deed Book F: 357–58.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

Edward Watts	1 male	20-29	1 female	20-29
	1 male	15-19	1 female	0-5
	1 male	0-5		

William Thirmond
Richard Thirmond
Daniel Melton
Michael Reeves
Demcy Reeves
Ellenor Burner [Barnes?]
Polly Twilly
William Brook
James Buckanon⁵¹

7 JANUARY 1832
RICHLAND COUNTY, GA

Kinship.

Estate of Thomas Watts. Settlement of account, with interest from 1 January 1822.

“...leaving the sum of \$11,003.27 to be distributed amongst the eight general Legatees, viz: Wm. Watts, **Geo. Watts**, Jno. Watts, Edward Watts, Elizabeth Duggans, Mary Kirkland, Mrs. S. Smith & Mrs. A. Addison.

“Charles Ellis has settled with **Wm. B. Watts**, who was authorized to settle for **William, George & Edward Watts** the full proportion of said Estate to which they were entitled, including certain Debts due the Estate, yet uncollected; and he has settled with & paid to **William Duggans** the full share of **Sally Smith & John Watts** of the whole Estate including the uncollected Debts, he being authorized to receive their shares. He has settled with & paid **Mrs. Mary Kirkland & Mrs. Elizabeth Duggans** their full shares of said Estate; and he has paid to **Stephen Nolan**, the agent & exr. of **Agnes Addison** the full share of said Agnes, except of the uncollected Debts, which when collected, (if ever) she will be entitled to her distributive share. The uncollected Debts are W. Moy’s note for about \$387.50, with Interest from the Jan. 7, 1822; Graham’s Note, 86.50, Interest as above.

COMMENT:

William B. Watts of Richland appears to be the son of the William for whom he was acting—i.e., nephew of George, Edward, and the deceased Thomas (as well as John Watts, Sally Smith, Mary Kirkland, and Elizabeth Duggans).

12 OCTOBER 1832
DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Military pension.

Affidavit of **George Watts** before Walter T. Colquitt, Judge of the Superior Court for the Chattahoochy Circuit and County of DeKalb. Watts, a resident of DeKalb County “aged 76 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 the 7th of June 1832.

“That he entered the service of the United States as a drafted Soldier under the following named Officers and served in the whole about seven years as herein stated (to wit) that he entered the service of the United States as a drafted Soldier under Genl. Richardson, Col. Joseph Kershaw, Capt. John Winn & Lieut.

⁵¹ 1830 U.S. Census, DeKalb Co., GA, p. 50 (penned).

George Watts (1756–1834)

Wife: Barbara Crumpton

Thomas Atison [Addison? Otterson?] in South Carolina & what is now Called **Fairfield District**, and Marched to the **Snowey Camps** and was at the taking of some prisoners (Tories) that they carried to Fridays Ferry at Gramby. Returned home but received nothing but a verbal discharge. [1775] He was then dismissed and the Militia [*sic*] returned home a short time and was called to **Charlsten** in three Divisions, each Division to serve 6 weeks from the time they left home until the British Landed in America and then all was called out. [early 1776]

“That he then inlisted in the third Regiment of Horse under Col William Thompson, Richard Winn Captain, Oliver Tolls first Lieutenant, and William Caldwell Ensign, first seargent William Blan & **John Hollis** second. Their first service was to guard two loads of amunition from Charlston to White Hall near 96. They then marched through South Carolina & Georgia to **Fort McIntosh** and was taken prisoner By the British who were Commanded by Col. Fuze & were permitted to return home [as] prisoners of War. He was enlisted for three Years and he remained at home as a presiner of War until near the expiration of the time for which he had inlisted and the Captain told him it was not worth while to go back for what time was to come and he got no discharge.

“He then fel [*sic*] into the Militia again and Served as a Lieutenant under Capt. Thomas Parrot about 2 years and was at the taking of the **Congaree Fort**, Took 300 Tories & 80 British soldiers, 12 Pieces of Cannon & about 1000 stand of small arms in May, does not recollect day or Year. That he was at the time of the **Battle of Eutaw Springs** with a company of about 200 men acting as Guard to prevent the British from coming in on the Rear of Green’s Army.

“That he was born in Virginia, has no record of his age, that he has lived since the Revolutionary War in the State of South Carolina until the last 8 or 9 years. That he lived the last 8 or 9 years in Georgia, DeKalb County, & hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a p[ension] or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State, that he never had any discharge from any of his servics except verbal only. [Signed] George Watts X his mark.”

“Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 12 day of Oct 1832. W. T. Colquitt, J.C.C.”⁵²

“I, **Locklin Johnson**, a citizen resident of DeKalb County, State of Georgia, have been acquainted with the above named George Watts for about **thirty or forty years** during which time he has supported a character of perfect honesty & integrity and unquestioned veracity and from my first acquaintance with him he has been reputed & believed to have been a revolutionary Soldier in that Opinion I entirely & Hartily concur. I also believe him to be Seventy six years of age & upwards as he has stated. [Signed] Locklin Johnson.

“Sworn to in open Court this 12 Oct 1832, W. T. Colquitt, J.C.C.”⁵³

“I, **John Wesley Cox**, a citizen & resident of DeKalb County & State of Georgia have been acquainted with the above named George Watts for **about twenty-five or thirty years** during which time he has supported a Character of perfect honesty & integrity and unquestioned veracity and from my first acquaintance with him he has been reputed and believed to have been a revolutionary Soldier in that Opinion I intirely Concur. I also believe him to be Seventy six years of age, as he has Stated & I am likewise well acquainted with Locklin Johnson, who has certified to the foregoing. I also believe him to be intitled to full faith & credit. [Signed] John W. Cox.

“Sworn to in open Court this 12th Oct 1832. W. T. Colquitt, J.C.C.”⁵⁴

⁵² George Watts affidavit, 12 October 1832, George Watts Pension Application, images 28052965–28052969.

⁵³ Locklin Johnson affidavit, 12 October 1832, George Watts Pension Application, image 28052969.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

4 NOVEMBER 1833
DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Military pension.

Affidavit of **George Watts**, Dekalb County, appeared in open court to say he was “aged 76 years, Christmas last, ... that [he] entered the service of the United States as a drafted private soldier under the following named officers, to wit: under Genl. Richardson, Col. Joseph Kershaw, Capt. John Winn & Lieutenant Thomas Atison in South Carolina, in what is now Called Fairfield district & marched to the **Snowey Camps**, took some Tories Prisoners and Carried them to Columbia S.C., in one mile & a half of Columbia to a place then called Fridays Ferry on Broad River. Served in this first Tour six weeks & upwards, but from old age & consequent infirmity this deponant does not Recollect the year or day but that it was in the month of December, as well as deponant can Recollect. Returned home under a verbal discharge from his Col.

“That he ... under the same officers except Col. Kershaw who fell to the lower division of the district and Capt. John Winn was promoted to Col. for the upper division of the district, Capt. Atterson [Thomas Otterson] in Winn’s place, entered the said service of the United States at the same place & district of his first service. Marched to Charleston in South Carolina as a drafted private soldier holding no commission. Served in this second Term of service six weeks, does not recollect the year or date. Returned home & Recd. nothinb but a verbal discharge.

“This deponant again entered the said Service of the United States some two months after his last return home as a drafted private Soldier holding no commission. Served under Capt. Atterson, Col. John Winn & Genl. Richardson. Entered this third tour of service in the district now Called Fairfield. Marched under said officers to Charleston & was in Charleston at the time of the battle between General Moultre commander of the United States Soldiers & Sir Peter Parker, commander of the British. [Battle of Sullivan’s Island, 28 June 1776] This deponant Returned home to Fairfield some time in June or July but does not recollect the day or year. Served Six weeks in this 3rd Tour of Service & Recd. nothing but a verbal discharge.

“That he ... again entered the said service of the United States in the Third Regiment of Horse under Col. William Thomspson, **Richard Winn Capt.**, Oliver Tolls 1st Lieutenant & Wm. Coldwell Ensign, William Blann 1st Sargent & John Hollis second. This was in Fairfield. This deponant was sent as one of the Gard with two Loads of ammunition from Charleston in S.C. to a place called White Hall near 96. This deponant then under the command of his said last mentioned officers **marched through South Carolina & Georgia to Fort McIntosh in East Florida** and was there taken prisoners [*sic*] by the British who were Commanded by Col. Fuzel and were sent home [as] prisoners of War. This was in March. [1777] Deponant cannot recollect the year, where we remained three or four months, [June–July 1777] when we were exchanged and deponant had started for head quarters and after one days travel met his capt. who told him it was not worthwhile to go to headquarters as his three years tour of enlistment was so near out that he need no[t] go.

“This deponant states that he served as last above stated not less than two years and nine months, as deponants term of 3 years would have expired in June thereafter. [If he enlisted in 1775, then his 3 years should not be up until 1778. See George’s earlier affidavit in which he mentions returning home and

⁵⁴ John Wesley Cox affidavit, 12 October 1832, George Watts Pension Application, image 28052971.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

staying there some time as a parolee, before setting out to report to headquarters at the end of his term.]

“This deponant again entered the said Service of the United States under Col. Winn, Capt. Atterson & Genl. Richardson and served **two years and upwards** in the **militia service** as a volunteer private soldier holding no commission, **ranged about through the state of South Carolina and the upper part of North Carolina**. Was not at any time at home more than two days at any one time, until [sic] the termination of the Revolutionary War. Recd nothing but a verbal discharge. [1779–81?]

“That this deponant was Born in the State of Virginia, Bedford County. Moved to the State of South Carolina where he was living at the time when he was called into service and where he has resided ever since until the time that he moved to this State of Georgia, DeKalb County, where he now resides & has resided for the last 9 or ten years. That he has no documentary evidence of his service. That he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said services that he has no record of his age. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declairs that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state except the Original of which this is the amendment. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

[Signed] **George Watts**. Witnesses: Lodowick Tuggle, J J.C.; Ea_____ Jones, J. J. C.; Moses Murphey, JJC.⁵⁵

4 NOVEMBER 1833
DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Military pension.

“We, Edward Wade, a Clergyman residing in DeKalb County, and Richard Head residing in the said county of De Kalb do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with **George Watts** who has subscribed and sworn to the above and foregoing amended declaration that we believe him to be 76 years of age and upward, that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. [Signed] Edward Wade, Clergyman; Richd. Head. “Sworn to and subscribed before us this 4th day of November 1833. Attest: Edward Jones, J.J.C.; Lodowick Tuggle, J.J.C., Moses Murphy, J.J.C.”⁵⁶

24 AUGUST 1852
DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Military pension.

Affidavit, before A. Corr, a Justice of the Peace. **Edward Watts**, a resident citizen of DeKalb made the following affidavit “in order to obtain for the children of **George and Barbara Watts** the Pension which is due them since the death of their parents aforesaid under the Acts of June 7 1832 and July 4, 1836 or both of them.”

“That he ... is the son of George Watts who, during his life time, applied for a Pension, while living in this County, under Act of Jun 7, 1832, which Pension, he claimed on account of his Revolutionary services as a Private and Lieutenant in the State troops, or Militia of South Carolina. Declarant thinks said services were rendered in the militia, that he has often heard his father speak of his revolutionary services, and say that he entered the service in the capacity of a private soldier and served as such for Some considerable time, when he was appointed or elected to Lieutenant, but he entered as a private in the

⁵⁵ George Watts affidavit, 4 November 1833, DeKalb Co., Georgia; George Watts Pension Application, images 28052942–28052948.

⁵⁶ Affidavit of Edward Wade and Richard Head, 4 November 1833; George Watts Pension Application, image 28053005.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

early part of the War in South Carolina, at which time Declarant thinks he served under Capt. Allison [Addison? Otterson?], in which capacity he served for several years.

“That while he was in the service as a Lieutenant, he intermarried with **Barbara Compton** [sic] in Fairfield District, South Carolina. This Declarant thinks took place in the year 1780, as he has heard his parents say that Sally, their oldest child, was born in the year 1781, and while he was out in the service. That he continued the service until the close of the War, when he returned home. Of these facts declarant speaks as he remembers hearing them from his parents, but for more minute details of his father’s service, refers to his application for Pension which was filed by him during his life time many years ago.

“That his father, the said George Watts, removed from the State of South Carolina to Georgia and settled with his family in DeKalb County in said State where he continued to live until on or about the 12th day of April 1834, when he died, and left his widow Barbara Watts surviving him. That she did not renew the application for a Pension either in right of her husband or herself, as she often said, he having failed to obtain the pension during his life, she could do without it. Also that she continued his Widow until the day of her *death*, which took place in DeKalb County, Georgia, on the [blank] day of *April* in the year 1840. That she left the following named and only children, who are also the only children of the said George Watts and who still survive, viz: **Sally**, who married **Aaron Turner**; **Mary**, who married **William Steele**; **Nelly** who married **Robert Dunham**; **Nancy** who married **Moses Steele**; **Margaret** who married **William Cox** and Declarant **Edward Watts**, who is the youngest child of said George and Barbara Watts.

“That he is in possession of no record or documentary evidence in support of the claim or of the marriage of his father & mother nor is there any in existence to his knowledge; the original family record of marriages, births, &c which was kept by his father during his life time, having been long lost or destroyed. That he did not know until recently that the children of a Revolutionary Soldier were entitled to any thing from the United States, as a Pension, and for this reason has not sooner applied. Declarant distinctly recollects having seen the family record referred to above, and that it was set forth in said Record that his sister Sally was born in the year 1781. He therefore prays that a Pension be granted to them and be made payable to an Administrator to be hereafter appointed. [Signed] Edward Watts “Seal”.

“Sworn to and subscribed before me the day & year first above written. A Corry, J.P.”

“I certify that I am personally acquainted with Edward Watts, the foregoing declarant, and that he is a man of veracity & that his statements are entitled to full faith and credit. A. Corry, J.P.”⁵⁷

“Know all men by these presents that I, Edwards Watts of DeKalb County, Georgia, one of the children of George and Barbara Watts decd. do hereby constitute and appoint Smith Jones of Nashville, Tennessee, my true & lawful attorney for me & in my name to present and prosecute the claim of myself & other children of the said George & Barbara Watts”

8 APRIL 1834
WASHINGTON, DC
Military pension.

File card. “**George Watts**. Georgia. Suspended. Letter 8 April 1834. Charles Murphy.”⁵⁸

COMMENT:

No reason is given for the suspension, but the typical reason would be a letter notifying the pension office that the applicant had died.

⁵⁷ Edward Watts affidavit, 24 August 1852, George Watts Pension Application, images 28052950–28052952.

⁵⁸ George Watts Pension Application, image 28053013.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

25 AUGUST 1852
DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Military pension.

“Personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace in and for said County and State, **Isaac Steele**, aged **sixty six** years of age, with whom I am personally acquainted and who, I certify, is a man of veracity and good repute, and made oath in due form of law that he was well and intimately acquainted with **George Watts** and his wife **Barbara Watts** from his earliest recollection, that they then lived in **Pendleton District**, South Carolina, that he understood that her name prior to her marriage with George Watts was **Barbara Compton**, and that they had removed from **Fairfield District**, So. Carolina to Pendleton District in said State, as he always understood from them, that from this date up to the day of the death of the said George Watts, which occurred in DeKalb County, Georgia, he was intimately acquainted with them both, they and affiant having removed from Pendleton District South Carolina, to DeKalb County, Georgia.

“That he died in said County in the year 1834, that during his acquaintance with the said George Watts, he has often and repeatedly heard him speak of his services in the South Carolina troops, in the Revolutionary War, and of his having served a Considerable length of time in said War, and that he had married his wife, the aforesaid Barbara, while he was in the service in said War, and of his wife having to remain and attend to things at home, while he was out in the Service of his Country, that he understood from him that he was in the service during the greater part of the War, but the particulars of his service, affiant is unable to state, but is certain that during his acquaintance with him, he was always regarded as, and believed to have been, a Revolutionary soldier or officer by his neighbors.

“That when he died, he left the said Barbara Watts surviving him, who continued his widow, up to the day of her death which took place in DeKalb County, Georgia, in the year 1840, that she left the following named children with whom affiant is well acquainted, to wit: **Sally Turner, Mary Steele, Nelly Dunham, Nancy Steele, Margaret Cox**, and **Edward Watts**. That, as above stated, affiant has been intimately acquainted with the said George Watts and Barbara his wife from his earliest recollection, that when they lived in Pendleton District So Carolina, affiant resided within one and a half miles of them and that after their removal to DeKalb County Georgia he resided within five or six miles of them, that he has often heard the said Barbara Watts say that she was married to the said George Watts before the close of the War, and that she suffered hardships after their marriage while he was out in the Service, that from his acquaintance with their children above named, he supposes that Sally, the oldest child, is now about seventy years of age or upwards and that she is several years older than affiant, as he always understood both from his own mother and from the said Barbara Watts. [Signed] Isaac Steele.

“Sworn to & subscribed before me this 25th day of August 1852, A. Corry, J.P.”⁵⁹

25 AUGUST 1852
DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Military pension.

Affidavit of Thos. T. Gibbs, Mayor of Atlanta, attesting that he had been presented with evidence showing that **George Watts**, a former Revolutionary War veteran, had died in DeKalb Co., on 12 April 1834 leaving a Widow Barbara who died in April 1840, and that the surviving children of the couple were Sally Turner, Mary Steele, Nellie Dunham, Nancy Steele, Margaret Cox, and Edward Watts.”⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Affidavit of Isaac Steele, 25 August 1852; George Watts Pension Application, images 28052960–28052962.

⁶⁰ George Watts Pension Application, image 28053023.

George Watts (1756–1834)
Wife: Barbara Crumpton

16 MAY 1853

COLUMBIA, SC

Military service certificate.

“Comptroller Genl’s Office, Columbia, South Carolina, 16 May 1853. I hereby certify that I find the name of **George Watts** on the pay Roll of Capt. Barnetts Troop in Lt. Col. Henry Hampton’s Regt. of Light Dragoons commanded by Brigd. Genl. Sumter as having served ten months in that troop as a private. Given under my hand (there being no seal of office), Wm. T. Arthur, for Compt. Genl.”⁶¹

26 MAY 1853

WASHINGTON, DC

Military pension.

“Pension Office, Feby 26, 1853

“Sirs, The application of **Barbara Watts, decd.** of Ga. has been examined & filed under the Act of July 4 1836. For proof of service &c, reference is made to the papers of her husband Edward supposed to be on file in this Office but I am not able to discover any such papers on our files. Very Resp’y, Your Obt. Sevt., J. E. Heath, Comr. of Pensions.”⁶²

Backside of document: “**No. 7,901, Barbara Watts** dec. Widow of Edward. Ga. Smith & Jones Feby 26/53. 11214.”

12 JULY 1854

DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Military pension.

Power of attorney from Edward Watts, Fulton Co., Ga., to Chas C Tucker of Washington D.C., to prosecute his claim. Created and filed in DeKalb Co.⁶³

17 JULY 1854

WASHINGTON DC

Military pension.

File card: “Revolutionary. Act 7 June 1832. George Watts. Georgia. Suspended. Power of Attorney to examine papers. Chs. C. Tucker, Atty. 17 July 54. Present.”⁶⁴

⁶¹ Ibid., image 28052987.

⁶² Commissioner of Pensions to applicant’s agent, 26 Feb. 1853; George Watts Pension Application, image 28052992; the backside of the document is at image 28053014.

⁶³ George Watts Pension Application, images 28053019–28053022.

⁶⁴ File card, 17 July 1854; George Watts Pension Application, image 28053016.

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Elizabeth Shown Mills, “George Watts (1756–1834) & Wife Barbara Crumpton: Research Notes,” a working file updated 1 December 2017,” p. ____.

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