DATE: 2 November 2014
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.
   - 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.

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**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.

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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. 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.

- 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 became a colonel and Otterson became a captain. Next, he was in the Third Regiment under Ensign

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).
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. n7

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.) ...” n8
- Richard Winn was also a leader of the Whig forces that attacked the Loyalists at Mobley’s Meeting House. n9

“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.” n10

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. n11 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.” n12

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 Fairfiied, just a few miles east of the Winn plantations. n13

“Watts, John
“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).” n14

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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.
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.
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.”

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

“Watts, Thomas

COMMENT BY ESM:
This Thomas appears to be the man who in 1787 Fairfield called himself “Thomas Watts Junior.” 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).”

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

COMMENT BY ESM:

“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. 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.”

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.
21 Ibid., 766.

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. 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.
- 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.”

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.”

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.”

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

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.
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 Establishment 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.

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$^{27}$ 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 Capt[ain] John Watts Dr. [i.e., “debtor”—the person to whom the debt was due] Apr. 23rd 1781: To Seven full grown Beeves. Wt. 1960 @ 25/8d pr Hundred St. £25.3.6

State So Carolina
Charraw District
Before me Charles Evans, a Justice of the peace For the said District, Personaly appeard. 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 Satisfation for the Same—Signd & Sworn Before me This 28th Nov. 1783.

[Signed] Charles Evans, J.P. John Watts”

“Recd. 28 May 1784.”

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

 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
Moses Knighten
Thos. Starke, Capt.
William miller, Lieut.
John Hollis, Luft. [Lieutenant]
Moses mims?
John Watts
Thom. Roaden
John King
Jno. Yarbrough
Moses Hollis
Jesse Stevenson
James Rutland

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.
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.
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. On the 1790 census of Fairfield, Charles Pickett is 13 households from John Watts and John’s next-door-neighbor Thomas Watts.
- Moses Knighton appears on the 1790 census next door to Charles Pickett and 12 households from the Fairfield John and Thomas Watts. Knighton appears in the first document recorded locally for the Fairfield John Watts, as buyers at a neighborhood estate sale. His land grant confirmed in 1786, after the state land office reopened, placed him on Layton’s Creek, adjacent to land granted to Thomas Watts Jr. 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.
- John Hollis, in 1790, was 3 households from Charles Pickett, 4 from Moses Knighton, 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.
- 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.
- John King, in 1782, he and fellow signer Moses Knighton were co-appraisers of a neighborhood estate. A fellow signer of this 1783 affidavit, Charles Pickett, was a buyer at that 1782 estate sale. In 1784, after the land office reopened, the survey of his land placed him adjacent to Moses Knighton. In 1790, he was enumerated next door to Knighton and 11

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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.
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.  

- **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. 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.  

- **James Rutland** in 1785 took out land next door to fellow signer Ralph Jones.

- **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).  

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.  

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.

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

26 [2?] NOVEMBER 1792  
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC  
Military service.

Col. John Marsh[all] supplies an 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.

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7 DECEMBER 1792
GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA
Petition.
“To the Honourabel 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 siting which accompt and petition was Lost or mislayed 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 Searace Consideration and Grant him such Compensation as your honours from the Inclosed accoompt may Think just and your petitioner as in Duty bound will Ever pray — — — John Watts.⁴⁹

To the Honorable Speaker and members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now sitting in General Assembly.

The petition of John Watts, humble subject, that he may have compensation for his services done in time of the British war, that by remaining in the state of Georgia soon after the war and not knowing when to make application till the time of making such allowance expired. But that in the year 1780 your petitioners found them not an accounting and found it in operation to the assembly, then writing which accounts and petition was lost or mislaid so that it was not presented and not knowing but what it had been found during the year, this subject is in the meantime of his life and application and trusting in the goodness of your Honor, you have authorized him how to apply and through that your Honor will be pleased to take his case into good serious consideration and grant him such compensation as your Honor from the treasury account may think just and your petitioners are in duty bound will ever pray.

John Watts

Petition

of John Watts

Dec. 1782

Committee

Capt. Hamilton
May 10th

J. Bulloch
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 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 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 assemby then setting which accoump and petition was Lost or mislayed 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 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.

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”

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.  

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

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52 For all the associations flagged in these name lists, see 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.

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)"

COMMENT BY ESM:
• Not only is the Fairfield John Watts missing from patriot-service list, but all the other Watts from Lynch’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
“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 aoresaid 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 ...

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.
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, Erabram; 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; Brewnon, 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; Caithpele, Hix; Chappell, Laban; Chesnut, Andrew; Chesnut, John; Clinkes, James; Clanters, David; Clanters, Richard; Clark, Henry; Clary, Ethelred; Clary, Robert; Clemons, William; Cloyd, James; Coffee, John; Colclogh, Alexander; Collins, William; Conbran, 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; Creighton, John; Creighton, Joseph; Creighton, Thomas; Croft, Byer, Croft, John; Crokey, Robert; Cunnigham, 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, Jessy; Dubois, Elias; Duboise Andrew; Dukes, William; Dumbowe, Robert; Dunan, 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; Finley, John; Foster, Andrew; Fostt, Jesse; Fox, William; Frierson, George; Frierson, James; Fryerson, John; Fuller, William; Furman, Kenjamin; Furman, Joseiah; Furman, Josiah;

Gambell, Hugh; Gardner, Daniel; Garrett, Thomas; Gaston, William; Gay, Samuel; Gerrald, 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, Benjamin; 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, John Henry Junr.; Hunter, Henry Senr.;

Iloore, 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, WilliamMagee, 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; McMenemy, John; McMathen, Joseph; McWhater, Alexander; Melano, 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.; Peages, William; Pearse, James; Pearson, William; [no Peay]; Peoples, John; Peoples, John; Perry, Benjamin; Perry, James; Perry, Job [Joh? = 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, Issac; 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, Richborough, James; Richborough, John; Ricks, John; Ridgell, John; Riggell, 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; Singleton, John; Singleton, Joseph; Singleton, Mathew; Singleton, Richard; Singleton, Robert; Skirner, Charles; Sloan, William; Smith, Abelkin; Smith, James Junr.;

**Smith, William; Smith, William Junr.; Somerville, George; Sparr, Charles; Spradle, Charles; Stallfer, Martin; Stark, Douglas; Stark, William; Steel, John; Stephens; Wilson; 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; Wyly, William; Wyly, William;

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**BOUNTY LAND WARRANTS: SOUTH CAROLINA & GEORGIA**

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watts, Thomas</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>6 Feb. 1797</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>to James Timms, adm. in trust for heirs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, Thomas</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td></td>
<td>81</td>
<td>ditto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, Thomas</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>ditto</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GEORGIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Ga.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watts, George</td>
<td>Ga.</td>
<td>Minute Man</td>
<td>287½</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, Jacob</td>
<td>Ga.</td>
<td>17 May 1784</td>
<td></td>
<td>——.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, John</td>
<td>Ga.</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
<td>5 Sep. 1785</td>
<td>——.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, Thomas</td>
<td>Ga.</td>
<td>21 Apr. 1784</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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 Dumpayer [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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watts, John</td>
<td>100 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant</td>
<td>6 April 1785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, Jane</td>
<td>600 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant Renewed</td>
<td>3 May 1785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, John</td>
<td>600 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant [Was this Jane’s?]</td>
<td>19 December 1785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, John</td>
<td>100 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant not distinguished</td>
<td>July 1786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, John</td>
<td>250 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant</td>
<td>5 December 1786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts, John</td>
<td>200 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant</td>
<td>5 June 1787</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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),
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Document</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan, Benj.</td>
<td>1000 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUKE, William</td>
<td>287½ ac.</td>
<td>Bounty Warrant renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVANS, James</td>
<td>300 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVANS, James</td>
<td>200 ac.</td>
<td>Warrant renewed without Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVANS, James</td>
<td>95 ac.</td>
<td>Headright Warrant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 20\(^{th}\) of September 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**

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\(^{65}\) Ibid., 4.
\(^{66}\) Ibid., 43.
\(^{67}\) Ibid., 68.
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.”\(^{73}\)


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 monts; 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

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SOURCES


Crumpton, Daniel Nathan. Burke County, Georgia, Land Records; Boundaries as of 1777; including All of Burke County [and portions of Screven, Jefferson, Warren, Glascock, and Jenkins]. Warrenton, Ga.: Privately printed, 2009.


Kershaw Co., SC. “Camden District 1782-1788; Kershaw District 1817-1824, Estate Records Book 1-1.”


Maddox, Joseph T. and Mary Carter. South Carolina Revolutionary Soldiers, Sailors, Patriots & Descendants. Albany, Ga.: Georgia Pioneers Publications, n.d. Includes only one John Watts; this one in Laurens County, with a quite different family.


