

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Toliver BLWT6785-160-55

f21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 8/2/16

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of North Carolina, County of Ashe

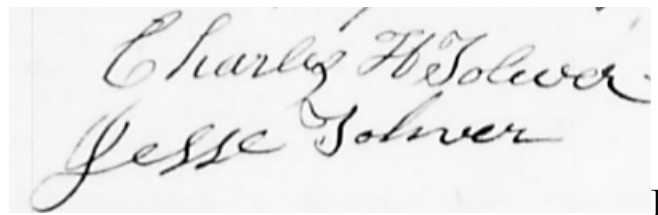
On this 17 day of June 1856 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid John Toliver aged 94 years a resident of Ashe County State of North Carolina who being duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical John Toliver, who was a private in the Company commanded by Captain Martin Gambill¹ North Carolina under command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland in the War of the Revolution in the latter part of said War. That he continued in active service in said war for the term of 14 days² and was honorably discharged.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the Act of 3 of March 1855 & Act of the 14th of March 1856. He also declares that he has not received a warrant for bounty land under this or any other Act of Congress nor made any other application therefore.

And I do hereby irrevocably constitute and appoint James Calhoun of Wilkes County North Carolina my true and lawful agent and attorney for me and in my name to prosecute my claim – to bounty land from the US under the acts 1855 & 1856. And to receive for me my land warrant when issued.

S/ John Toliver, X his mark

[Charles H. Toliver and Jesse Toliver, both residents of Ashe County North Carolina acknowledge the execution of the above document by John Toliver. Their relationship to the veteran is not stated.

A photograph of two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "Charles H. Toliver" and the bottom signature reads "Jesse Toliver". The signatures are written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[Note: Toliver gave testimony in support of the pension application of [Samuel Johnson W5012](#) which sheds light on Toliver's service in the Revolution. Those affidavits read as follows (with

¹ [Martin Gambill \(Gambrill\) W7504](#)

² The veteran's statement that he served 14 days indicates that he served at a minimum that length of time, it being the minimum service required to qualify for bounty land under the 1855 Act. He may well have served considerably more than 14 days. Since there is no indication he ever applied for a pension from the federal government for service in the Revolution, it is likely he didn't serve (or could prove that he served) the minimum of 6 months active duty required to qualify for a pension from the federal government.

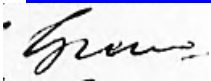
the page references being the page in the Johnson file:


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State of North Carolina County of Ashe

On this 20th day of September A.D. 1854 personally appeared before me James Gambill a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, John Toliver,³ a resident of said County, who after being duly Sworn according to law – States That he has no record of his age but That from the best information he has he thinks he is now ninety-one or two years of age – he states that he lived in the County of Wilkes, State of N. C.—in the time of the war of the Revolution – That he was well acquainted in the time of said War and ever afterward up to the time of his death with Captain Samuel Johnson of Wilkes County – he states that said Johnson was in most if not all said War – And that a large part of the time he was a Captain in said War – he states that the said Johnson was in the Battle of Kings Mountain & was wounded in said Battle – shot in his Abdomen, And that he drew a pension in account of said wound – he states that said Johnson died in Wilkes County on Roaring River – at his Home – About twenty years ago – he further states – That he never knew or heard of any other Captain __ Johnson in the time of said War in Wilkes County N. C. –or in any part of this Country except this identical Captain Samuel Johnson – nor did he know or hear of any other Samuel Johnson. – That time – in Wilkes County N. C. – or in any part of the State, with which he was acquainted – That he was well acquainted with the Father of the said Captain Samuel Johnson in the time of said war – That he lived in [on] the Yadkin River some few miles below Wilkesboro. That he was an old man in time of said War, and that his name was Jeffrey Johnson. That he died in said County many years ago – he further states that he was well acquainted with one Mary Hammons daughter of one Ambrose Hammons of Wilkes County N. C. – in time of said War – And that sometime towards the latter part of said War That the said Captain Samuel Johnson and the said Mary Hammons got married – he did not see them married – but heard of it at the time – nor can he fix the precise date of said marriage – but that he knows that it was after the Battle of Kings Mountain – And he knows that it was before he removed with his mother to the West side of the Blue Ridge – now Ashe County, and he further states that after he came to this Side of the Blue Ridge to live – That the said Captain Samuel Johnson with some of his men – was on one or two occasions – on this the West side of the Blue Ridge – after the Tories – about the peach Bottom – in the State of Virginia – That he was with Captain Martin Gambill & others – After the Tories that had on one or two occasions Robbed Captain Wm Nall [William Nall or William Nalle] – he states, That he was himself in said Tour of Service was not far from the Section of Country where he then lived – That he was well acquainted with the Country and acted as Guide to the parties – That on one occasion – they came on the Tories – by discerning their Smoke of their Camp fires – that they were cooking their Breakfast – That they Surrounded them fired on them Killed Some – And Some escaped – That this was in the state of Virginia now Grayson County – That on one other occasion – they came upon the Tories – Killed some – That Captain Martin Gambill – shot one Tory by the name of Green [?]⁴ That he was left at the House of one John Cox [?]⁵ who lived at the peach Bottom – and died of the said Wound – That at that time they hung a Tory by the name of McKinny. That they hung him with a grape vine – tied around his neck and fastened to the limb of a tree – and had him placed on a large Rock – And that while

³ [John Toliver BLWT67685-160-55](#)

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⁵  [perhaps "John Carn", but a latter reference clearly appears to be to "John Cox"]

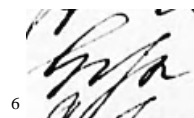
they were consulting which of the men should shove him off the rock – that the said McKinny jumped off – and hung himself – and that they hung one Goss [?] ⁶ a Tory – on the Gate post of the said John Cox – near the river on the north side – in the State of Virginia – And many other things too tedious to mention – he states that he knows positively that Captain Samuel Johnson did serve in these expeditions – for that he was also in said Service That it was near the close of the War of the Revolution – and after the said Johnson was married – to the said Mary Hammons – for that said marriage took place – before his removal – to this side [of] the blue Ridge – and that their tours of service – after his said removal to the West of the blue Ridge – And that he does know and so states of his Own personal Knowledge. That the said Captain Samuel Johnson did continue to serve in said War to its close – He further states that his two older brothers Jesse Toliver ⁷ & Moses Toliver were both with him in those two expeditions – That they at that time also lived on the West side of the blue Ridge – and that they had been in much of said War – That they were both in the expedition – to Kings Mountain amongst the foot – but did not reach the Battle Ground until the Battle had been fought – And the victory won – he states that his two said Brothers are now dead – He further states – That for the last twenty years or upwards – That he has seen but little of the said Mrs. Mary Johnson, widow of the said Captain Samuel Johnson. – That she continued to live in Wilkes County on Roaring River on the east side of the blue Ridge about twenty miles from him – but that he heard from her frequently – up to the time of her death which occurred – at her said residence something over one year ago as he heard to the best of his Knowledge – That he heard for many years before her death – That she lost her mind or memory very much – That she lived to be a very old woman – And as I was informed drew a pension after the death of her husband the said Captain Samuel Johnson – on account of his Revolutionary Services

S/ John Toliver, X his mark

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State of North Carolina County of Ashe

On this 17 day of June A.D. 1856 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, John Toliver, a resident of the County of Ashe State of North Carolina who after being duly sworn according to law declares that he is now to the best of his knowledge 93 or 94 years of age – That he resided in the County of Wilkes in the State of North Carolina in the time of the War of the Revolution – That he was well and most intimately acquainted in the time of said War with Captain Samuel Johnson of said County of Wilkes, State of North Carolina – during all the said War. He states that he knows – that the said Captain Samuel Johnson was a Captain, in said War as early as about the year 1778 or 79 – And he well knows and remembers – That said Captain Samuel Johnson continued to serve as a Captain in the said War of the Revolution from the time he was first Appointed until the final close of the War without any intermission. He states near the close of the War that he was with the said Captain Samuel Johnson in some service against the Tories – And that he knows he did so serve – He states that the said Captain Samuel Johnson was a Captain of Horse or Mounted Men or Cavalry, but that he thinks and believes to the best of his recollection that the said Johnson at times had under his command foot soldiers, That the said Captain Samuel Johnson along to the Regiment under the Command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland Though he does not know but that he may have at this then under the command of other officers. He states that his



⁶
⁷ [Jesse Toliver W4086](#)

two older brothers, Jesse Toliver & Moses Toliver were both much in the War of the Revolution from Wilkes County N. C. – And were much with the said Captain Samuel Johnson – during the said War. That he heard much of the work and services of the said Captain Samuel Johnson in the early part of the War from his said brothers as well as from many other persons at the time and ever since. He states that he has heretofore made affidavit as to the Service of the said Captain Samuel Johnson to which he refers for a more particular account of his Services &c &c.

And he here again repeats that he knows that said Captain Samuel Johnson continued to serve in the said War as a Captain from the time of his first appointment to that command up to the final close of the War in the year 1783. And that in this he is not mistaken – as he well knows & recollects.

S/ John Toliver, X his mark

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State of North Carolina County of Ashe:

On this 30 day of May 1856 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Mrs. Nancy Gambill, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, Aged about 96 or 97 years – who after being duly sworn according to law declares – That she is the widow of Captain Martin Gambill Deceased of the War of the Revolution – She states that she lived in the County of Wilkes State of North Carolina in the time of the War of the Revolution. She states that in the time of said war, that she was well acquainted with one John Toliver, the same identical John Toliver, who now resides in the County of Ashe State of North Carolina – And she states that she knows that the said John Toliver served as a Private – under the Command of her Husband the said Captain Martin Gambill in the War of the Revolution in the Regiment under Command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland – She cannot state correctly how long he served – but that she thinks and believes that he done considerable Service at different times – She states that the said John Toliver is a very old man – That she thinks he is not much under her own age – That she has known the said John Toliver ever since the time of the War of the Revolution up to this time – And that he has always been regarded as one of the Revolutionary Soldiers and is now living.

S/ Nancy Gambill,⁸ X her mark

[Mary (Molly) Baker, widow of Thomas Baker⁹ gave supporting affidavits in which she basically states the same information as is set forth in the affidavit of Nancy Gambill transcribed above.]

⁸ Nancy Gambill gave another affidavit in which she adds that she is the recipient of bounty land in right of the service of her husband and that she knows John Toliver served 14 days during the Revolution.

⁹ [Thomas Baker R430](#)