

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Johnson R11631

Elizabeth Williamson¹

f127VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/2/14

[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.]

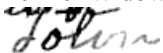
[p 7]

State of Virginia Amherst County SS

On this 15th day of April 1843 before me Isaac R. Reynolds a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Mrs. Elizabeth Williamson Aged 73 years – a resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Acts of Congress passed July 7th, 1838, and the 23rd of August 1842, granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of Nathan Williamson and formally widow of Joseph Johnson deceased of the [indecipherable word]² of Lynchburg – who was a private of Cavalry in the Continental line of Service, in the Revolutionary War – and that he enlisted and went into service under Captain Anthony White [Anthony Walton White] of the Cavalry from the County of Cumberland; and that he belonged to the same Regiment, or body of Troops, that Captain Watts [probably William Watts] of Bedford did – which was commanded, as she is informed by Colonel Washington [William Washington] of the horse. That she has frequently heard her deceased husband Joseph Johnson – under whom she claims – speak of Captain Watts as being in the same line of service with him, and that he was very intimate with him Watts, and thought a good deal of him; and probably may have been a part of his time under his command. That her husband Joseph Johnson was in the service for he much throughout the Revolutionary war – and received his land bounty for his services – which he located in the west. She further declares, that she was married to the said Joseph Johnson in the County of Goochland, by the Reverend Parson McColley the 19th day of May 1786 – and moved to Lynchburg in 1788 – That the said Joseph Johnson her first husband died on the ___ day of ___ 1802 in the Town of Lynchburg; and that she was married to the aforesaid Nathan Williamson her last husband on the ___ day of ___ 1803 who also died, on the 6th day of October 1836. That she was not married to him, the said Joseph Johnson – prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794, viz., at the time above stated. And further that she is still a widow and that her maiden name was Anderson. All of which facts will more fully appear by reference to the proof annexed.

S/ Elizabeth Williamson, X her mark

¹ Former Widow

² 

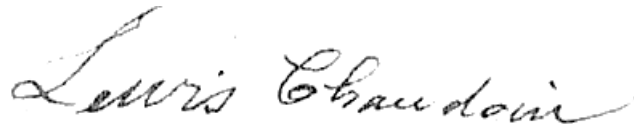
[intended to be 'town?']

[p 2]

State of Virginia Goochland County SS

On this 9th day of May 1843, before me Walter Coles a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared the Reverend Lewis Chaudoin a respectable resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say – That he is 90 years old – and recollects perfectly, that Joseph Johnson (a son of Jos. [could be Jas.]³ Johnson who lived 3 miles North of Cartersville) married a daughter of Benjamin ~~Johnson~~^{Anderson} in said County – Licking-hole Creek neighborhood – about the year 1786 or 87 – deponent brings his mind to the date by his own marriage, which was in 1784 – that he moved in the above neighborhood in 1786 – and that said Joseph Johnson married Miss __ Anderson, daughter of Benjamin Anderson in that year, or the next 1787; that he does not know who married them, but a Parson McColley was then living in said neighborhood, it is probable he did. That the said Johnson and wife, moved up to Lynchburg, some short time after they were married as above. That the said Joseph Johnson died, some years after he moved to Lynchburg – Supposed to be grounded – being found in the river dead. Deponent cannot be mistaken in the man, for he was well acquainted with him, his father Jos. Johnson and his Father-in-law Benjamin Anderson. Said Jos. Johnson was about 5 feet 10 inches high – deponent is 90 – next March. Anderson, above Johnson is interlined. Deponent has received no certain information as to the widow of the said Joseph Johnson – having married again only what he has heard – he now believes that her maiden name was Elizabeth. Deponent knows nothing of said Joseph Johnson's having been in the Revolutionary War – not having become acquainted with him until in or about the year 1786 – deponent having come from Powhatan County – but he is of opinion, that said Johnson was old enough to have been in the Revolutionary War – being in his opinion about 23 or 24 years old – if not more, at the time that he was married as above.

S/ Lewis Chaudoin



[p 5]

At a Court of Quarterly Session begun and held for Amherst County at the Court house on the 18th day of March 1850

Satisfactory evidence was presented in Court to show that Mrs. Elizabeth Williamson deceased of said County (whose first husband was Joseph Johnson deceased a Revolutionary Soldier by reputation) and whose second and last husband Nathan Williamson deceased of said County, died in said County on the 17th day of May 1843, leaving only 4 children, to wit; Henry Williamson, Judith Richardson, Elizabeth Richardson and Ann Fair (the daughters all married) who are all still alive from the most recent information received and that seeing the distressed condition of said children the court hath this day appointed William Lee Fair administrator of said Elizabeth Williamson to rescue and distribute the pension recently allowed her under the act of Congress of July 7th 1838 and that she is the identical person named in the Certificate of Amherst Court the 17th day of April 1843, forded to the Commissioner of Pensions for adjudication.

³ *Jos. Johnson*

In testimony I Samuel M Garland clerk of said County Court of Amherst in the State of Virginia have hereto set my hand & affixed the seal of said court this 22nd day of March 1850
S/ Sam. M. Garland, A C C

[p 10]

No. 11631

Rejected

Old War Widow

Elizabeth Williamson, formerly widow of Joseph Johnson of Virginia Revy . The attorney was advised of allowance but before Certificate issued, must state if widow was alive & if not, who is administrator & children alive – Afterwards Office refused to issue Certificate – marriage not satisfactorily established.

[p 20]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 21st day of December 1784, in the name of Joseph Johnson, as a Soldier of Cavalry for £31.14.8, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
10th day of April 1843.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[p 21]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 30th day of January 1787, in the name of Anthony W White,⁴ as a Lieutenant Colonel of Cavalry for £597.16.1, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

To pay as Lieutenant Colonel from first August 1780 to 31st December 1781 at £28.2.6 per month

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
10th day of April 1843.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[p 87]

Elizabeth Williamson

April 26, 1848

Mr. Sidney Lawrence, from the Committee for Revolutionary Pensions, made the following
Report

The Committee on revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the Memorial of Elizabeth Williamson, praying for a pension, report:

⁴ [Anthony Walton White W6477](#)

That the pensioners states that she is the widow of Nathan Williamson, who died some years since; that, at the time of her marriage to said Williamson, she was the widow of Joseph Johnson, who was a soldier of the revolution; that she married the said Johnson in May, 1786. Johnson died in 1802.

It appears from the records in the auditor's office of the State of Virginia, that Johnson served in the Virginia Continental line, as a soldier in Colonel White's Regiment of cavalry a few days short of 12 months.

There is no record evidence of marriage as the petitioner swears.

It appears from the affidavit of the Reverend Mr. Shadowin [sic], who says he is 90 years of age, that he knew Johnson and his wife as early as 1786; that they were married either in 1786 or 1787. Witness is confident he cannot be mistaken on referring to the date of his own marriage, which was in 1784. This witness says Johnson moved to Lynchburg soon after his marriage. Several other witnesses swear that Johnson and his wife came to Lynchburg in the year 1788, where they lived until the death of Johnson.

The proof is abundant and conclusive that they lived and cohabited together as man and wife, from the year 1787 to the decease of Johnson in 1802. They had several children, and are proved to have maintained a respectable standing in that community.

This the committee regard as sufficient proof of marriage, and the more especially as the marriage contract is generally regarded in this country as a civil contract between the parties. In most of the States no particular form or ceremony is required. A written or formal contract, with or without witnesses, consummated and carried into effect by cohabitation, is and ought to be regarded as legal. When it is not of the power of the parties to produce record evidence of marriage, and when eyewitnesses cannot be found, evidence of this character is the best that many of these Revolutionary widows can procure.

The committee believe this to be a meritorious case and report a bill granting her a pension at the rate of \$40 per annum.

[p 55]

Memorial of the Children of Mrs. Elizabeth Williamson ^ ^ July 7, 1838

Your Memorialists respectfully represent that they are the children of Mrs. Elizabeth Williamson deceased whose first husband was Joseph Johnson, a regular soldier in the Virginia Continental line, and received a Land Warrant for three years services as such.

The claim was rejected at first by the Commissioner on the grounds for want of record proof of marriage in 1843 – 44.

About 1850, a full pension of \$100 per year was allowed – but afterwards canceled because the Agent Mr. Gray was falsely represented as having appealed from the allowance of \$100 and to show the absurdity of such a charge – it was all that was claimed, or could be allowed in the case. This claim also passed the Lower house of Congress.

According to the decision of Attorney General Black, Pension are no longer payable to children or grandchildren – your Memorialists, therefore appeal to Congress for relief. The papers are in the Pension Office from whence they will be ordered by the Chairman of the Committee – Mr. Briggs,

S/ Robert H Gray, attorney
for Children &c.

[p 106: Affidavit dated October 5, 1853 given in the city of Lynchburg Virginia by James

Calloway , 68, who states that he was well acquainted with Joseph Johnson; that Johnson was reputed to have been a revolutionary war soldier; that deponent has often heard Johnson and the deponent's father talking together about their services in the revolutionary war; that Johnson served in the cavalry under Captain Anthony White and received land for his services; that Johnson married Elizabeth Anderson; they moved to Lynchburg about 1790; that in 1801 or 1802 Johnson was found drowned did in Black-water Creek and his widow Elizabeth married Nathan Williamson; that Johnson and his wife had several children one of whom was named Anderson Johnson after Elizabeth's father's family; that deponent's father was named Dudley Calloway⁵ and lived a near neighbor to Johnson.]

[p 114: Copy of a marriage bond dated May 17, 1787 issued in Goochland County Virginia to Joseph Johnson and Martin Mims, bondsmen, conditioned upon the marriage of Joseph Johnson to Betsey Anderson.]

[p 119: On April 15, 1843 in Lynchburg Virginia, Mrs. Mary Johnson, 84, gave testimony that Joseph Johnson, a brick layer by trade and his wife Elizabeth moved to Lynchburg from some lower counties not far above Richmond about 55 years of go in the winter of 1788; that Joseph Johnson did work in the winter of 1788 with the deponent's husband; that Joseph Johnson lost his oldest child the same winter as they moved to Lynchburg, to wit 1788. The deponent recollects the time and circumstance more strongly from the fact that her daughter Polly was born in the same winter and that she, the deponent, also lost one of her children during that winter; that Elizabeth and Joseph Johnson had several children, to wit, Anderson, Joseph, Polly &c; that Joseph Johnson died some 40 or 50 years ago and his widow Elizabeth married Nathan Williamson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Johnson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. The first name "Mary" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Johnson".

]

[p 120: On April 14, 1843 in Lynchburg Virginia, Benjamin Schoolfield, 73, gave testimony that he was acquainted with Joseph Johnson a brick layer about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high and his wife Elizabeth whose maiden name deponent understood was Anderson; that Joseph Johnson drowned in James River; that his widow married Nathan Williamson; that Joseph Johnson and Elizabeth his wife had several children one a daughter married a man named Nelson Thomas and a son named Anderson Johnson.]

⁵ probably the same man as [Dudley Callaway S39282](#)