

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Abston ¹ R14

f44VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 Texas

County of Collin

On the Fourth day of February A. D. 1857 Personally appeared before me George H. Pegnes [?] Chief Justice and Judges of the County Court of the County and State aforesaid, (in vacation) John Abston a resident of the county of Collin and State aforesaid aged Ninety-Six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on this oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. To wit: That he volunteered in the Army of the United States "in latter part of the winter season" in the year A. D. 1779, at Jasper's Mountain, Pittsylvania (spelled "Pitsylvania" throughout the application) County Virginia under Capt. John Ellis with whom he served but a few weeks. The company then went with Capt. Ellis and this affiant was then transferred to and put under the command of Capt. Rose at the Town of New London in Bedford County where they joined the main Army. He states that he served under Capt. Ellis & Capt. Rose, and some other captains whose names he has forgotten for Two years and some few days and was discharged at New London, Bedford County Virginia on the __ day of __ A. D. 178__. He recalls that he was discharged as aforesaid as few months after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York town [October 19, 1781]. That when he entered the service he resided in Pittsylvania County, Virginia and his father Joshua Abston at the time of his enlistment was a captain in the Virginia militia.

He states that the troops marched from New London towards Richmond. Thence they turned South and went to North Carolina. He states that he was in the Battle at King's Mountain [October 7, 1780] and was encamped for a short time at "Ninety Six." The only Field officer he now has any recollection of was Col. Washington [perhaps a reference to William Washington]. That Thomas Smith, Thomas Hancock, James Hancock and William Stranger volunteered at the same time he did. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his services—his discharge having been destroyed by fire, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that this name is not on the pension Roll of any State.

¹ BLWts 196760-55 and 27761-55

S/ John Abston, X his mark

The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "John Abston". Below the signature is a large, illegible scribble that appears to be an attempt at writing the name or a mark, but it is too messy to decipher.

Sworn to and subscribed by the said John Abston the day and year aforesaid. Witness my hand and the seal of said Court this 4th day of February A. D. 1857.

S/ Geo. H. Pegnes [?]
Chief Justice of Collin
County, Texas

N. B. The scrawl below the name and mark of the applicant is the attempt he made at signing his name and his blindness and extreme old age prevented his making it more legible hence the reason for having him make his mark.

S/ Geo. Ho. Pegnes, Chief Justice

[Anthony Bewley, a clergyman, and it Solomon Shaw gave the standard supporting affidavit.]
Interrogatories propounded to the said deponent:

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1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Pittsylvania County Virginia on the 2nd day of January the year I cannot now recollect.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I had a record of my age but I think it was left with my son in Missouri.

3rd Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: In Pittsylvania County in Virginia—I have live in Virginia one year in Kentucky, several years in Missouri and now living in Collin County, Texas.

4th How were you called into service; were you draughted [sic, drafted]; did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was a volunteer.

5th State the names of some [of] the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services.

Ans: I have stated in my declaration the names of all the officers I can recollect.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I received a Discharge but it together with some other papers was burnt by a little Grand Daughter of mine.

Attest: S/ Jno Easton

S/ John Abston, X his mark

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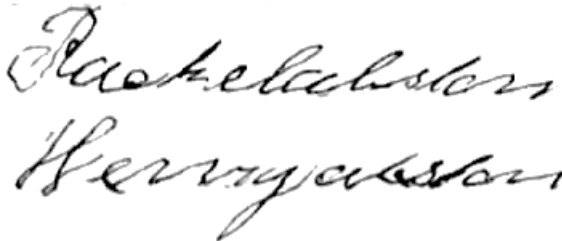
State of Texas County Collin

On this sixteenth day of June One thousand eight hundred and fifty five John Abston Aged about ninety four years a citizen of Collin County Texas personally appeared before me the undersigned justice of the peace and after being sworn according to law declares he is the Identical John Abston who volunteered in the revolutionary war declared by the united colonys [sic, colonies] in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six and was mustered into service on or about the year __ under Capt. Rose for the term of __ at Bedford's old courthouse State of Virginia and continued in service near two years and was at the battle of King's mountains [October 7, 1780] mentioned in revolutionary history that he volunteered under an officer by the name of Ellis that Col. Charles Lynch was a commanding officer at the battle of King's mountains (sic); that there was so much changing of officers and such a great lapse of time disables him from gaveing [sic, giving] other [?] history of the case and further he has never made any application nor received any pension nor land warrant for his revolutionary services; that he makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the pension and bounty warrant to which he may be entitled under existing laws and that he hereby authorizes David Duprey to Receive his pension and warrant at Henderson, Rusk county Texas.

S/ John Abston



[Rachel Abston and Henry Abston, relationship, if any, to the veteran not stated, gave testimony identifying the veteran.



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