

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Johnson R15508 Franky Johnson

f29NC

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 North Carolina, County of Ashe

On this 9th 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 Mrs. Franky Johnson, a respectable resident of the County and State aforesaid -- who after being duly sworn according to law, declares. That she is the Daughter of one John Gambill Deceased. That she was born in the State of Virginia -- Culpeper County. That she has no record of her age -- but that according to what her parents always told her she was born on the 8th Day of January A.D. 1772. -- her said Father moved out to the State of North Carolina and settled in the County of Wilkes NC some time during the War of the Revolution, and before the battle of King's Mountain. That she well remembers said removal, and said battle and many of the incidents of said war -- she further states that she is the widow of one Alexander Johnson Deceased. That she was married to the said Alexander Johnson in the County of Wilkes, State of North Carolina on the 15th day of September A.D. 1790 by one William Hammons a Baptist Minister. She states that the banns of matrimony had been a regularly published -- as he was informed by her said Father. That she herself did not go to Church at the time of the publishing, but was afterward married at her Father's House, as above stated. She states that she does not know -- or think that there was any license -- for her said marriage -- obtained as it was common at that date and time for people to be married by publishing such intention. She further states that her first child was born on the 29th day of October A.D. 1791. That her name was Elizabeth Johnson and is now dead. She further states that her said husband the said Alexander Johnson was a Soldier of the War of the Revolution. That he belonged to the militia. That he lived during the said war in the County of Wilkes, State of North Carolina. That he served under Captain William Nall and Captain Martin Gambill under the Command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland. She states that she had no acquaintance with her said husband the said Alexander Johnson until after the Close of the said war -- as he did not live very near to her -- in the time of said war -- he living on one side of the Blue Ridge and her with her father on the other -- and that her said husband was much older than herself -- and consequently can state nothing of his Services in said War of her own personal knowledge -- but she states that her said husband -- always did state -- as did many others -- who were also soldiers in said war -- And others that did know the facts -- that he the said Alexander Johnson did serve in said war -- under the aforesaid officers -- And that from what her husband and many others always said -- that she fully believes that her husband must have served in said War -- a larger portion of said War. She thinks and has no doubt -- that he must have served

several years -- At the least two or three years of said -- she states that she cannot particularize much of his said service -- but that she has heard her husband speak of many skirmishes with the Tories -- having been some time stationed at a Fort -- at the mouth of Cranby [? Cranberry Creek?] on New River -- Now in Ashe County NC and speak of much time occupied by guarding the frontier Country -- against the Tories, robbers and outliers -- with which the Country was much -- infested -- That she has heard him often speak of being in the expeditions against the Tories -- That [indecipherable word] Captain William Nall and also one Morris Baker. That they had battles with said Tories killed some and hanged others of them. That he served in some of these expeditions into the State of Virginia and that generally she believes from all the sources of her information so derived that her said husband -- served a large portion of the time of said war -- and continued to serve until the close of said war. She has also heard her said husband the said Alexander Johnson, speak of often during the said war of being sent on express from one post to another -- and between one division of troops and another -- and as being often engaged as a kind of foraging master -- and generally served in any capacity or under any circumstances or condition called for. -- She further states that her said husband the said Alexander Johnson, died at his residence in the County of Ashe State of North Carolina on the 21st day of March A.D. 1844. -- She states that she has no record of the date of his death except that the date of his death being was at the time carved on the back of an Apple tree at the grave by one John Richardson of said County -- and that said letter and figures are still plain and distinct -- and that she herself well recollects the date of his death -- And she further states that she was the lawful wife of the said identical Alexander Johnson -- by whom she had twelve children, of which she raised ten to be grown -- And that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her said Husband and is now a widow -- and makes this application for the purpose of obtaining whatever may be due her on account of the Revolutionary Service of her said Husband the said Alexander Johnson. -- She states that her said Husband never drew any pension for said service in his lifetime -- nor did he make any application or the same -- she states that he was very old -- and went from house very little for many years -- before his death -- lived in a remote part of the County -- and was ignorant of his rights -- And that she herself knew nothing of her own rights as a widow until very lately.

S/ Franky Johnson, X her mark

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State of North Carolina, County of Ashe

On this 30th day of August A.D. 1854 personally appeared before me James Gambill, a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Mrs. Nancy Gambill widow of the late Captain Martin Gambill,¹ a resident of the County and State aforesaid, who after being duly sworn according to law declares that she will be 95 years of age the 15th day of November next -- she states that she resided in the County of Wilkes, State of North Carolina in the time of the War of the Revolution -- She states that she was well acquainted with one Alexander Johnson of the County of Wilkes State aforesaid -- during the said War and ever afterward up to the time of his death which took place in the County of Ashe State of NC -- about ten years ago to the best of her recollection -- That he the said Alexander Johnson lived a neighbor to her at the time of his death -- as he has always done from her first acquaintance with him -- she states that the said Alexander Johnson, was a Soldier in the War of the Revolution. That he served under her Father Captain William Nall and also under her husband the late Captain Martin Gambill. That

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

she was well acquainted with the said Alexander Johnson and time of his said Service. She states that he was in much of the war against the Tories -- in guarding the frontiers -- County -- that she thinks and believes that he served great part of said war. She thinks and believes that he must have served at least several years -- of said War & that he was always standing ready for Service & a minute man -- ready to be called into service at a minutes warning -- She knows that he frequently went on expeditions against the Tories -- and other enemies as minute man or light Horse as they were then called -- as she believes he served at least 3 years or upwards of said War. That she knows of her own knowledge that he did serve as stated -- she further states -- that sometime after the close of the said war that the said Alexander Johnson was married to one Franky Gambill, a Daughter of John Gambill of Wilkes County, State of NC & she states that she was not present at the marriage but that she heard of said marriage at the time -- and no doubt ever was entertained but that they were lawfully married -- she states that the said Franky Gambill, as above -- was a niece of her husband the said Captain Martin Gambill -- and was always well known to her -- from the time she was a small child. -- She states that she cannot state the precise date of the marriage of the said Alexander Johnson & the said Franky Gambill -- but that she well recollects that it was before the birth of her 5th child --Thursa -- who was born on the 16th day of September 1792 -- and that she thinks it was one or 2 years before the birth of said child -- and daughter Thursa of this fact she knows she is not mistaken, she states that the said Alexander Johnson & his wife the said Franky lived together and raised a large family of children and that the said Franky Johnson now lives a neighbor to her -- that she has always done -- and that she is the identical woman -- and widow of the said Alexander Johnson aforesaid -- that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her husband -- and that she is still a widow.

S/ Nancy Gambill, X her mark

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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 an Acting Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid James Holloway a resident of the County and State aforesaid who after being duly sworn according to law declares that he was born on the 4th day of April A.D. 1770. That he lived in the County of Wilkes North Carolina in time of the War of the Revolution -- That he lived on Roaring River near the foot of the Blue Ridge on the South East side of said Mountain -- That he was acquainted -- in time of said War with one Alexander Johnson of the then County of Wilkes North Carolina -- who lived on the North West side of the Blue Ridge -- on or near the south fork of New River -- about the mouth of Cranbug Creek [Cranberry Creek?] -- That he did not see much of said Johnson in time of said War -- but that he understood -- at the time and ever since from the most reliable sources that he was much in said War -- he remembers that he heard at the time -- that he was amongst the soldiers that helped take the Tories -- and Roles [?] of Capt. Wm Nall. -- Under the Command of Captain Sael Johnson [?] & Capt. Martin Gambill -- about the Peach Bottoms -- & now in the State of Virginia -- now Grayson County -- he does not know anything currently as to the length of time the said Alexander Johnson Served in said War -- but is of opinion from what he has always known and understood -- that he must have served several years of said War. He further states -- that some few years after the close of the said War, that the said Alexander Johnson was married in the County of Wilkes North Carolina to one Franky Gambill a daughter of one John Gambill he states that he was not present at the said marriage -- but that it took place in his

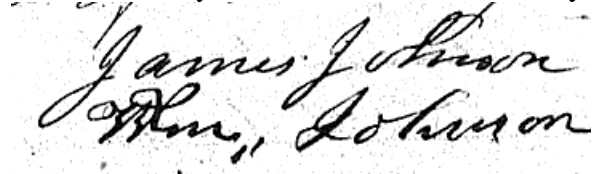
neighborhood – and that he heard of it at the time. He cannot state the precise date – but that he thinks and believes it was about the date of 1790 – for that he thinks he was about grown at the time – and thinks he was about 20 years old at the time – he knows that he himself was married on the 27th day of December A.D. 1794 – and that the said Alexander Johnson and his said wife Franky had at that time 2 or 3 children – he states that he has ever since been well acquainted with the said Alexander Johnson and his wife the said Franky – as well also before their marriage That they have lived ever since there said marriage on the South Fork of the New River about or just above the mouth of Cranby Creek and that they lived together and raised a large family of children and no doubt was ever entertained but that they were lawfully man and wife – he states that the said Alexander Johnson died at his residence in said County as he understood at the time he thinks about 10 years ago – And that his widow the said Mrs. Franky Johnson is still living – in said County of Ashe – at the same place – and he states that the said Alexander Johnson was the identical man that served in said War – as aforesaid – and that the said Mrs. Franky Johnson is the identical woman & widow of the said Alexander Johnson, – That she is quite an old woman – he thinks she cannot be more than one or 2 years under his own age.

S/ James Holloway, X his mark

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State of North Carolina County of Ashe

On this 17th day of October A.D. 1854 personally appeared before me James Gambill a justice of the peace within and for said County James Johnson and William Johnson who being duly sworn according to law state that the following extract is a true extract from the Family Record of Alexander Johnson Deceased late of said County to wit: "Elizabeth Johnson was Born the 29th day of October 1791 [" and they state that the original from which said extract is taken is the true and genuine Record of the said family of the said Alexander Johnson Deceased and of his wife Franky Johnson now of said County.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "James Johnson" and the bottom signature reads "Wm. Johnson".

[p 2: On February 9 [?] 1855 in Wilkes County North Carolina, John Gambill, Sarah Stamper & Susannah Roberts, residence of said County and State, gave testimony that they are the children of John Gambill deceased; affiant states that he has no record of his age but based on best information available to him he thinks he is about 83 years old; that he was born in Culpeper County Virginia; that his father John Gambill deceased moved to Wilkes County during the time of the revolutionary war and before the Battle of Kings Mountain; that he, John Gambill is the oldest of the children of his parents; that his sister Frankey Johnson of Ashe County North Carolina is the widow of Alexander Johnson, deceased; that Frankey with her twin sister were the next oldest children of his parents; that he, affiant, was about 14 months and a few days older than his twin sisters; Sarah Stamper testified that she has no record of her age but thinks she is about 75 years old; Susanna Roberts says she has no record of her age but thinks she is about 72 years old; that they were all present at the marriage of their sister Frankey to Alexander Johnson; that Franky and Alexander were married at the house of the affiants father William Hammons, a Baptist minister; John Gambill states that he thinks he was about 19 years old at the time his sister Frankey got married to Alexander Johnson; that his sister and Alexander Johnson raised a

large family of children; that Alexander Johnson died at his residence in Ashe County North Carolina; John Gambill states "that the said identical Alexander Johnson – here mentioned – came to his father's on Roaing [sic, Roaring] River, Wilkes County North Carolina and stayed all night – that he then stated that he had been out on a tour of duty in the Army – and was just returning home – that he lived on the west side of the Blue Ridge about New River – now Ashe County – that he well recollects to hear the said Alexander Johnson tell this to his Father the said John Gambill now deceased – he states that this was the first time he ever saw the said Alexander Johnson – as he recollects of – and that he has known him ever since – up to the time of his death – and he further states that it was always said in time of said War and ever since that the said Alexander Johnson was a soldier in said – all of which this affiant verily believes...."

J. Gambill
Sarah Stamp
with
Susannah Robert
mark

[John Loliren? Aged 91 or 92 gave a supporting affidavit as to the reputation of Alexander Johnson as a soldier of the revolution and the marriage of Alexander to Franky.]