

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Johnson R5639

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Indiana }
Jackson County } S.S.

On this 10th day of March 1837 personally appeared in open court before John H Thompson, president judge of the Jackson County Circuit Court now sitting at Brownstown in said County Joseph Jonson a resident in West fork Township in said County of Jackson aged seventy six years last Christmas day, to wit 25 of December 1836, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, and such other acts of Congress providing for the allowing of pensions to revolutionary soldiers as may be applicable to his case, viz:

That he entered the service of the united States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

General Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead], Commander in Chief, Col. Campbell, Major Byrum and Major John Finly [John Finley].

The militia Coloner was George Filandergon, or filendegon. My Captain was Ross – his first name I do not distinctly recollect but my impression is it was Stephen or Phillip. The Lieutenant was Charles Reid I think I entered the service in the year seventy nine, but my memory is not very good. I cannot state the month of the year it was after harvest, and I rember that the first Battle I was in was a battle with about 40 or 50 Indians near Munchetown [sic: Munsey towns] We went there in 2 or 3 days after we started [from Fort Pitt, 11 Aug 1779], there were a stragglng party that had left the main army, which had gone to attact General Sullivans [John Sullivan's] army. There fighting was done by a party sent forward in advance of Broadheads army as spies and was over a few minutes before the main army reached the ground, from that we went to one of the Munche towns which was about 9 miles from the principal town it took us not more than 2 days after the aforesaid Battle, We there destroyed the town and cut up the corn of the Indians which was then getting hard and it is from these circumstances I fix the time of the year when I entered the service.

I was a resident of the state of Pennsylvania in the county of Washington county, as the state was then divided.

I volunteered into the service as a Militia man We rendezvoused at the town of Pittsburgh. I was a member of the Company of Capt. Ross as before stated. I cannot remember for what period of time I volunteered. I remember I served the full period out and that it was late in the fall when the army returned to Pittsburgh where we were discharged, but I remember it was the same fall, and that my servises were all rendered, that were rendered the first tour, between harvest & Christmas so that the period for which I volunteered on the above occasion could not be more than from 3 to 6 months. During this service I was in no other battle than the one above named. We marched from Pittsburgh up the Allegany river [Allegheny River] to the above town, called one of the Munchetowns. There we destroyed the town & crops & took what plunder we found & sent it down the river to Pittsburgh. We returned from thence to Pittsburgh & were there discharged. The companies of the Continental troops with which I served at the above time I do not remember. I remember that Bady & Peterson were captains of Continental Companies that were with us. I have no documentary evidence of my service. I once had a certificate, I think, but I cannot now tell what has become of it, nor am I certain that I ever had it.

I know of no person by whom I can prove my services. I could prove it by my brother who formerly lived in Kentucky in Fleming county, he was living there 2 or 3 months since, he is very old being but 2 years younger than I am, but he is frailer than I am, and I think it posible he is still alive, but I am not certain he is.

After the above period of service I was discharged and returned home sick and lay about 6 weeks. I then

volunteered under Captain Reid as Minute man, and held myself in readiness from March of the year 1780 until the fall of 1782 as near as I can remember. I was during this period almost constantly on the march guarding the frontiers against Indians but fought no battles. I cannot say whether Reids company was formed by order of either the State or United States, or whether it was merely a vollunteers association for the protection of the inhabitants. I am certain I was at least six months in actual service during this last period. We marched on the frontiers of of Pennsylvania on the waters Raccoon Robinson's Run on to the Ohio river.

I have no documentary evidence of this service, nor is there any person living, known to me except my brother above spoken of, by whom I can prove the same

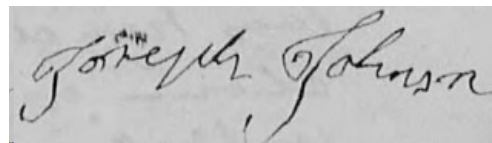
Either before ths last period of service or afterwards and I cannot tell now which, I hired myself as a substitute for William Conyers who was drafted to go under Captain Andrews as a spie to Holiday's Cove or station on the Ohio River between Pittsburgh and Wheeling near the mouth of Yellow Creek [sic: Hollidays Cove at present Weirton WV]. I hired myself to fill his full period of service, and I served out the whole time and was regularly discharged, but I cannot remember what period of time it was; nor can I tell whether this service was rendered before or after my service above as a minute man but the strong impression on my mind now is that it was before.

After this service I think the service of minute man comes in and after that peace was made with the Indians.

I served under Andrews as a militia man.

The above statements is as nearly correct and as full as I can now give it, having no written evidence to which to refer as proof of, or to refresh my memory of said services, and being now so advanced in years my memory has measurably failed me, Though I can state that I have often thought of the above services and the time spent in actual service as a Militia man during the Revolutionary War, in my younger days when those things were fresher in my memory & when all the faculties of my my mind were more vigerous than now. And I can now say that the impression on my my mind in past time and I am now statisfied that the whole period of my servises amounted in the whole to at least eighteen months. I would be willing to say two years, but I had rather be under it than over it and have for greater certainty fixed the period at 18 months as above to which I swear possitively and unequivocally. I further state that I have never before applied in any manner for a pension. And that I can prove none of my services by any body but my brother if living, and I do not suppose his memory is better than mine, so that he could state it more distinctly, and probably not so distinctly.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Johnson". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

The following interrogatories were propounded by the court to the said Johnson and the following answers were made to the said question upon oath by said Johnson

1. Where and in what year were you born.

Ans. I was born in the state of N. Jersey in the year 1760.

Quest 2. Have you any record of your age.

Ans. I have none and I know of none in existence.

Ques. 3. Where were you living when you entered into the service, and where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live.

Ans. I lived when I entered into the service in the state of Pennsylvania. I volunteered except once, when I went as a substitute as I have before stated in my declaration for the person therein named. Since the Revolution I have lived in Kentucky and now live in the state of Indiana as I have stated.

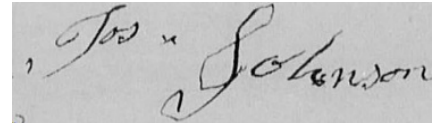
To question 5th and 6th says, as he has stated in his declaration. To ques. 7 says – the persons whom he has produced to certify and W. Marshall W. Crenshaw Griffith.

[The following two documents are misfiled with the pension application of Joseph Johnson S31782 who served from Virginia.]

State of Kentucky }
Fleming county Sct. }

The following amended declaration of Joseph Johnson was taken sworn to and subscribed before me D K Stockton a Justice of the peace for said county this 3^d day of November 1843.

I Joseph Johnson now of Fleming County Kentucky make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress of the 7th June 1832. That on the 10th day of march 1837 he prepared a qualified to a declaration before the county circuit court of Jackson county in the State of Indiana and forwarded the same to the war office (certified copy of which is herewith retured to said office). That since that declaration was made he has removed to Fleming county Kentucky where he now resides and where his brother is still living, to whom he refers in his original declaration as the only person if living by whom he could make proof of his servies. He states he mooved from Indiana to Kentucky in October 1841 since which time he has been most of the time confined to the house, being badly ruptured, which has prevented him from obtaining the evidence of his brother Ebenezer [Ebenezer Johnson, pension application R5608] and forwarding it untill now.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Johnson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

State of Kentucky Fleming county Sct. [3 Nov 1843]

I Ebenezer Johnson of Fleing county Kentucky aged Eighty one years do state on oath that Joseph Johnson who has made the foregoing declaration is my brother and that I had not seen him for seventeen or eighteen years untill he moved from Indiana to this state in the fall of 1841. I also state that I served with him in the company command by General Broadhead I think the year 1779 [August]. the detachment marched from Pittsburg up the Alleganie [sic: Allegheny] river to some Indian Towns which were destroyed together with their growing corn &c. I am certain he served at least three months on this campain, of the field officers I recollect Col. Campbell Maj. Byrum and Maj. John Finley. Capt. Ross command the company to which we were attached. Genl. Broadhead and the other field officers mentioned were officers of the Regular army. Capt. Ross commanded a company of Militia which was attached to the regulars.

That in the spring of the year 1780 said Joseph Johnson was drafted and attached to the company of Capt. Andrews and served as a Spye and Ranger a tour of three months garding the frontier along the Ohio river and in the neighbourhood of Holladays Cove – I was serving in another part of the country at the time he was with Capt. Andrews, but in the next year (I think it was in 1782) said Joseph and myself ware both drafted and attached to the company of Capt. Reed in the month of March of that year, and was actively engaged as a Spye guarding the frontier on the Ohio River untill the month of October or November following. I know said Joseph Johnson also served a tour of three months as a substitute for William Conyears. he was engaged in guarding country on the Ohio river from Holladays cove to Mingo's bottom. Capt Andrews commanded the company on this tour as well as the one before mention. I know he was attached to some other companies but cannot state the particulars.

Ebenezer hisXmark Johnson

State of Kentucky Fleming County} SS

On this 20th day of June 1846 personally appeared before me Joseph Johnson a resident of the aforsaid County and State aged about Ninety four years who being first sworn according to Law, doth on his 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

I lived in Washington County state of Pennsylvania I was drafted for six Months and joined the army in March 1779 in Fortpitt and Rendezvoused in Fortpitt

Here follows the Names of some of the officers of the Army

Regulars	Malitia
Genl. Broadhead Commander in Chief	Col. Vanlandingim
Col. Campbell	Capt. Ross
Maj. Byram	Lieu. Berry
Maj. Finley	En. Reed
Capt. Brady	
Capt. Peterson	
Capt. Sack	

I belonged to the Company commanded by Captain Phillip Ross we marched up the Alleghaney River through a rough mountain Wilderness Country destitute of a Road we was marching up the River for the old Munsey towns. We had a half Indian for our pilot named John Minture who designedly led us astray when the Genl became informed of this he drew his Tommyhawk and threatened his life, he immediately led us a cross into the right indian path, as we marched up the River the Indians came in view we soon began fireing killed four Indians and one white man that was in Company with them, we shot many as they attempted to swim the River some of them sunk we cant tell how many Killed in the River, we marched a few miles after the Battle and camped for the night. that Evening we hard orders to draw three days provision and put it in our napsacks in the morning we received Orders to march with all possible speed for the Towns, on our path just before we got to the Town beside the path stuck on a pole was a white mans scalp – we entered the Town the Indians had fled we burnt the Town destroyed the Corn got 25 or 30 Head of Horses One Cow got some Brass and Copper Kittles from thence we marched down to the mouth of French Creek thence up said creek about 60 miles and burnt two more Indian Towns, the Indians having fled before our arrival, from thence we marched through the wilderness to Fortpitt and there we was discharged having served my tour out

The spring after my discharge I inlisted for Twelve Months in the aforsaid County and State as a Minute Man in the company Commanded by Capt Charles Reed under the following circumstances (towit) we equipt ourselves at our own expence in the following articles one Rifle Gun Shot pouch powder Horn half pound powder one pound of Led run into Bullitts a knapsack tomhawk Scalping knife Belt and Blankett – we continued in the service untill the first day of december following when we got a furlow to go home where we continued untill the following March when we was called upon by Capt Reed when I joined the company in the aforsaid County and State where we continued till the time of our inlistment expired, when we was discharged by Capt Charles Reed in the afforsaid County and State

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and I declare my name is not on the roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforsaid my discharges are lost not thinking of any account

Joseph hisXmark Johnson

The deposition of Ebenezer Johnson taken at the same time and place after being first sworn according to Law deposeth as followeth

Q. By the Court

What do you know respecting said applicant Joseph Johnsons services in the Revolutionary war as set forth in his declaration for a pension

A. I was with him when he was drafted and with him throughout the campain and was dismissed with him in Fortpitt when he enlisted as a Minute Man we both lived together at our Fathers house in the aforsaid county of Washington and state of Pennsylvania I was by when he was dismissed Also as to his age I concur with him in his declaration

Ebenezer hisXmark Johnson

Q by the Court

Where and in what year were you born

A. I was born in 1752 in Summerset County state of new Jersey

Q. have you a record of your age

A. None

Q. Where have you lived since the War

A. In the state of Indiania a part of the time the ballance of my time in the state of Kentucky

State of Kentucky }

County of Fleming } Ss. On this fifth day of March 1850 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, Joseph Johnson a resident in said County aged Ninety four years, who being first duly sworn, on his solemn oath according to law, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act passed 7th of June 1832.

This declarant states that he was a Soldier in the war of the revolution, and resided at the time of said war in the County of Westmoreland (now Allegheny County) State of Pennsylvania, at the mouth of Millers Run, about 12 miles from Pittsburgh and performed several tours of service as follows, viz. That he first enlisted as a volunteer under Captain Philip Ross and Colonel Brodhead at Pittsburgh in the latter part of June or forepart of July 1779 and was marched with the Regiment of said Col Brodhead on an expedition up the Allegheny River in the month of August in said year, and returned with said Regiment to Pittsburgh about the 14th of September following and was discharged by said Colonel Brodhead at Pittsburgh about the 15th of December 1779 after having served a tour of six months.

That in the month of March 1781 he again enlisted as a volunteer under Captain Charles Reed at Pittsburgh and under the said Colonel Broadhead and served as an Indian Spy on the Ohio River between Hollidays Cove & Coys Town up to the first of December following when he was discharged by the said Captain Reed at Pittsburgh or at the mouth of Millers Run after having served a tour of nine months.

That in the month of March 1782 he again enlisted as a volunteer under the aforesaid Charles Reed, and served along the Ohio River as before, and was discharged in the fall following by said Captain Reed, after having served a period of about 9 months.

And that he received three regular discharges, which discharges are now lost.

And further states that he was several times afterwards called out & served several short tours as a minute man up to the close of said war, for which service he received no written discharge and that he served in all about three years in said war. That he emigrated to Bourbon County, State of Kentucky soon after the close of the revolution, where he served all through the Indian wars & subsequently through that of 1812.

And further states that he has never drawn a pension Joseph hisXmark Johnson
[Ebenezer Johnson certified the service of Joseph Johnson.]

[The following from the pension application of Ebenezer Johnson (R5608) is included here because it relates to Joseph Johnson.]

State of Kentucky }

County of Fleming } SS [1 Nov 1854]

Personally appeared before Greenleaf Pickerell a justice of the Peace in & for said county and state aforesaid, Ebenezer Johnson, who says that he does not now know his own exact age but believes that he is about 100 years old, or a little more, that his brother Joseph Johnson, was about 15 months older than himself. He states that he is now very old & that his memory is defective as to dates, and that he can not be positive as to the time, himself & brother Joseph Johnson, were drafted or joined the Revolutionary army, but his memory induces him to say positively that his brother Joseph Johnson & himself were drafted or volunteered at Fort Pitt, during the Revolutionary war, and that both himself and his brother Joseph Johnson served in the same company together for the term of six months or more and was discharged together at Fort Pitt. That the Company in which they served was a regular organized company commanded by Capt Philip Ross and Col Daniel Broadhead. He states further that the service

above spoken of, was earlier than 1779 – he can not remember the year, at this time – but he remembers that himself and brother Joseph Johnson were drafted or volunteered at Fort Pitt in the very beginning of the summer, that is to say in the month of June or 1st of July – that him and his brother joined the Revolutionary army for a six months tour, and they served throughout said time and were discharged about the 15th of Dec. That during this first tour, this Company and the Reg't. was marched up Allegany river during the time, and killed a number of Indians on the Allegany river, at the place where the regt or army crossed the river. He further states that himself & his brother Joseph Johnson, afterwards enlisted as minute men under Capt Charles Reed, were spies under Capt Thomas Reed, and that him and his brother Joseph served several tours under said Reed but the length of said service he can not now remember, nor can he remember all the little facts and dates precisely, but he is very certain that his brother Joseph Johnson & himself served during the Revolutionary war, under the officers above named, and at different times, to the amount of nearly three years or more. This affiant states that at the time, he was drafted or joined the army at Fort Pitt as above stated, his brother Joseph Johnson & himself lived in Westmorland Co. (now Allegany) and that at the time himself & brother enlisted as minute men under Capt Charles Reed, they were living in Washington County Pennsylvania. Soon after the Revolution this affiant & his brother Joseph Johnson removed to Bourbon County Ky and afterwards they both removed to this County, where this affiant still resides. He further states that his brother Joseph Johnson moved to Jackson County Indiana where he died in May 1852. This affiant further states that Joseph Johnson left two children only, who survived him, Avis, who was married to John Blair, but who is now a widow (John Blair having died) and Delilah who was married to James Blair of Jackson County Indiana. where Joseph Johnson died in May 1852. This affiant states that he is not a pensioner, but has made application for a pension, which is pending before the Pension Department, and this affiant states that him & his brother had several discharges which they lost shortly after the close of the Revolution, and both him and his brother did not know that they were entitled to Pensions untill some time prior to making their applications. He states that he resides about 18 miles from the County seat of Fleming County, and had not the means of information within his reach, and no one to consult, or inform him in regard to his rights. He further states that after he learned that he was entitled to pension by the Laws, he was in easy circumstances, and did not think that he would ever need it, but he is now very old, and needs something, from the hands of his country. He states that him & his brother Joseph, have had frequent conversations in regard to their services in the Revolutionary army and both of them thought that the Gov. ought to give them something, but as they had lost their discharges they had concluded they would never get anything, and not having met with any one, who could give them any information, how to proceed to get a pension they were delayed in making their application, and these are the reasons, why both this affiant and his brother Joseph Johnson, did not make their application for pensions sooner than they did. This affiant further states that he is not interested in the claim of said Joseph Johnson, nor in said Joseph Johnsons at the time he gave his Dep. [deposition] interested in the prosecution of the claim of this affiant. Said Joseph Johnson is now dead, and can not himself give the reasons why he did not apply sooner for a pension but this affiant, will state that he has had frequent conversations with his brother Joseph as to the probability of their ever being able to get pensions, and the facts, and reasons above stated are the causes, why this affiant and his brother Joseph did not apply earlier for pensions.

Ebenezer hisXmark Johnson

[Elizabeth Johnson, 84, stated that early in her life she was his neighbor of Joseph Johnson in Washington and Westmoreland counties.]

State of Indiana } ss
County of Jackson } In Open Court

On this fifteenth day of October A.D. 1855 before the Court of Common Pleas held within and for the County and State aforesaid – personally appeared Avis Blair Aged 67 years – a resident of Grassy Fork in the County of Jackson and State of Indiana; who being duly sworn according to law – does on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions of the act of the 7th

of June 1832; that she is one of the children and heirs at law of Joseph Johnson deceased who was a soldier in the War of the Revolution. That her said father as she believes entered the service from Washington County Pennsylvania, in the latter part of the year 1779, and continued in the service a large part of the remaining time until the close of the war. She further states that her said father filed a declaration for pension in the Pension Office some time in the year 1837 as she thinks in which is a detailed statement of the different tours of service and the names of the officers under whom he served – to which she respectfully refers for the necessary evidence of his service. She is further informed and believes that a pension was granted her said father [see endnote] but that he never availed himself of it during his lifetime. That he left no widow at his death which occurred at Washington Indiana on the Eleventh day of May A.D. 1852. That the following are the only surviving children of the said Soldier, viz: Avis Blair and Delilah Blair

That her mother was married to the said Joseph Johnson in Washington county State of Pennsylvania on or about the 15th day of February A.D. 1778 or 79; by one (does not recollect the name) a Minister of the Gospel and that her name before her said marriage was Mary Clark; and that she died at Jackson County Indiana the Fourteenth day of May A.D. 1828. And further that there is no public Record of said marriage to her knowledge

She hereby appoints Miller Buren her lawful Attorneys, with power of substitution, to prosecute her claim, to receive the Certificate when issued, and to do all other acts necessary and proper in the premises.

Avis herXmark Blair

[John Blair made a similar statement.]

NOTES:

The file includes a letter dated 31 August (year omitted) inquiring about the status of the applications of Joseph Johnson and Ebenezer Johnson “about 108 years old.”

The following was given as the reason for rejecting the claim of Joseph Johnson: “Proof refused from the Harrisburg army records.”