

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Lewis Johnston (Johnson) R5643

f51NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/30/08: rev'd 2/25/16

[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.]

State of North Carolina, County of Burke: SS: Superior Court of Law May Term 1840

On this 18th day of May 1840 -- personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Edward Hale one of the Judges of the Superior Court of law now sitting Lewis Johnston a resident of Burke County & State of North Carolina, (aged Seventy Seven the 4th of July next) 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

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers; and served as herein stated. That he was drafted in the Militia of the 4th division of the NC Militia in the revolutionary War in the month of May 1780 (the day of the month not recollected) at Halifax Town N. C. under Captain John Williams, Lieutenant Nat. Brickell [Nathaniel Brickell] & Colonel Seawell [Benjamin Seawell] -- (Sumner [Jethro Sumner] was our General) we remained at Halifax a short time, when we joined the Main Army under General Sumner, then we were ordered to march & passed through the Counties of Franklin by the Court House (now Louisburg) and crossed Tar River, & passed along through Wake across Crab-Tree [Crabtree] Creek, to Wake C. H. (now Raleigh) and passed on through Cumberland County near Cross Creek into the State of South Carolina, and crossed Drowning [Creek] at Coles Bridge -- turned up the Creek with a scouting party under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Brickell [probably William Brickell]; had a skirmish with the Tories, which continued at intervals all night -- we were ordered to destroy all the growing crops, up this Creek we came to a still, we there filled our canteens with whiskey, & destroyed the balance, when we struck Camp; early in the night we were fired upon by Tories, the firing kept up off & on all night, nearly daylight they left us, the next morning we discovered a spy some distance off up a tree, we attempted to take him but he ran off -- we pursued the Main body of them, & were in search of them the greater part of that day, they dispersed & we only took one of them, which we severely whipped, who, I learned, afterwards died. We then joined the Main Army again, & marched near Rugeley's Mills in a short time after this the battle of Gum Swamp took place (Gates defeat) near Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], we were on our way to reinforce General Gates [Horatio Gates], but we met the Army retreating, and we retreated with them in a confused State. Afterwards a part of us were collected together, under my same officers and passed by Charlotte C. H. where we [word obliterated] a while to see the men that were wounded in Bluforts [sic, Buford's defeat or the Battle of Waxhaw, May 29, 1780] (at the Hanging Rock) from thence to Salisbury crossed the Yadkin River at Sloan's Ford, where we threw up a breastworks, I was there taken sick and put in a hospital near that place, where I remained some weeks until discharged, making three

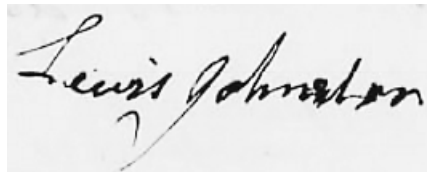
months Service, of which I have no documentary evidence.

Again in July 1781 (the day of the month not well remembered) the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Divisions having served their times I was again rendezvoused under the Command of Colonel Nicholas Long at Halifax Town, where I was stationed & served three months more, when & where I was discharged which was some time in October of 1781, this affiant further states that he has no documentary evidence -- having lost or mislaid my discharges, & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can prove his service by, except those hereunto annexed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present; and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State, or, if any, only on that of the agency of the State of North Carolina.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid 20 May 1840
S/ D. P. Kebler, CSC

S/ Lewis Johnston

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

[Thomas Carlton, a clergyman, and James Avery gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 28]

State of North Carolina, County of Warren

Personally appeared before me, Henry J. Macon, one of the Justices of the Court of pleas & quarter Sessions for the County of Warren, Joseph J. Alston,¹ who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth & saith, that he is in his 77th year of age, & that he is well acquainted with Lewis Johnston, being born & raised within seven miles of the above named Lewis Johnston, this affiant states that he knows, that the said Lewis did serve in the revolutionary War, & believes that he served under Colonel Seawell & General Sumner & that they marched from Halifax NC -- this affiant does not know the country or places he passed, not being in the Service.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 20 April 1840
S/ Henry J. Macon, JP

S/ J. J. Alston

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

[p 36]

State of North Carolina County of Warren: SS

Personally appeared before me, Henry J Macon one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Warren, Sterling Johnston, who being sworn upon the Holy evangelists of Almighty God deposeth & saith that he is in his Seventy Third year of age & that he was raised with Lewis Johnston, a revolutionary Soldier, and that he knows that he the said Lewis served in the revolutionary War, this affiant further states on oath that he was quite young at the time, and that the particular time & place has entirely escape his memory being subject to

¹ [Joseph John Alston S6498](#)

absence of mine from infirm old age, he also states that Lewis Johnston was born & raised in the County of Halifax North Carolina and that he afterwards moved to the County of Burke North Carolina & further this affiant saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 20th April 1840

S/ Henry J Macon, JP

S/ Sterling Johnston, X his mark

[p 26: On April 20, 1840 in Warren County North Carolina, Benjamin F Jenkins, 73, gave testimony that he is well acquainted with Lewis Johnston having been born and raised within 1 mile of said Lewis Johnston; that the affiant recollects Lewis did serve under Colonel Nicholas Long but cannot state how long Johnston served being only 12 or 13 years old at the time he was aware of Johnston's services. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 42]

State of North Carolina, Burke County

Be it known that on the 9th day of March 1841 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Personally came Lewis Johnson (aged 78 years) who being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth as follows –

That he entered the service of the United States in the War of the Revolution in the year 1780 and served a three months tour under Captain John Williams Commonly called (Sleter John Williams from the fact of his having married a widow Lady by the name of Sleter or Slatter) -- a particular history of his service may be found in his Declaration now on file in the Pension Offers to which he refers.

His next tour was for three months likewise and was performed the summer following 1781 under Colonel Long -- the particulars of this service are also fully set forth in the Declaration before of alluded to.

This Deponent swears that Sterling Johnson and Ford Jenkins whose testimony accompanies his declaration for a Pension are the only living persons by whom he is now enabled to prove his services.

He also swears that he served two tours of three months each making six months in defense of the United States during the war of the Revolution and that by reason of old age and loss of memory he is unable to give a more minute detail of his services than is contained in his Declaration now on file in the War Department.

He further swears that he has resided in Burke County NC for the last 30 years -- that he is distant from where he lived at the time he entered the service of the US at least 300 miles & that he knows no person except those whose testimony he has offered by whom he can prove his services and that they have lived during this time 300 miles from him and that he has never been able until recently to procure the benefit of their testimony -- that this is the only cause why he has delayed making application for a Pension until the present.

Sworn to and subscribed before me day and year first above written.

S/ R. C. Pearson, JP

S/ Lewis Johnston

[p 30: On December 11, 1845 while living in Burke County North Carolina, Lewis Johnston wrote to Michael Spainhower asking that he examine Johnston's claim for a pension.]

[p 12: Joseph Benfield, 50, claimed to be the husband of an unnamed daughter of Lewis Johnson

[sic] in a power of attorney dated October 9, 1852, filed in Burke County, NC.

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Joseph Benfield

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[p 38: Power of attorney dated February 20, 1852 filed in Burke County North Carolina by Lewis Johnson in which he claims to be the son of Lewis Johnston [sic], who had filed for a pension. He signed the power of attorney with his mark.]

[There is a power of attorney dated February 7, 1854, given by Samuel M. Thompson who claims to the 'heir and legal Administrator' of Lewis Johnston, given in Burke County, NC to Shimuel Godwin of Washington City to pursue Johnston's claim.]

[p 8: On February 21, 1855 in Burke County North Carolina, Samuel M Thompson a resident of said County and state filed a declaration seeking to obtain a pension under the 1832 act for the services of Lewis Johnston, deceased; the claimant states that he is one of the heirs and the legal Administrator of said Lewis Johnston.]

[p 41: Power of attorney dated October 6, 1856 executed by Joseph Benfield of Burke County North Carolina whereby he authorizes his attorney to pursue the pension claim of Lewis Johnson or Johnston deceased. His relationship, if any, to the veteran is not stated.

Joseph Benfield

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[p 35: Certificate from the North Carolina Comptroller's regarding payments made to one Lewis Johnson [sic] for military services during the Revolutionary War as follows.

State of North Carolina
Comptroller's Office

I, William J. Clarke, Comptroller of public accounts in and for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office, among the payments made by said State to sundry persons for Military services in the Revolutionary War, as follows, to wit:

Lewis Johnson

Book L. page 114	\$ 12	1/14 specie
" No. 211	" 102	\$ 33 1/2
" 9. 15	" 22	\$ 5 1/6
" 26	" 79	\$ 15 1/6

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office this 5th day of February A. D. 1852

Wm. J. Clarke Comptroller