

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abner Johnson [Johnston] R5649 Nancy Johnson f27NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/20/08: rev'd 2/3/16

[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.]

[p 12]

State of Tennessee, Maury County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions September Term 1832

On this 22nd day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Maury County Tennessee now sitting Abner Johnson a resident of said County of Maury and State of Tennessee, Aged seventy-three years, 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.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated -- In the year 1777 (and as well as he can remember in the month of October of that year) he volunteered in Guilford County North Carolina under Captain John Nelson who was a militia Captain in his neighborhood, -- and when the men were called for all who did not volunteer to make up the number wanted were to be drafted, -- this deponent volunteered -- and as did all the rest, except one who was drafted -- the name of the Lieutenant was Charles Hughes & the name of the Ensign was George Parks, -- and this deponent & one Allen Walker were sergeants of the company; -- his company belonged to Colonel Paisley's [John Paisley's] Regiment -- which together with Colonel Saunders' [James Sanders'] Regiment from Granville County NC were under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. The place of rendezvous was Guilford Court House, and after Colonel Saunders' Regiment got to that place -- they all marched to South Carolina, -- and on the march they passed through the towns of Salisbury & Charlotte (as he supposes) N.C. and Camden in S.C. to a place called Smokey Camp near a little village called Purrysburg on Savannah River, from which after some time, they were marched to a place called the black swamp and then to a place called the Two Sisters [ferry] -- and several times changed this camp. Whilst he was out on this campaign General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] commanded the Regulars in that part of the Country. During the same campaign General Ashe [John Ashe] was defeated at Briar Creek [March 3, 1779]¹; -- during the time he was out they were a part of the time in the country between Augusta & Savannah on the Savannah River, -- and were occasionally on the Georgia side; he was in no regular battle, -- but there were some little skirmishes with the British & Tories. The length of this service he cannot state with positive certainty, -- he knows it was more than five months, -- and he thinks he was absent from home more than six months, -- he knows that after he volunteered in October -- they were marched a few days after the 7th of November, he thinks about the 10th of November; he

¹ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

remembers a particular circumstance that took place on the 7th and he knows it was two or three days afterwards that the troops were rendezvoused. And his time was out either on the 10th of April or the 10th of May following & he cannot after so great a lapse of time be positively certain which. When the time was out the troops were discharged and he came home with his Captain who was Captain John Nelson and who lived in the same neighborhood with him, -- and whether he ever received a written discharge or not he cannot now remember. He knows he served out the time and was dismissed with the other troops, and if he received a written discharge he does not know what has become of it. --

After this campaign was over, but the precise date or year he cannot remember with certainty, -- he was again engaged in the public service as follows; -- he lived in the same County (Guilford County NC) with Governor Martin who was then Governor of the State. -- There was a call for men to guard the Governor against the Tories and British, from his residence to a place called Nutbush where the assembly was to meet, and this service was to stand as a three months tour of duty as he now believes; This deponent volunteered in this service -- as they were requested to do by the Governor, and went with him to the place where the assembly was to meet, where they remained some time, but in consequence of the times being troublesome a sufficient number of members did not meet to make an assembly -- when they were dismissed & returned home. After this term was over he again volunteered & went with the Governor to a place called the Moravian Town or Salem where the assembly was to meet, -- and after getting there waiting some time a sufficient number of members failed to attend to make a house. They were again dismissed & sent home. This last tour was also to stand as another tour of duty of three months, -- as the Governor told them. These were the only regular tours of duty which he performed during the revolutionary war; -- except in scouting parties in several of which he was engaged against the Tories.

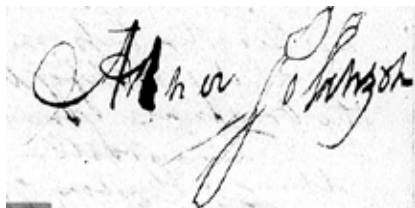
He states that he has no documentary written evidence of his services; and that he knows of no other person whose testimony he can procure, except that of David Dobbins,² Gideon Johnson³ & Sarah Johnston whose testimony of companies this declaration.

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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Thos. J. Porter, Clerk

S/ Abner Johnson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abner Johnson", written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[Robert Mack and William Pillow gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee, Maury County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions September Term 1832

This day personally appeared in open court David Dobbins who made oath that he was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary war -- that he is well acquainted with Abner Johnston [sic] the

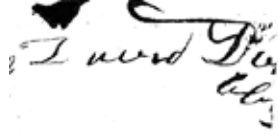
² [David Dobbins S1805](#)

³ [Gideon Johnson S4456](#)

present applicant -- that he has had much conversation with him upon the subject of his services in the revolutionary war -- that from many circumstances spoken of by him as having happened & occurred during the war & he entertains no doubt but that he was in the revolutionary war. He is well acquainted with him & would place full & entire confidence in his statements upon his oath. He thinks he served a tour in which he himself was & that this tour was 6 months long.

Sworn to September 1832 in open Court.

S/ David Dobbins



[signature compromised]

S/ Thos. J. Porter, Clk

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State of Tennessee, Maury County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Term 1832

This day personally appeared in open Court Gideon Johnston [sic] a resident of Williamson County who made oath that he was in the Revolutionary War with Abner Johnston [sic] the above applicant -- that he knows the fact that the said Abner was also a Soldier of the revolution -- that Affiant entertains no doubt but that Abner Johnston served as a Soldier in the revolutionary war at the least is long as he and his declaration has stated. This affiant was with the said Abner in the tour with the Governor to Nutbush. He has heard the above declaration of Abner Johnston read & believes it to be substantially true. He is well acquainted with said Abner & knows that he has always been reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution where he lived. This Affiant is now in his 78th year.

Sworn to in open court September 22, 1832.

S/ Thos. J. Porter, Clk

S/ Gideon Johnson



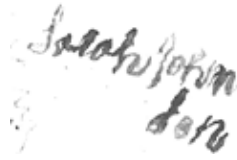
[p 10]

State of Tennessee, Maury County

Came personally before me, Alexander Johnson, a Justice of the peace in and for said County Sarah Johnson, widow of William Johnson, now in the 77th year of her age, & infirm, too much so to attend to Court with convenience; who being by me Examined touching her Recollection of Abner Johnson's Serving as a Soldier in the Revolutionary war, in Substance deposed and saith -- that the said Abner Johnson, a brother of her deceased husband, William Johnson, was a single man, and living immediately in the neighborhood of deponent & her husband, on Dan River, Rockingham County (then Guilford County) North Carolina, was much, & often at the house of Deponent, during the Revolutionary war; that she distinctly Recollects that the said Abner Johnson was absent, & said to be, & she has no doubt was in the Service of his Country. She never then, nor since, has ever heard it called in Question but that the same Abner Johnson, took an active part in defense of his Country; during that war; but cannot recollect how many tours, nor how long he served. Further deponent saith that she having long been acquainted with said Abner Johnson, unhesitatingly can say, that his general character is,

and has been, that of a man of undoubted truth. Further this deponent saith not.
[September 17, 1832]

S/ Sarah Johnson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Johnson" with a date "1832" written below it.

S/ Alex: Johnson, JP

[p 5: On October 11, 1852 in Maury County, Tennessee, Nancy Johnson, widow of Abner, filed for a widow's pension stating that her husband was a pensioner of the United States for his revolutionary services; that she married him on March 14, 1783; that he died October 22, 1850 and that she has remained a widow ever since. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the North Carolina militia.]