

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Johnson S10918

f78SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 11/20/08: rev'd 2/21/16 & 2/9/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

Territory of Florida, Western District, Escambia County: SS

On this Sixth day of July A.D. 1841 personally appeared in open court before me Dillon Jordan, Judge of the Superior Court aforesaid District, William Johnson, a resident of Escambia County in the District aforesaid aged eighty-three years and nine months who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That in the spring of the year 1778 he volunteered in Edgefield District in the State of South Carolina, under Captain William Butler¹ (afterwards General William Butler) They joined and served with a Regiment commanded by Leroy Hammond, in the whole was under the command of General Pickens; their operations were principally against the British and Tories; He was in the Battle of the Eutaw Springs² under Captain Box [Lewis Box] under whom he served about four months and then returned to Edgefield District and resumed his services under Captain Butler and was soon after in the battle of Turner's defeat,³ at which the father of Captain Butler⁴ was killed. He served as a volunteer three years and eight months, and was afterwards drafted and served under a draft three months. The principal service under the draft was in guarding the Jail at Ninety Six in which the Tories were confined; He never had any formal discharge.

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

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Washington, Deputy Clerk

S/ William Johnson, X his mark

William Hudgins⁵ being sworn says he is 97 years old since the 17th of March last That he served in the revolutionary war under General Butler that he knew William Johnson now

¹ [William Butler W20803](#)

² September 8, 1781. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

³ This engagement is usually referred to as the skirmish at Cloud's Creek and is thought to have occurred on November 17, 1781. The engagement was between Capt. Sterling Turner and Major William Cunningham, a/k/a "Bloody Bill" Cunningham. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_clouds_creek_2.html

⁴ Both Capt. James Butler, Sr. and his son, Capt. James Butler, Jr., are believed to have been killed by William Cunningham's forces at Cloud's Creek.

⁵ Probably [William Hudgens \(Hudgins, Hudchins\) R5322](#)

present and who makes the foregoing declaration in the service at the same time or a part of it. That he knows particularly that said Johnson served one tour of five months as the deponent was in the habit of seeing him continually during that time.
Sworn to and Subscribed before me.

S/ William Hudgins



S/ William Jordan

[Joseph Bell and Richard Laremore [?] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories propounded by the Court to the Declarant William Johnson

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

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 service.

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

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

To the interrogatories propounded by the Court the applicant answers –

1st I was born on "Tar" River in the State of North Carolina in the year 1757.

2nd There was a Record of my age, but I do not now know where it is.

3rd South Carolina in Edgefield District. I lived in the Counties of Burke, Emanuel, Bryant and Liberty in the State of Georgia, and now live in the County of Escambia Territory of Florida.

4th I volunteered -- except for three months when I was drafted to guard 96 jail in South Carolina.

5th General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] of the regular Army. I volunteered under Captain William Butler, who was afterwards promoted to General. Commenced services at Augusta, Georgia, marched through different Sections of South Carolina under Captain Butler. I was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs under the command of Lewis Box. I returned to General Sumter's Army at Orangeburg where I remained four or five months. Afterwards I left Sumter's Army and went to Butler's. I was afterwards at the battle of Turner's defeat, where General Butler's father was killed, and this applicant and one Benjamin Hughes were the only two survivors out of 31 men, the others having been killed in that Battle. After which I continued in the Partisan war pursuing and taking Tories and putting them in 96 jail, and Pickens Blockhouse and at Waters' block-house until the end of the war.

6th No

7th Benjamin Jernigan, James R. Riley, Allen Blaylock, Richard Larimer, and Joseph Bell. I do hereby certify that the foregoing answers were given upon oath by William Johnson (the applicant) to the interrogatories herewith filed.

S/ William Jordan, Judge of the United States for the District of

West Florida

[p 21 affidavit given by the Rev. Ephraim Prescoat, resident of Coffee County, Alabama, that he knew William Johnson during the Revolution; that Johnson served under Capt. William Butler; that he, Prescoat, stayed at Johnson's house in Edgefield County, SC, during the time Johnson was in the service.]

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Territory of Florida, Santa Rosa County: In the County Court September Term 1843

I William Johnson an applicant for a pension as a revolutionary soldier being desirous of furnishings some additional proof of my services and deeming it to be a matter of some importance to state the names of some of the persons with whom I served in the revolutionary hereby make oath that while I was in the Company of Captain William Butler the following named persons served with me as privates Viz. John Curley, Sherrod Curley, Miallard [?] Smith, John Blann [?], Buddy Escridge,⁶ Samuel Etheridge. I was [in] Orangeburg District under Captain Box about seven or eight months having previously served under Captain Butler from about 15 days after he received his commission until I entered Captain Box's Company. At the end of said service with Captain Box I again entered Captain Butler's Company & remained in it until the close of the about three months before the close of the war Captain Butler sent me to Ninety Six to guard some Tories I remained there until Colonel McCoy and Captain Simmons Command took away the last of the Tories and they then told me I could go home I then left for home and as Captain Butler who was my Captain was not present I did not get my discharge. Sworn to and Subscribed before me

S/ D. J. McArthur, Clerk

S/ William Johnson, X his mark

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State of Alabama, Perry County

Be it remembered that William Johnson the undersigned who is a citizen of said County & State & who now claims and applies for a pension from the United States according to the laws thereof as a soldier of the Revolutionary war personally came this sixth day of July 1848 before me Henry C. Lea an acting Justice of the Peace in & for the County & State aforesaid, who after being duly sworn deposes & states as follows that on the 16th day of October next he will be 91 years of age, he states absolutely, on oath, that he was a soldier of & for the Colonies or States during a large portion of the Revolutionary war. That he did enlist -- with some 12 or 15 others of the company he had previously been with, in South Carolina, in the fall of 1780 or spring of 1781 or, rather volunteer, under General Greene at the place called 96 or 96 miles from Charleston & that he did without a doubt serve nine months under him the time for which he entered the service, he did receive a regular discharge at the end of his time in writing -- But swears positively that he has lost it & does not know when or where. He states positively that he was in the Battle of Eutaw Springs under General Greene (it is impossible, he states, for him to recollect positively all the subaltern officers) and the name of General Greene was that most often & almost entirely repeated over & over among the troops when he had previously been, on account of the word & great expection [expectation] from, what had been heard, that General Greene was coming to command in the South & all of us that went volunteers or otherwise to meet & go under him thought of him or his commanding almost entirely: to the best of my

⁶ Bobby Moss lists a Burnett (Buddied) Eskridge who served under Capt. Sterling Turner and was killed at Cloud's Creek

recollection at the time we were received & mustered into Greene's Army at 96 I was placed under a Captain Johnson (a man of my own name) I recollect a Colonel Washington & I think that he was there but I cannot say that I was in his Regiment I can only swear that I recollect his name as if he were there & can mention others inferior in command but will not undertake to swear now as to their exact posts or places --I have seen Colonel Morgan or did before the Eutaw battle as he passed through near Edgefield but he was not at Eutaw that I recollect now. General Marion joined General Greene between the Santee River & Eutaw & is of the belief he was with General Greene I often saw General Marion & his men but I was not under him he was mostly lower down the Country then we were.

I state positively that at about the age of 20 or a little upwards I commenced my first active service as a constant soldier I had been mustered before & held liable, but in 1777 a man named Butler (William Butler, if I am not too forgetful) lived in our neighborhood who was active & brave to command & was prevailed on to take a command of Captain & at his instance, & by our agreement to act as minute men, 17 of us of greed, at one time, to join a company under his command, if he should be elected & commissioned as Captain, which company soon increased to a larger number from 65 to 80 & he was regularly, by the law, elected & commissioned as Captain & we agreed to act as minute men; we selected a place of common & uniform rendezvous: a place called Mount hilling in our District of Edgefield; there we were to be instantly always, either for drills or on alarm from the Tories or British, ready for quick marches in any direction we should be ordered -- We fought & skirmished from that point to the distance of sometimes 60 miles around -- We had some times to take refuge into General Sumter's command when we were like to be overpowered; we were frequently in General Sumter's Camp I have seen him & his men often -- Colonel Branham [sic, Thomas Brandon] of Fairforest on Tyger River was a great soldier; our Captain frequently had us under the immediate command of Brandon & so we were marched concentrated with other forces at different times & places in the State of South Carolina during several years, say three or four years: But I cannot, for my life, state now precisely the regular train of orders & changes made with us & about us; But one thing I do know & swear positively to; that is; that I served faithfully & hard & honestly for & during the time of six years either in actual marches, or battles, or liable at every instant of time, to military duty if I never get anything for it: & this is the last application I ever expect or intend to make -- I can state a thousand little occurrences during the war to show anyone of any sense that I was in the war faithfully, as I state but I fear I cannot comply with all the law requires, for I do not know, myself, what it requires, nor do I believe anybody else does near me & I am too old to make many more trials to learn. I will state that I was at the remarkable occurrence which gave the name of murder ground to a place near the line between Edgefield & Orangeburg districts in South Carolina -- we were & had been in pursuit of a Tory commander named Cunningham [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] Captain Butler divided his company into two divisions some 35 or 40 in each to take different directions so as to scout the country & to act & meet as was then ordered & agreed upon -- Captain Butler took command of one half & a man named Turner was chosen by a majority to take command of the other; some of the men however believed Turner to be cowardly & it was a fact. But the Father of Captain Butler was a member of his Company & it was arranged so that the Captain's Father was to go in Turner's division & in order that there might be safety & good reliance, as well as satisfaction with Turner & his particular supporters & friends it was agreed that if there should any engagement take place the Father of Captain Butler might act in the emergency as Captain & thus all went satisfied -- while those of us under Turner had stopped to breakfast at the house, the most of the command were at or in a house; myself & a man named Benjamin Hughs were feeding our

horses at some distance & Cunningham's command rushed in upon & around the house & by a very quick work, with the loss of some seven or eight men, every one of our men with Turner & Butler the Father were killed & myself & Hughs escaped only by accidentally being off feeding our horses & lay in the woods several days before we got to our main company again -- I could state numerous occurrences favorable & unfavorable during the long service in which I was engaged -- If I do not greatly forget the regular place for Captain Butler's company was in a Colonel Hammond's command I know he was commanded by him & both Butler & Hammond by General Pickens -- But military dispositions & regulations were not then just as they are or would be now -- when there were such men as Butler; great latitude was given them to go on their own hook was allowed; but always subject to be called & ordered in & about, on emergencies or when the enemy were in large bodies.

Now I state on oath that having served constantly some four or five years as above mostly across up & down through the middle portions of South Carolina I did then as before stated in the fall of 1780 or spring 81 volunteered & go & join General Greene as soon as we heard he was in the South & we could join him; & did serve faithfully under him nine months; Joined him at 96 & was actually engaged in the hard fought shocking battle at Eutaw Springs -- I received no wounds which leaves a mark except that besides my cloths have been cut with balls often a musket ball passed between the top of one of my ears and my head at the Eutaw Springs; but unfortunately (now I suppose) it does not leave any distinct scar though I was stunned by it -- It was not a great while after the Battle of Eutaw Springs I got my discharge from further service under General Greene but what the name of the officer was that signed it or gave it to me I will not undertake to state for I confess I cannot recollect. But after the Battle at the Springs I was with the command who was ordered to guard the Tories & others who were sent to 96. The exact length of time I remained there I cannot tell but not perhaps more than a month or so. The prisoners were taken from 96 by Colonel McKoy & Captain Simmons & their men, what they did with them or where they carried them, I do not know.

I have now stated all I suppose that I need to tell unless I were to go over hundreds of hardships escapes & difficulties in which I was during the long war & I state what I have fully sensible that I am not many years at most to remain upon the earth, If the department will allow me pay I shall be glad, if not though destitute now -- have been in better circumstances & my friends & the few relations I have may perhaps help me out of the world as I have tried to help myself while in it. I have several Brothers & sisters yet living but they were too young to know or recollect my services -- I have as many as four children scattered over the world I have only one daughter who lives near me or rather most of the time, I with her, she herself is old a widow & quite helpless in many respects -- My children who live further off are in some better circumstances --

There is not now living within my knowledge anyone except old Mr. J. F. Hoggle whose evidence I have had taken that can prove my service under General Greene for nine months nor of the other services by -- I give directions for his evidence to be sent with my oath or application -- I found him here in Perry County when I came from Florida & he knew & told me himself where he had seen & knew me -- And this has partly been the means of renewing my hopes that the Government will hear & allow my claim Hoggle lived in an adjoining district to me in South Carolina & though younger than I was with his Father in the war & we saw each other frequently -- though his recollection about some things is more clear than my own. I moved from Carolina to the State of Georgia not far from Savannah about 48 years ago I then moved to Florida where I lived some seven or eight years and about two years ago came up here where I have lived since in or near the town of Marion Perry County. I am confident my name was on the

roll at Columbia in South Carolina if it was not it was not my fault for it ought to have been there -- I made application while I lived in Florida for a pension; but I then did not know that Mr Hoggle or any other person was living by whom I could prove satisfactorily my services, & except that I, on my former application while I lived in Florida, by one Ephraim Prescoat proved that he knew that I started to go to join General Greene's Army & was gone as much as nine months that time but could not swear that he saw me in the service & besides he was young at the time & I had employed him to stay at my house while I was gone in the Army. This was the objection if any I suppose to my claim -- I will be glad if the department will spare the time to turn to & see the papers in my former applications from Santa Rosa or at Pensacola by & through Judge Wright Prescoat lived in Coffee County Alabama & I came up there & got Mr. Meggs to procure Judge Claxton to take Prescoat's evidence some three years ago. They all thought there, who knew my application as made, that it would succeed but it seems that it did not: while many many others who did not serve one fifth the time I did have received their pensions in different parts of the Country & I think it hard indeed. John B. Meggs Esquire of Walton County Florida I believe has all the correspondence from the War Department if any or (if not destroyed) which relates to my former application I wish I had it all again & could send it to the Department; but I cannot get it. I know there seemed there to be very little in the way yet I never could get my allowance -- until all seemed to get tired of trying & so it lay -- I have, nor have had, no other motive on earth, in changing the agents or persons I have spoken to to get my pension, then simply because I had moved up here & found the old Mr Hoggle whose evidence I send & I never did rest satisfied with the application lying so without trying to get it honestly & fully before the Department once more. It makes me sorry to know how hard & long I served to see that others have drawn & I am to be thought of as unworthy by their side & I feel deeply that it is not just nor right.

I have to state that if there appears to be anything wrong about my not applying sooner, or later, or in some different way, I must say that I have done the best I could or knowed how -- I am old & not active to get about I have been afflicted with rheumatism & a touch of palsy for some 17 years, off & on, & it is the good feelings of those gentlemen where I happen to be who have more learning than I, or than my close relations, if present, would have; that enables me to know how to even begin to apply for a pension & if it is not & I did not know it to be honest; I would not have it if given; much less apply for it. I have I hope now stated all that can be thought necessary & have this whole matter in the hands of those agents who have by law then appointed to do justice.

Sworn to & subscribed in my presence after being taken down as nearly as convenient in his own words & read slowly & distinctly over to him word for word in my presence this 6th of July 1848.

S/ William Johnson, X his mark

S/ Henry C. Lea, JP

[supporting affidavit as to reputation and character given by James H. DeVotie or DeVolie, pastor of the Baptist Church of which Johnson was a member.]

[p 58 SC Comptroller General's certificates of payments made to a man or men named William Johnson or Johnston for revolutionary services.]

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State of Alabama, Perry County

Personally appeared John F. Hoggle for me George P. Massey an acting Justice of the

Peace in & for the County & State aforesaid who having been by me first duly sworn deposed & says that he is personally acquainted with William Johnson who now resides & has resided in said County some little less than two years where this affiant has resided about nine years, that said Johnson removed from Santa Rosa County in Florida to this State about three years sense as affiant is informed & believes -- That this affiant though about the age of 85 years has a distinct recollection of this being the same William Johnson with whom he was acquainted during the revolutionary war & that he saw the said Johnson at Eutaw Springs & to the best of affiant's knowledge recollection & belief said Johnson was in that engagement or battle and was under the command of General Greene -- This affiant was there or nearby though not actually in the battle being posted at some distance with others as a guard to the baggage & stores of a portion of the Army the Father of this affiant was killed in that. This affiant is certain that this same William Johnson was afterwards with General Pickens -- other forces marched off to a place called 96 and this affiant also saw him occasionally at that place -- There has been a great lapse of time since my first acquaintance with said Johnson and affiant was quite a youth at the time & he will not undertake swear positively as to the exact dates or distances so long ago but he knows & recollects this William Johnson not only by the appearance of his frame & features but from hearing him relate several little things that makes his recollection more distinct in conversation with him some time since & affiant is satisfied from the best recollection he has that said Johnson from the different times, places &c that he saw him in the Army must have been in actual service as a soldier in the revolution eight or nine years -- said Johnson was from Edgefield & this affiant was from Newberry District in South Carolina. This affiant introduced himself to said Johnson on meeting in this County because he thought from his appearance & hearing his name seeing his age &c that he must be the same William Johnson that he had seen at & since the Eutaw Battle & knew in their young days & is now satisfied that he is the same man & has not the least doubt of it. -- This affiant must state also that he had not seen the said Johnson for some 45 years before he came to this County this affiant moved directly from Newberry to this County -- and the said Johnson as he is informed & believed moved from Edgefield to Georgia near Savannah & thence to Florida & then to this State & County so that we have them long separated, until he is here.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 6th July 1848

S/ G. P. Massey, JP

S/ John F. Hoggle, X his mark

[Facts in file: in 1848, Veteran was living in Perry County, Alabama; refers to having 4 children, one a daughter with whom he lived, she being a widow—no names given for any children; veteran's father-in-law was Moses Prestcott [sic, Prescott? or Prescoat?], though his wife is not named in the file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$55.55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & Sergeant for one year and 2 months in 20 days in the South Carolina militia.]