

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Johnston (Johnson) S13585 & R5614 Hannah Johnston f37NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/28/08: rev'd 2/22/16

[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 'indcipherable' 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 4]

State of North Carolina, County of Ashe: Superior Court of Law Spring Term 1834

On this the 19th day of March 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before His Honor Robert Strange Judge of the Court now sitting for the said County of Ashe, Francis Johnson [sic], a resident of the said County aged 73 years in January last, 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 7, A.D. 1832.

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

That he first entered the service of the United States as a volunteer militia man for a tour of 3 [months?], in the County of Rowan in North Carolina, in the latter in the year 1778 -- under Captain John Sloan [Johnson Sloan], Lieutenant Walter Sharpe, under Colonel Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] of Rowan -- the militia organized at Charlotte in Mecklenburg County NC whence they marched to Camden in South Carolina, thence to the vicinity of Charleston in the early part of the year 1779 -- and after some time marched towards Savannah in Georgia, the British being there posted at that time, and a few days were marched back towards Charleston, on account of Tories doing mischief -- remained a few days at a small town called Dodgester [sic, Dorchester] near Bacon's Bridge on Ashley River -- where his first tour of service expired he having served during the whole of the said tour of three months as orderly Sergeant.

That he immediately again entered the service as volunteer for six months, near Charleston under a Continental Captain whose name was Michael McQueen [Michael Quinn], Lieutenant James Clark, under the command of Colonel William Montell who was employed in directing fortifications at that place. This was in the Spring of 1779 -- There being a Regiment of NC militia Commanded by Colonel Archibald Litles [Lytle] of Hillsboro NC -- who was a regular officer as this applicant believes: -- having served till the beginning of September, when Count d'Estaing landed his forces and joined General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] -- and laid siege to Savannah [September 16-October 18, 1779] -- where Count Pulaski fell -- General Lincoln then marched to Charleston, where General Huggins with his Regiment from the North joined him -- Sir Henry Clinton arrived and landed his forces in the vicinity of Charleston in February 1780 about which time or not long before, the six months tour for which this applicant had engaged expired -- during the whole of which service this applicant served as a private, and continued with the Army until the landing of Clinton as aforesaid -- at which time Captain George Lowman [John George Lowman] from Salisbury NC and Captain Barnet Pullum

[Barnett Pulliam] from Granville County NC (both said captains having been of Colonel Lytle's Regiment -- most of the militia being then discharged) beat up for volunteers -- each raised a company for three months service, in order to see the event of the siege of Charleston then expected -- this applicant volunteered then and there under the said Captain George Lowman for three months -- received the appointment of sergeant major in which capacity he served until Charleston fell into the hands of the Enemy [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780]. This applicant in the capacity aforesaid and under the said General Lincoln was stationed in Charleston when Governor Moultrie [William Moultrie] -- then acting as Colonel with his brave comrades defended the Fort of Sullivan's Island against the attack of the British Squadron, when the British ship *Action* was blown up.¹ On the 30th day of March Clinton fronted [?] Charleston by land between Ashley & Cooper rivers & commenced Blockading the town -- then a detachment of 800 [could be 300] men was ordered up Cooper River to a place called Hobcoy point [sic, Hobcaw or Lampriers Point], to guard said place in order to secure an opening to the town -- this applicant was sent with said detachment, commanded by Captain William Hughes & Major Johnson this was in April 1780 -- the said detachment defended the place aforesaid as long as could be done the Enemy having demanded a surrender of the fort -- which was refused and an engagement ensued which resulted in a repulse of the enemy, but the next evening the British Army being close at hand & threatening to take the little fort by storm, the defendants, abandoned the place for Charleston in small boats on Cooper River -- the boat containing this applicant and 75 others of the detachment aforesaid, fell into the hands of the enemy that night, and was conveyed to the British fleet and held as prisoners of war on board the *Renown* a 50 gun Ship of the said fleet -- thence taken across the Bay to John's Island & on by land 16 miles to Stono Harbor where the British Squadron then lay -- where this applicant -- was put on board a prison ship and detained until after the surrender of Charleston, on 11 of May 1780 [sic, May 12, 1780] -- In June he was taken to Charleston then in possession of the foe at that time most of the militia prisoners were paroled, and this applicant also applied for a parole but was refused in consequence of his being an officer & that he was not in the capitulation, he being prisoner before -- he was there detained as prisoner until some time in July when he effected his escape from Charleston & came home to Rowan County North Carolina. -- After the battle at Guilford C. H. N. C. in March 1781 [March 15, 1781] -- there being a call for volunteers -- This applicant again volunteered for three months -- in the month of June 1781 under Captain Richard Dowel [Richard Dowell], & Colonel Francis Lock [sic, Francis Locke] -- in Rowan County marched on to South Carolina & put under the command of Colonel Malmedei [sic, Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] a Frenchman -- joined the Army under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] in the first of August -- in this tour I served as a private until the 8th of September, when this applicant was appointed Lieutenant -- & was immediately marched to part [?] the Enemy's lines at the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]² -- where the battle commenced -- between the British under General Stewart [Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Stewart] & the Americans under General Greene in the said battle this applicant was wounded by a shot in the left elbow -- which wound has ever since deprived him of the use of his left arm he was then conveyed to the Hospital in Camden thence sent home to Rowan County NC and was confined in consequence of his wound for more than [than] twelve months --

This applicant from great age and the consequent loss of memory cannot precisely state

¹ Applicant is confusing Moultrie's defense of Sullivan's Island which occurred when the British first attempted to take Charleston in the summer of 1776 with the later siege of Charleston in the late winter and early spring of 1780.

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

the whole of his service -- but swears that they he served as above stated at least --

3 months first tour -- as orderly Sergeant

6 months 2nd do -- as private

5 do 3rd do -- including in imprisonment as Sergeant major

3 months -- 4th tour as private

1 day as Lieutenant

In all 17—1 day

besides the time and the Hospital &c in consequence of his wound --

Answer to 1 Question -- I was born in Bute County NC in the year 1761

2 do -- I had a record of my age made in my father's Bible, which Bible is now in possession of a niece of this applicant and a copy of the said record is in my possession at my house

3 do I lived in Rowan County NC when first called into service, since the Revolutionary War I lived in the same vicinity until the year 1815 when I removed to Ashe County NC where I am now reside.

4 I volunteered every time

5 besides the officers already mentioned I knew General Marion [Francis Marion], Pickens [Andrew Pickens], Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], Colonels Campbell [William Campbell], Williams [probably Otho Williams], Lee [probably Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], and Anderson [probably Robert Anderson], William Washington of the Lt. Horse -- all officers of the line -- and as this applicant believes that most of these were with him in the battle at the Eutaw Springs --

6. -- I never received a written discharge except one given by Colonel William Montell at Charleston -- which discharge is lost or mislaid long ago --

I received no commission as Lieutenant being wounded & disabled the day after appointment to that office

I did receive from Colonel Lytle a commission or some writing confirming the office of Sergeant major -- which writing is also lost or mislaid

My service were [sic] proven in Salisbury Rowan County North Carolina, by those who served with me at Eutaw Springs -- and as to my services at Charleston & other places I know of no person now living by whom I can prove the same except by my own oath --

I first obtained a state pension of \$3 per month on account of my wounds -- which pension in 1822 was transferred to the Gen. Government, and I am now on the pension Roll of the agency of North Carolina as per Certificate in my possession which was given at the war office of the United States on the 3rd of December 1822 registered in Book B Vol. 9 Page 12 -- at \$4.80/100 per month --

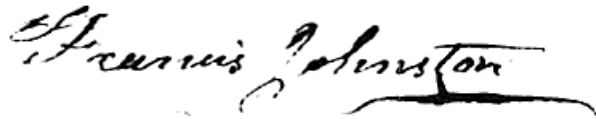
He relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state territory or district except as above mentioned on the rolls of the North Carolina agency -- which he does not relinquish if he can consistent with the laws of his country claim that in addition to the present claim --

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year first above written

I am well known to Colonel George Bower and John Gambill persons of my neighborhood who can & citizens of my neighborhood who will testify as to my veracity & their belief of my services.

Test.

S/ Francis Johnston



S/ R. Gentry, Clk


[George Bower & John Gambill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: On February 1847 in Ashe County, North Carolina, Hannah Johnston, widow of Francis Johnston, filed stating that her husband died September 22, 1846 in the 86th year of his age a pensioner of the US at the rate of \$4.80/month; that she married her husband on December 22, 1807 in Wilkes County, NC by Wm. P. Waugh, JP. This document she signed with her mark.]

[p 11: On June 30, 1853 in Schuyler County Missouri, Hannah Johnston, 72, made claim for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Francis Johnston a pensioner of the United States; that she married him December 22 1807; that her husband died September 22, 1846.



[p 33: On June 30, 1853 in Schuyler County Missouri, James Johnston gave testimony that he is 28 years old and the son of Francis and Hannah Johnston; that the following is a true copy of the family record now into possession of the family "Francis Johnston & Hannah his wife was married the 22nd December 1807"



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$65.44 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private, Sergeant & Lieutenant for 17 months and one day in the North Carolina Continental line and militia.]