

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Johnston (Johnson) S15482

f13NC[SC]

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 Kentucky, Nelson County court

Be it remembered that upon this 10th day of March in the year 1834, personally appeared in open court Robert Johnson aged eighty-four years a citizen of Nelson County Kentucky and in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the United States passed in the year 1832, granting pensions & further benefit of certain officers and soldiers of the Revolution and being sworn upon his oath makes the following declaration.

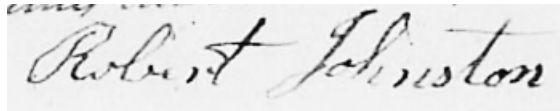
That in the year 1775, he was a citizen of South Carolina and resided near Camden. That in the fall of the year 1775, he cannot state the precise day but believes it was in the month of September and the last of the month he entered the service as a private Militia man for a tour of duty of three months in the company commanded by Captain Drakeford and the first Lieutenant was John Landing, our principal commander was Colonel Richardson [Richard Richardson]. The troops were marched up on Reedy River and near a large Cane break on said River we took some Tories prisoners who had joined the King, these Tories were called Scofle Ites.¹ The troops to which he was attached continued their services in different sections of the country in suppressing and dispersing the Tories for the full term of three months at the termination of which time this affiant was discharged And he states that although he cannot remember the precise day he entered into the military service of the United States or quit it under this engagement he states positively that he served for the full period for which he entered and that was for three months. After this tour the affiant moved to Roan [sic, Rowan] County State of North Carolina and in the year 1776 in the fall of that year and after he had raised his crop, to wit on the first of September as near as he can recollect for he will not be positive as to the precise day, he again entered the public service as a private Militia man in the company commanded by Samuel Young our company was under the command of General Griffin Rutherford [sic, Griffith Rutherford] of said County of Rowan, the troops to which he was attached during this War was stationed upon the Catawba River and remained there some time to guard the frontier against the

¹ **Scofolite, Scoffelites, Scopholites, Scovelites or Coffelites (Joseph Coffell):** A name given to white Tories who dressed up like Indians when attacking patriot fortifications in the hope of deflecting their neighbors' animosity away from themselves and onto the Cherokees who constituted a constant threat to the frontier settlers prior to and throughout the period of the Revolutionary War. The name derived from Joseph Scoffel, a Tory, who was active in the loyalist cause from an early period of the war. For an excellent discussion of the "Scoffol Lights," see, Rachel N. Klein, "Frontier Planters and the American Revolution: The South Carolina Backcountry, 1775-1782," in Ronald Hoffman, Thad W. Tate and Peter J. Albert, eds., *An Uncivil War: The Southern Backcountry During the American Revolution*, (Charlottesville: United States Capitol Historical Society by The University Press of Virginia, 1985), 37-69.

Indians and we were afterwards marched into the Cherokee Country against the said Cherokee Indians the troops marched as far as the Over-hill towns, we destroyed the corn and other property of the Indians in this tour and that other places After destroying the Indian towns and property the troops returned and were discharged, this affiant returned to the County of Rowan having faithfully served upon this tour before period of three months as a private in the manner stated.²

In the year 1781, he was still a resident of North Carolina, he had moved and resided on the Catawba River when he was called upon by his Country again to enter her service and he United himself under the command of Captain Walker [George Walker], and was marched from his residence in Burke County in Stationed at a Fort situated above the Quaker Meadows near the Blue Ridge. There were thirty men stationed at this Fort as a guard under Walker and this affiant remained in the military service of his country upon this tour for the full period of three months, the time for which he entered and was honorably discharged from the service on the termination of each tour but he has lost his discharge having long since lost or mislaid the same, nor has he any written evidence of his service nor does he know that he can prove the fact of his actual service by any living witness. He moved to Kentucky in the fall of 1783 and has resided here ever. He is known personally to many of the citizens of Nelson County to wit the Honorable Benjamin Hardin now a member of Congress C. A. Wickliffe formerly a member of Congress, John Rowan Esquire & others and also to James and William Settles. He states that he served in all three tours of duty of three months each, and in all nine months as a private soldier in the militia of the United States. That he is not upon the pension Roll of any State or of the United States and hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension other than the one now claim.

Signed _____ Robert Johnston

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

[Alexander Hunter, James Settle, William Settle, and Stanislaus Hayden gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Isaac Taylor at the clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina and South Carolina militia.]

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html