

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Johnston (Johnson) S16168

f30NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/28/08 rev'd 10/30/08 & rev'd 2/23/16

[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 5]

State of Tennessee, Knox County

On this 13th day of August 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before me Samuel Powell one of the Circuit Judges of law and Equity in and for the said State of Tennessee and for the first Judicial Circuit now sitting James Johnston a resident of the County and State aforesaid and the said County & State aged Seventy Six 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 That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated He lived in McLinburgh [sic, Mecklenburg] County North Carolina at that place in the first week of May 1780 he volunteered under Captain Samuel Flanigin [sic, Samuel Flenniken or Flennekin or Flanagan] & Major William Davy [sic, William Richardson Davie] in a company called the County rainger [Rangers] we reconnoitered to the Country generally in search of Tories went to Ramsour's Mill got there after the battle [June 20, 1780]¹ there in the last week of July in the upper and of South Carolina on Waxhaw Creek we caught and killed eight Tories while they were in the act of plundering a Whig's house the Whig's name not recollected on the 5th day of August 1780 Colonel Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and Colonel Erwin [Robert Irwin] Joined us at Lands Ford on the Catawby [sic, Catawba] River and on the 6th we attacked & defeated the British and Tories at the Hanging Rock [Battle of Hanging Rock]² and took possession of their camp we continued on in quest of the Tories and [p 7] British till the first week in October 1780 we were then honorably but verbally discharged served six months

Again at the same place in the first week in October 1781 volunteered under Captain James Osburn [sic, James Osborn] and Colonel Robert Erwin's [Robert Irwin's] Regiment of Riflemen marched to the Eastern border of North Carolina on the River after the Tories stayed in that part of the State three months Cornwallace [Cornwallis] being captured³ the Tories became peasable [sic, peaceable?] and we were then honorably but verbally discharged served three months in the whole served nine months

He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his actual service 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

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

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

³ Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown on October 19, 1781

agency of any State and that there is no clergyman residing amedrately [immediately] in his neighborhood nor he knows of none but whom he can prove the report of his service

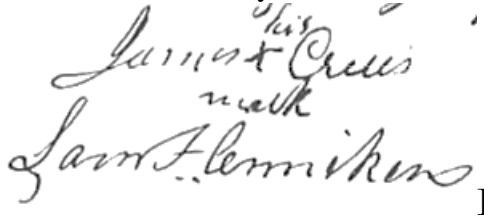
Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

S/ Wm Swan, Clk

S/ James Johnston



[James Cruse and Samuel Flenniken⁴ gave the standard supporting affidavit: and “they further state that they heard Captain Samuel Flanigin [sic, Samuel Flenniken] state that the said Johnston served one tour of duty under him during the Revolutionary war and that he was a good soldier.”



[p 16]

An appendix to James Johnson's [sic] application for a pension which application bears date August 13th, 1832 and was numbered in the War Department 3939 and sent back for amendment State of Tennessee, Knox County

Personally appeared before me Elijah Johnson one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for the said County of Knox and State of Tennessee James Johnson a resident of the said County and State who after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is the same James Johnson who subscribed and swore to the said declaration above mentioned

That he was born in the State of Pennsylvania on the waters of Delaware River the name of the County not recollected on the 5th of October 1755

That he has a Record of his age in his family bible at home He continued to live in McLinburgh County North Carolina till in the fall of 1789 at which time he moved into Knox County State of Tennessee and has lived there & and still continues to live there

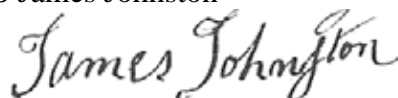
That he never did receive a Commission

He believes that in addition to James Cruse and Samuel Flanagan who certify for him he can prove by Robert Houston David Dearmand John McCammon and a number of others of his acquaintance & present neighbors too tedious to mention that that he is a man of veracity and that they believe him to have been a soldier of the revolution He had no acquaintance with the regular officers or Continental or military regiments except his own Regiment but what is stated in his declaration

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 10th day of November 1832

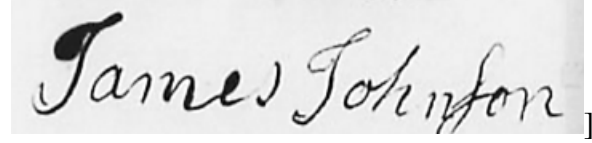
S/ Elijah Johnson, A Justice of the Court of Pleas
and Quarter Sessions

S James Johnston



⁴ This witness clearly signed his name “Sam Flenniken”]

[p 4: In March 1835, Johnston had moved to Carroll County, Indiana and requested the transfer of his pension benefits stating as his reason for moving that his only son had removed to Indiana and he wished to reside with his son [not named]. He signed this document "James Johnson".

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Johnson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The first letter of "James" is a large, decorative capital. The signature ends with a small vertical stroke.

[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 independent horse company.]