

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Hardy Johnson S16428

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 Georgia, County of Houston

On this 24th day of April in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Christopher B. Strong Judge of the Superior Court in and for the County aforesaid, now sitting, Hardy Johnson a resident and Citizen of the said State and County, aged in and about Seventy-five 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, to wit, in Wake County in the State of North Carolina, the day and month not recollected, but he thinks about two months previous to the Battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] in said State of North Carolina, this deponent was drafted to serve a three months Tour & was mustered in the Company commanded by Captain Thomas Philips [Thomas Phillips], at Raleigh in said County of Wake & proceeded thence to Guilford Court House where the said Company to which the deponent belonged was assigned to the Command of Captain Edward Gwinn who as deponent is informed had been a Captain in the Continental line of North Carolina -- Said Company was attached to the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Taylor [Joseph Taylor] (His Christian name not recollected if ever known by deponent) of the Militia under the Command of General Butler [John Butler] -- The Deponent was in the Battle, at Guilford Court House before named, and during the engagement, Colonel Taylor was immediately in the rear of this Deponent, encouraging & urging the Soldiers to fight bravely, which they did do, General Greene [Nathanael Greene] on that occasion conducted the operations of the American forces, but more immediately Commanded the Regular Troops -- The deponent recollects General Greene, he was of larger stature then common and his countenance was rather pleasing than otherwise and indicated mildness of temper and disposition. The deponent saw him a few days before said Battle when his passions were very much excited in consequence of one of the Soldiers improperly discharging his musket whereby one of the men was killed, -- on that occasion he acted with a sternness and decision, and seeming determination to punish exemplarily the offender, until he ascertained it was accidental merely. In the early part of the succeeding fall, & after the deponent had accomplished and was discharged from the before mentioned tour, the deponent was again drafted and mustered into service at Raleigh in the said County of Wake North Carolina under the Command of Captain Robert High, and was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Moore [William Moore] and the before named General Butler was the General in Command -- the said Company proceeded towards Wilmington North Carolina & remained in the neighborhood of that City until it was evacuated by the enemy -- The

last mentioned Service was a three months tour -- The deponent served two tours of three months each as before mentioned & received regular discharges for the same, -- which discharges have long since been destroyed & cannot be produced by this deponent -- The deponent contributed the sum of Ninety dollars in employing two substitutes to serve in the Army of the United States for two years & six months and was thereby exempted from a draft himself -- This was some three years or about that length of time before the Battle of Guilford Court House -- The circumstances of the aforesaid contribution were these, it was proposed by the then Military Authorities that every twelve men who would employ one Substitute would be exempt from Draft for the space of time for which such Substitute might be employed, and the deponent & others employed substitutes as before named and each paid the sum of ninety dollars for the services of the two substitutes. The deponent was born in Cumberland County State of North Carolina, about the year 1757 or '58, according to the statements of his Parents -- The deponent has no recollection that any record was ever kept of his age -- The deponent during the Revolutionary War was a citizen of & resident within (except while in service as before stated) Wake County in the State of North Carolina -- Shortly after the Conclusion of said War the deponent removed to the State of Georgia in which he has resided ever since -- The deponent did serve as herein before stated, but has no evidence of his said Service that he can procure at this time his said discharges having been long since destroyed -- The deponent was not with soldiers of the Continental line excepting at the Battle of Guilford Court House, & he has forgotten the names of the Regular officers whom he then saw excepting that of General Greene -- The deponent is acquainted with Isaac Norris, Benjamin Webb, James Dixon, and others his neighbors who can testify as to the deponent's character for veracity & their belief of his services as before stated -- The deponent 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, or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of Georgia.

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

S/ C. B. Strong, O. Judge

S/ Hardy Johnson, X his mark

[Isaac Norris, a clergyman, and Reuben Runnels gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Georgia, Houston County

On this twenty-fourth day of August in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared before me James Holderness a Justice of the Peace in & for the said County, Hardy Johnson the Declarant named in the foregoing Declaration, who being duly sworn deposes and says (By way of amendment to the said foregoing Declaration). The first three months tour of service served by the deponent has stated in the said Declaration, was about that period of the Revolutionary War in which the battle of Guilford Court House was fought. The deponent was in said Battle, and has detailed in said Declaration the circumstances of his said first tour of three months service -- That the second and last tour of three months service served by deponent was about that period of the said Revolutionary War in which Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington at the Siege of Yorktown in Virginia [October 19, 1781] -- the deponent was in Camps when information arrived of the said Surrender, near Wilmington North Carolina -- The British forces about the same time evacuated Wilmington -- The deponent knows of no person living and can find no person that he knows of, by whom he can prove the facts stated in said Declaration or in this amendment thereof -- During the last Tour that deponent served Colonel ___

Moore commanded the Regiment to which deponent belonged, -- the names of the other officers under whom deponent served are contained in said Declaration -- And in answer to the Interrogatories annexed to the instructions accompanying the Brief submitted to this deponent by J. L. Edwards Esquire Commissioner of Pensions, this deponent answers & says

1. That he was born in the County of Cumberland and State of North Carolina about the year 1758, as he has been informed by his parents --
2. He does not know that any record of his age was ever kept by his parents, -- he thinks not.
3. At the time Deponent was called into service he resided in Wake County in the State North Carolina, -- And that shortly after the expiration of his second Tour of service, about fifty-one years ago he removed from Wake County North Carolina where he then lived to Burke County in the State of Georgia, -- he resided in Burke County several years & then removed to Emanuel County in the said State of Georgia where he resided between thirty & forty years, and then he removed to the said County of Houston Georgia where he now lives.
4. That he was drafted both tours
5. That he has stated the name of General Greene as the only Continental officer whom he knew by sight & whose name he at this time remembers -- The Circumstances of his service are detailed in the Declaration of which this is amendatory
6. That he received regular Discharges, but they are lost or destroyed. --
7. That he has already stated in said Declaration the names of persons acquainted with him.

Personally sworn to & subscribed before me this 24th day of August A.D. 1833

S/ James Holderness, JP

S/ Hardy Johnson, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]