

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Johnson S16896

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/3/14

[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.]

[Note: The scribe who wrote the following application liberally used parentheticals but, unfortunately, not in any consistent manner. Because of the potential changes in meaning attributable to his use of parentheticals, I have preserved them being totally befuddled as to how the scribe intended them to be interpreted. You will notice that there are many instances of a parenthetical being opened and/or closed but not matched by its opposite marking.]

State of Alabama Greene County: SS

On this 5th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 – personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Thomas F Moody Judge of the County Court of Greene County and State of Alabama now sitting Richard Johnson a resident of the County of Greene and State of Alabama aged seventy seventy-two [sic] 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 the 7th of June 1832 –

That he has no record of his age (but from the best information he can obtain) is seventy-two years old, was born in Southampton County in the State of Virginia in the year 1760 and entered the service of the United States in his fifteenth year which was in the year 1775 (the day, nor precise month recollected) that from his best information and belief it was some little time before Christmas of that year a substitute in place of his brother Jordan Johnson in the County of Southampton and State of Virginia under Joshua Nicholls a Captain of the militia of that State and Howel Merrick Lieutenant (no other company officers names recollected) in the Service of the United States, and first marched to Portsmouth Virginia through the Isle of Wight and Nansemond Counties under the said Captain Nicholls and Lieutenant Merrick a substitute as aforesaid in the militia of that state and service of the United States, and turned at that place under the aforesaid Company officers of the militia (Commanded by Field officers General Mulenburg [Peter Muhlenberg] (and he believes a Major McCloman) no Colonel's name recollected) having served then some six or eight weeks his term of service expired he was discharged by his officers and returned home to his father's residence in Southampton County Virginia (he believes sometime in the latter part of that winter (being the fore part of the year 1776 (no battles or other particular occurrence his having taken place among them (neither does he recollect of any in that Section of the Country to have taken place) –

And this Applicant further saith that in some eight or ten months after he again entered the service of the United States in the County of Southampton and State of Virginia under a Captain Whitehead (no other company officers name recollected) of the militia of that State in

the service of the United States, still a substitute in place of his brother) and marched to Suffolk Virginia under the aforementioned Captain &c through the Isle of Wight (and probably some part of Nansemond) Counties (time not remembered) they are commanded by Field Officers Colonel Parker (as he believes) and who he believes) was chief commander at that place) if he was under any General it was General Muhlenberg for he does not recollect that he was ever under any other General) no other field officers names recollected) that he stayed mostly at Suffolk the aforementioned officers as well as he recollects) his term of service having expired he was again discharged and returned home in Southampton County (term not recollected) (no battles (or occurrences having taken place among them) But the campaign must have been sometime in the winter of 1777 & 8) –

And this applicant further saith that the third campaign in which he entered (time not recollected) was in the County of Southampton and State of Virginia as a drafted militia man under Captain Shadrach Lewis Lieutenant Thomas Vaughan and Cordy Rowe (Ensign) Company officers of the militia of that state and in the service of the United States) and marched under them to a place called Munde's [?] old field (he believes in the County of Isle of Wight and extensive place of rendezvous, then commanded by Field officers Colonel Wells & Major Daniel Duvall and none others recollected) he was frequently stationed off from that place (when it was thought requisite) but it was his general place of parade &c, for six or eight weeks (time not remembered) the time of his service) and that time – having expired he was again discharged by his officers and returned home to Southampton County (time not recollected) nor any battles or occurrences recollected to have taken place with or near them) – during that campaign) –

And this applicant further saith that his fourth campaign in which he entered was in the County of Southampton and State of Virginia a drafted militia man under Captain Boykin of the militia of that State and in the service of the United States and he (believes a Lieutenant Boykin) no other Company officers names recollected) and marched under them (he believes) to a place called Sholders Hill in the County of Isle of Wight not far from Smithfield and near James River (time not recollected) commanded there by Field Officers Colonel Benjamin Blount (none others recollected) that he was moved from place to place and under different officers) but their names not recollected) for divers of purposes in annoying and even dating the British & Tories and recollects of having been at the taking of a small Brig a Barge or Sail Boat (the name of – nor commander's name recollected) during this campaign at the high banks of James River, having been placed under Captain Elias Herran and Lieutenant Young of the militia to guard a Colonel Burrell's possessions on said River (he having been greatly disturbed by the British and Tories the events which led to the taking of said Brig or &c, was that the same having privately taken 2 Negroes of Colonel Burrell's who were engaged in making a fish wear, on said River (day the guard were quickly informed of it, and hastened to the place (and saw the boat going down the River it was hailed by Lieutenant Young (with whom he was then under the command having been stationed off as a company guard) by Captain Herren, the continued to keep sail a fire was ordered and immediately given, which being heard by Captain Herren and company who immediately formed and advanced to the River and fired on them and killed one man) but they was then in the act of surrendering (they were accordingly taken and the Captain declared he was a true week and only took the Negroes in order to see if they would go with the British & Tories provided they were to come & that he intended returning them again)... A court martial was held the next morning they were tried and dismissed (on what grounds he does not recollect) from this he remained some time on the banks of James River and likewise at Sholders Hill (time not recollected) until his brother Jordan Johnson – for whom he first went into the service for came

and took his place in reciprocation of his former services for him, (he does not recollect) of having ever been with any other soldiers than those of the militia (or of ever having received a written discharge) he returned home to Southampton County Virginia the place of his residence his brother remained in the service until the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] at Georgetown which was not a great while after – his final leave of the service,

This Applicant further states that his whole term of service was including the four campaigns at least six months.

And that he has lived ever since the revolution in the County of Southampton Virginia until the year 1800, when he moved to Johnston County North Carolina and remained there until the fall of 1823 from that time he moved to Greene County Alabama & where he has resided ever since and where he now resides –

And this applicant further states in answer to the further interrogatories to him propounded by the Court – saith &c

That the same is all answered in his declaration so far as he has any knowledge or recollection of the same,

This applicant further states that he is known in his present neighborhood by Hugh McCann, James Yeates & James McCarter & Parson) Ryan who can testify as to his veracity and a belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

And the applicant further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services (Norton knows of any person living whose testimony he can procure to testify to his services, And that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory (only as he now applieth).

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/ Richard Johnson, X his mark

[Hugh McCann & James McCarter gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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