

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Johnson S18060

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/20/08: rev'd 2/7/16

[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.]

South Carolina, Sumter District & County of Salem: SS

On the Fourth day of November Personally appeared in open Court before Richard Gantt one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions for Sumter District now sitting Elijah Johnson Senior a resident of Salem County in Sumter District South Carolina aged Seventy-nine 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; This deponent saith that he entered the service of the United States in the latter part of the year 1777 or in the early part of the year 1778 (that he cannot pretend to say positively which) as a volunteer he was at that time a resident of Dobbs County North Carolina and served under the command of General Caswell [Richard Caswell] Colonel Abram Sheppard [Abraham Sheppard] commanded the Regiment in Captain Benjamin Sheppard the Company to which he was attached; our Army embodied at Boss Ferry on Neuse River marched thence to Moore's Creek by the way of Elizabeth Town, at Moore's Creek we had a severe engagement [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776]¹ with a large body of the Tories whom we defeated with great slaughter; The engagement took place from opposite sides of the Creek and was brought on by an attempt on the part of the Tories to cross a Bridge in front of which we had erected strong Breastworks having previously taken up the planks from that half of the bridge nearest to us. I never knew accurately the number of forces engaged on either side but as near as I can conjecture the Whigs amounted to four or five hundred. The Tories were thought to have been much more numerous; Having performed the service for which we had volunteered, we were discharged after a term of three weeks Service then deponent further saith that he Volunteered a second time on the 10th of November 1778 for the term of five months under the command of General Ash [sic, John Ashe] who had been appointed to act against the British who were over running Georgia Lieutenant General Bryant [William Bryan] was 2nd in command in this expedition Colonel William Caswell commanded the Regiment in Captain McInvane [John Stringer McIlwaine] the Company to which I belonged our troops embodied at Kinston Dobbs County North Carolina we marched thence through the lower part of South Carolina drew our arms near Charleston proceeded to the Savannah River crossed it two miles below Augusta followed the British down the Savannah had an engagement with them at Briar Creek [Briar Creek, March 3, 1779],² were surprised and defeated; our forces in this engagement amounted to

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

² <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

1500 Militia and volunteers about 250 Continentals & 200 French; I was not acquainted with the names of any of the Officers who commanded the latter; as we were not permitted to mingle in consequence of a jealousy & rivalry that existed between the volunteers and Continentals and which frequently lead to blows & riot having performed my five months term of service I was again discharged; In the year 1781 he was called out under the command of Colonel Sheppard & Captain Gailard to prevent the Town of Newbern [New Bern] from falling into the hands of the British in which service he continued for the space of ten days. In the two first terms of service above alluded to I served as a Volunteer ^{and Sergeant} & both times received a discharge which he destroyed a few years ago under the impression that they would never be of any Service to him. This deponent further saith that he has a record of his age in his own possession that he was born in the State of North Carolina April 13th, 1754 was raised in Dobbs County of that State and continued to reside there until 1816 when he removed to Sumter District Salem County South Carolina where he remained ever since; This deponent further saith that Thomas Roe, John Wilson and John Kinder are persons to whom I am well known in my present neighborhood and who can testify to my character for veracity & their belief that I was a Soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court before

S/ Richard Gantt, Presiding Judge

S/ Elijah Johnson



[p 3: John Cousar, a clergyman, and William McIntosh gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 18]

State of South Carolina Sumter District

Personally came before me John Wilson and upon being duly Sworn Saith on Oath that He recollects hearing his Father say that he was with Elijah Johnson in the revolutionary war and that they were together in the Battle at Briar Creek under General Ashe and General Bryan and Colonel William Caswell. Sworn to this the 27th day of November 1832

S/ John Wilson



[p 16]

Georgia, Washington County

Personally appeared in the Inferior Court then sitting in on for the said County Augustin Wilson³ who being duly sworn saith upon oath that the deponent was personally acquainted with Elijah Johnson while living in Dobbs County North Carolina and for some time before the Revolutionary War commenced and though deponent cannot distinctly recollect for what term of service he the said Johnson may have volunteered or enlisted -- yet deponent is convinced that he

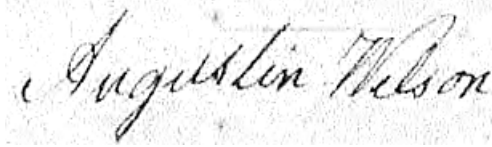
³ [Augustin Wilson S7920](#)

the said Johnson and this deponent were fellow soldiers for at least six months and deponent saith that further that the said Johnson was with him in the Battle of Briar Creek in this State and knows further that said Johnson conducted himself in a patriotic and soldier like manner during his term of service which term began as deponent believes in the year 1778 under the command of General Caswell -- this deponent saith that said Johnson may have been in the 23rd year of his age.

Sworn to in open Court this 10th May 1833.

S/ Silas Floyd, JIC

S/ Augustin Wilson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Augustin Wilson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a prominent initial 'A'.

S/ James Boatright, JIC

S/ Samuel Robison, JIC

[Elijah Baker and Manoah Patrick gave testimony as to the creditworthiness of Augustin Wilson as a witness citing that he is a man of truth and a respectable member of the Baptist Church.]

[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.]