

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Johnston (Johnson) S18062

f12SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 11/17/08: rev'd 2/26/16 & 2/20/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

South Carolina, District of Fairfield

On this twenty second day of June in the year of our Lord 1835, personally appeared in open Court, before John R. Buchanan, Judge of the Court of Ordinary in and for Fairfield District and State aforesaid, now sitting, William Johnston a resident of said District of Fairfield, in the State aforesaid, 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 deponent was born in the State of Virginia, and near the Shenandoah River, but having left that State when four or five years of age he does not know the name of the County. That deponent was born in the year 1759 and in the month of March. That deponent has now in his possession a Bible which was given to deponent by deponent's grandfather by the mother, William Roden. That deponent's age is entered in this Bible, and agrees with the age he herein given. The deponent believes the entry was made in the Bible by his said grandfather William Roden.

That deponent was living in Fairfield District, in the State of South Carolina, on the South prong of Little Wateree Creek, when called into service. That deponent has lived in the same place ever since that period, and still lives there.

That deponent was attached to Captain Charles Lewis's Company (Militia Infantry) which company was divided into three equal parts or divisions. That one division only was called out at one time. That deponent always went into service when the division to which he belonged was called on, and considers himself as a drafted whenever in service. Deponent Never received a discharge in writing from any officer or Commander. The troops were always discharged verbally by the Captain when the relief arrived.

That he deponent is well acquainted with Captain John Hollis,¹ William Lewis, Colonel Austin, F Peay, Joseph Caldwell and John Buchanan, who can testify as to deponent's character for veracity, and their belief of deponent's services as a soldier of the revolution.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

First Tour. The first tour performed was under Captain Charles Lewis. He was the Captain commanding. The Company met in Winnsborough and marched into the Dutch fork in

¹ [John Hollis S21827](#)

Lexington District, crossing Broad River at Shirey's ferry [sic, Shirers Ferry²]. Deponent served this tour a private two months. The expedition was intended to keep the Tories in check. There were no regular or Continental soldiers there. Believes that Colonel John Winn was there, who was the Colonel of the Regiment. John Hollis was first Lieutenant (not in this tour) Charles Pickett was second Lieutenant and out this tour. This tour performed, in the spring and summer of 1775 or it may have been in 1776.

Second Tour: Was to Stono near Charleston South Carolina, no Continentals there excepting a Company of Pulaski's Cavalry. Colonel Richard Winn was present commanding his Regiment. There were more than one Regiment of Militia there. Colonel John Adair was there, commanding one Battalion of Colonel Lacy's [sic, Edward Lacey's] Regiment. The British and Tories were in a Fort at Stono. There was no battle fought. When Pulaski's men made an attempt to draw the Garrison out they were fired upon and one killed and one wounded. The deponent served two months as a private this tour. Charles Lewis commanded the Company. This tour in 1779.

Third Tour: Was to Coosawatchie [sic, Coosahatchie]. Captain Charles Lewis commanded the Company. Colonel John Winn commanded the Regiment and he and Regiment were out. Lay some time at Coosawatchie and thence marched to the Three Sisters ferry Savannah River, lay there some time and, served two months as a private this tour. No regular or Continentals seen this tour. This tour in 1779 or 1780.

Fourth Tour: Was to Wasmasaw [sic, Waccamaw?] in the lower part of South Carolina. Captain Charles Lewis commanded the Company and was out. No regular soldiers there. Part of several regiments out. The Regiment made up of parts of different regiments and commanded by Colonel Edward Lacey. Served two months as a private this time about the year 1781 or 1782.

Fifth Tour: Was to Saltketcher towards the last of the Revolutionary War about the year 1782 Colonel Richard Winn commanded the Regiment and was out. Was under John Hollis who then had the command of the Company. No regular soldiers there. Served three months as a private this tour.

Sixth Tour: Was performed in Fairfield and Chester Districts when General Gates was defeated near Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. Was under John Hollis who commanded the Company. Was on this or Fairfield side of the River, and served three months as a private this tour.

That deponent by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, cannot swear positively as to the date of service; nor can he swear positively as to the order in which the different tours were performed, but he is certain he served in all fourteen months at least as a private for which deponent claims a pension. That deponent served with an embodied corps in every tour mentioned, and was in the field, and that for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State excepting that of South Carolina.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Buchanan

S/ William Johnston, X his mark

[Thomas Hall, a clergyman, and John Buchanan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I John Hollis, residing in the District of Fairfield, in the State aforesaid, hereby Certify that I am

² <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/shirersfy.htm>

well acquainted with William Johnston who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that I believe him to be seventy-six years of age. That I knew him in the revolutionary war. That he served under me in the last two tours mentioned to wit the fifth and sixth. That the facts stated in reference to these tours are correct and true, and that I know said Johnston to be a man of veracity and standing as to truth, in his neighborhood, and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that I knew such to be the truth.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Hollis



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.67 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts³ relating to William Johnston (Johnson) pp25 & 29
Audited Account No. 4053 & 4080
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 2/10/23
[From AA No. 4053]

[p 15]

[Note: The top of the form is illegible as posted online]

[Book Q No. 513]

Mr. Wm Johnson [Sic] his Account of Militia Duty in 1782 for 104 days

Amounting to £7.8.6 Sterling

N:B: the Duty appears to be mostly certified by Lt. Hollis, though 54 Days was Performed under Capt. Lewis when the duty began or ended no mention is made

Ex^d. J. M^c. A. G. [Examined by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 16]

1782 The State of So. Carolina to William Johnson Dr. [Debtor]

[undeciphered word or words]

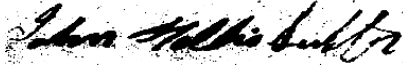
To 54 Day Service under the Command of Captain Lewis	£3.17.0
1 ^d [?] less 30 Days under Lieutenant Hollis	2.3
20 days under Ditto	1.8.6
	£7.8.6

Appeared William Johnson & made Oath that the Above Services is Justly Due to him from the State Sworn to before me this 4th Day of December 1783

S/ Charles Puckett, JP

Sertified by me John Hollis Lutt.

³ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.



[p 17]

1781 the State of South Carolina to Allen Goodrum⁴
To 78 Days Service under the command of Lut. Pickitt⁵

Dr. [Debtor]

Rec'd 24 May 1785, full Satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 513 - Q per Order
Thomas Lehre



[p 18]

Gentlemen/ Broad River May 23rd 1785

Pay Mr. Thomas Lehre, such Indent, or Indents, as may appear to be due me from the
State of South Carolina, Or from the United State, and this shall be your Sufficient Receipt for
the same

Witness

S/ Dd. Hopkins, JP

S/ Wm Johnson, W his mark

To the Commissioners of the Treasury
of the State of South Carolina

[From SC AA 4080]

[p 18]

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives

The humble petition of William Johnston of the State of South Carolina Fairfield District.
Sheweth

That your petitioner served as a Soldier in the militia of this State in the Revolutionary
War almost during the whole War.

Your petitioner received for his said Services but very Little Compensation. Your
petitioner is a poor man having but a small tract of Land and no slaves, – he is now Seventy three
years of Age and Large helpless family, mostly females, to support by his Labor.

Your petitioner therefore prays that your Honorable body will take his Case into
consideration & Grant him a pension for his Services, or make such other provision for him as to
your Honorable body may seem meet.⁶

And your petitioner will ever Pray

Witness

S/ Thomas Lumpkin

S/ William Johnston, X his mark

⁴ [Allen Goodrum SC3219](#) [I have no idea why this document is in this file.]

⁵ Probably either Lt. Charles Picket of the Fairfield Regiment or Lt. James Picket of the Turkey Creek Regiment, both of whom served under Capt. Charles Lewis.

⁶ In Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of 1755, the first definition of the word "meet" he gives is "Fit; proper...." Johnson noted that even at that time the word "meet" was rarely so used. It must have become fairly popular in South Carolina in the early 1800's, however, as it appears in many petitions submitted to the SC Legislature.

South Carolina

Fairfield District} Personally appeared before me William Johnston & made oath that the facts set forth in the above petition are true, that he was a faithful Soldier of the Revolutionary War As Stated, Sworn to before me this 18 day of November 1830

S/ Thomas Lumpkin, JP

S/ William Johnston, X his mark

[p 19]

South Carolina Fairfield District }

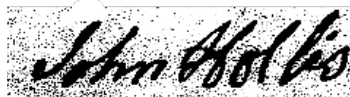
Personally appeared before me Captain John Hollis and made oath that he is well acquainted with the within petitioner William Johnston, & Knows that he did perform Several tours of duty in the Militia of this State during the Revolutionary War. The said Johnston Served one or two tours under the Command of Capt. Charles Lewis in whose Company Deponent was a Lieutenant, he afterwards served a tour of duty under the Command of deponent as Lieutenant, And after deponent was promoted to the Captaincy Said Johnston Served two tours of duty under him. He was a useful man & an active & faithful Soldier of the Revolutionary War, and was always on the Whig Side, deponent further Swears that said Johnston is now an old man in Low Circumstances – has a helpless family which he supports by his own Labor, deponent is of opinion said Johnston is entitled to the Kind Consideration of his Country in his advanced age.

Sworn to before me

this 16 day of November 1830

S/ Thomas Lumpkin, Q^m

S/ John Hollis



I do certify that I am well acquainted with the above named John Hollis that he is a highly respectable citizen and Entitled to the fullest credit the 18 of November 1830

S/ Thomas Lumpkin

[p 20]

State of South Carolina

Fairfield District} Personally appeared before me William Johnston and makes oath that the following Schedule contains all his property real & personal, to wit,

A Plantation of Hill Land containing	
about Three hundred Acres – value	\$250
Household & kitchen furniture – do –	25
A small Stock of Cattle & Hogs – do –	40
Two Horses – do –	<u>80</u>
	\$395

sworn to before me

this 18 day of November 1830

S/ Thomas Lumpkin Q^m

S/ William Johnston, X his mark

[p 22: The same petition as above except this one is addressed to the South Carolina Senate]

[p 24: Another copy of the affidavit given by Captain John Hollis as transcribed above]

[pp 25-29: Administrative documents reflecting the consideration by the South Carolina

legislature of the petitioner's prayer and ending with a receipt dated June 7, 1834 whereby an annuity of \$60 was paid to the veteran.]