

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathaniel Johnston (Johnson) S1841

f17NC

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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Tennessee, Bedford County: SS

On this tenth day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before Samuel Philips, John B. Armstrong and John L. Neill, Justices of the Quorum, appointed to hold the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Bedford County State of Tennessee for the year 1832 -- and now sitting, Nathaniel Johnston a resident of Bedford County & State of Tennessee aforesaid aged Seventy Six or Seventy Seven 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as hereinafter stated viz. -- He was born in Roan [sic, Rowan] County North Carolina in the year 1756 as he has been informed and believes -- in which County & State he resided until the year 1823 when he removed to the County of Bedford in the State of Tennessee where he has ever since and now resides. He first entered the Service of the United States in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, under Captain Brandon [John Brandon], the expedition was commanded as he believes by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], whether Rutherford was at the time of this expedition [Cherokee Expedition, August 1-November 1, 1776]<sup>1</sup> a Colonel or General he does not recollect. He entered the Service as a volunteer & served a five months Tour. They traversed that part of North Carolina now called East Tennessee, particularly the Country lying on Little Tennessee also the northern part of Georgia, through the Country lying on Tugaloo River -- burnt and destroyed the Indian towns & settlements on Little Tennessee & Tugaloo rivers -- had many Skirmishes with the Indians, but no general Battle or engagement, took many prisoners & killed many of the Indians. This expedition commenced in the early part of June and ended about the first of November. He cannot say what year, he is confident it was before the Battle at Camden called Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780].<sup>2</sup> He recollects, the names of Colonel or General Rutherford, Colonel Brandon, Major Smith [probably Major James Smith] & knows that they were in this expedition as officers bearing the above or foregoing titles, many others probably not recollected & many Captains -- Captain Brandon commanded the Company to which deponent belonged. Sometime after he was discharged from the Indian expedition he again volunteered in the service of the United States under Captain Brandon against an Army of Tories, who were embodied in Lincoln County North

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

Carolina. This expedition was Commanded by Colonel Lock [sic, Francis Locke] & Major Rutherford [probably James Rutherford, possibly Philip Rutherford or William Rutherford], we met with the Tories at a place called Ramsour's Mills [Battle of Ramseur's Mill, June 20, 1780],<sup>3</sup> in Lincoln County where we had a battle, in which the Tories were defeated. The Whig party lost in this battle about 20 killed & several wounded. Among our killed were Captains Falls,<sup>4</sup> Armstrong [William Armstrong] and Patton. I served in this expedition as well as I can recollect from one to two months. After the battle at Ramsour's above noticed, a call was made for volunteers to go in pursuit of Colonel Bryan [Samuel Bryant or Samuel Bryan] who had collected a body of Tories & was marching to join the British at or near Camden South Carolina. This expedition was commanded by Generals Davidson [William Lee Davidson] & Locke. I volunteered & went under them in this expedition. I do not now recollect the name of my Captain. I [think?] it was Captain Brandon. We rendezvoused at Salisbury North Carolina -- & pursued Colonel Bryan through Montgomery and Anson Counties to the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina where we gave over the pursuit & returned home. We were in the service I think about two months in this trip. I next volunteered in the Light horse Company, at the time the British came up to Charlotte from South Carolina, this was under Captain Brandon, and a call was made to raise men to check the British in their march through the upper parts of North Carolina as deponent understood. This expedition lasted about two months as well as deponent recollects, & was commanded by Colonel Davie [William Richardson Davie] & Major Graham [William Graham] the principal officers -- All the above mentioned expeditions & tours was performed & completed previous to the Battle of Camden, better known as Gates defeat -- but the precise time when they were performed I cannot state, nor do I know of any person by whom I can prove it. He states further that he afterwards volunteered under Captain Huggins [William Huggins] in a Tour of three months -- which he served, General Rutherford was the Chief Commander -- At the Commencement of this Term of service -- The Army Commanded by General Rutherford rendezvoused at Salisbury from thence we marched towards Camden & formed a Junction with General Gates' [Horatio Gates'] Army not very far from the Cheraw Hills we then marched with the Main Army to where the battle was fought, I was in the Battle at Camden called Gates defeat. He further states that he knew General Gates who commanded at this battle -- also General Rutherford, General Butler [John Butler] & General Caswell [Richard Caswell], Colonels Ledbetter [Drury Ledbetter], White, Majors Allcorn, White, Captains Huggins, Wilson.

He states further, he volunteered in the service of his Country, after the battle of Gates defeat as aforesaid, & served one or two months as Ensign & commanding the Company the Captain & Lieutenant both being absent. This Company or army of volunteers was raised at the time Lord Cornwallis crossed the Catawba River. He was in a little skirmish on the Catawba, at a place called Cowan's Ford, between the Whigs & the British. At which place General Davidson was killed [Battle of Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781].<sup>5</sup> The principal officers who commanded this expedition were Generals Davidson & Davie. The length of this Tour was about one month as he believes. He further states that he did at several times after this period, entered the Army at the call of his Country, and some of which he served a longer & in some a shorter period of time. He cannot pretend to say what would be the time he subsequently served -- but supposes it would not exceed 4 months -- He believes he served his Country during the

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ramseurs\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html)

<sup>4</sup> Captains William Falls and Galbraith Falls, both of the Rowan County militia, were killed at the Battle of Ramseur's Mill.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cowans\\_ford.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html)

Revolutionary war in the whole a period of not less than eighteen months & probably not much more, but of the precise time he cannot undertake to state. He states further, that at the end of every Term of service as aforesaid, he obtained a discharge for the same as he believes, but he did not know they were then or ever would be useful to him, he states he has no knowledge of the manner in which he has lost them but has no hesitation in saying they are now lost or mislaid or destroyed so that he cannot now produce them as evidence in this case. He has no documentary evidence in his possession of the facts spoken of & detailed in the foregoing declaration -- nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove the services aforesaid.

He does further hereby relinquish all and every claim or claims whatever to a pension or annuity except the present -- and declares his that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State in the United States.

Sworn to in open Court 10<sup>th</sup> August 1832.

S/ Nathaniel Johnston



S/ James McKisick, Clk

Whereupon the Court consisting of the Members first above mentioned, propounded the following interrogatories to said Nathaniel Johnston in open Court the 10th day of August 1832 viz.

1<sup>st</sup> When and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in Rowan County State of North Carolina in the year 1755 or 1756, as I informed & believes --

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer -- I have not, --

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer; I was living in Rowan County North Carolina when I was first called into service of my Country; I continued to live in said County & State during the Revolutionary war and ever since, until the year 1823 -- at which time I moved to Bedford County in the State of Tennessee, in which last County & State I have lived ever since, and am now living in the same:

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer -- I was a volunteer in all the tours above mentioned -- one instance not mentioned in my foregoing declaration I would wish now to mention viz. We were all classed into classes of seven or eight persons each of which classes had to furnish a man as called for -- one out of the class to which I belonged was called for, I proposed to the others to go if they would give me a certain sum, this they agreed to; and whilst I was preparing to start, a young man proposed to take my place for much less, I accordingly substituted him. I have been advised I cannot claim any benefit for his service although he served. Unless this transaction might be considered as a substitute business & which is not mentioned in my previous declaration, and to which I would be entitled for pay -- I have in all the cases been a volunteer. This term was for twelve months --

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer --

The Continental & regular officers which I now recollect were, General Gates, & General Caswell I think, General Caswell was a regular, but am not certain. The militia officers were Generals Rutherford, Butler, Davidson and Locke, & Colonel Davie I probably could recollect more but have not at this time any recollection of them -- I have no recollection of the names or numbers of the Continental & Militia Regiments -- The General Circumstances have all been detailed in my declaration heretofore stated

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer I did receive discharges for every Tour of Service I rendered, who gave them I cannot now say, nor do I know what has become of them, they are lost & cannot now procure them -- I recollect that it was a general practice for the captains of our companies to give the discharges -- I believe Captain Brandon gave me several as I served under him more than one Tour but I could not state the above fact on oath at this time

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer I know a great many persons who can state about my character, in the neighborhood of Shelbyville Bedford County Tennessee where I now live there are not many living in my immediate neighborhood who knew me in other States or had much acquaintance with me there, I know of Robert Morgan, Isaac Anderson & James Graham who have known me for many years.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 10 August 1832.

S/ James McKisick, Clk

S/ Nathaniel Johnston

[Robert Morgan & James Graham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee, Bedford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justices of the peace for said County Samuel Johnson, who being sworn according to law deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise periods of the War of the Revolution and he served; but according to the best of his recollection, his first tour of duty was in the year 1776 it commenced he thinks about the first of June in that year; in his second tour was he thinks in the year 1777 about Harvest he recollects the wheat was ripe his third tour was in May in the year 1780 and his fourth tour of duty was at Gates defeat on the 16th of August 1780 in his fifth tour was in the year 1781, and the balance of his Service he is not able to say what years it was then --

Subscribed in Sworn to before me this 28 December 1832.

S/ [illegible signature of a justice of the peace]

S/ Nathaniel Johnston

[George Newton, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$48.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia for 14 months