

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Johnson S2661

fn38NC [sic, VA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/11/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, Anson County

On this 14th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County of Anson now sitting William Johnson Esquire a resident of Sneedesborough in said County aged seventy 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, that in the month of May 1779 his father was drafted for a three months Tour in the militia for the County of Brunswick State of Virginia that he took his place as his substitute and [text missing, "served"?] as a soldier in Captain Thomas Claiborn's Company [text missing] Michlin Ensign __ Lewis Colonel Jud hins [Judkins?][text missing] marched by Hickes Ford (now Bellville) Stewarts [text missing, "Shop"?] Rashoon [sic, Raccoon] Church in Sussex into Isle of White [sic, Isle of Wight] near Suffolk we were discharged some time after the British Troops left Virginia Served as he believes seven or eight wiakes [sic, weeks?] The beginning of January 1781 he was drafted and entered the Service and Captain William Micklins Company as second Sergeant Colonel Watson's Regiment Major boys marched from Brunswick Court House through Dinwiddie to Petersburg thence to Surry Court House thence to Smithfield Lightfoot's old fields & McKays Mills [Mackie's Mills?] there the main body under Steuben or Nelson turned off & a Battalion under Major Boyer went forward to Chichester's Mills of which he was one from thence he was detached and Lieutenant Isaac Rowel [Isaac Rowell] to Sleepy hole Ferry on Nansemond River with twenty-five men Rowel as Lieutenant and he as Sergeant where he remained until sometime in April the expiration of his time and was discharged at Scott's old field return home sometime after the British Army under Arnold [Benedict Arnold] moved upon Petersburg. Lord Cornwallis came on from the South in the month of May the Brunswick Militia were called out he volunteered under Captain Peter Jones for six weeks Colonel Saint George Tucker commanded the Regiment of volunteers he was first and orderly Sergeant of Jones' Company shortly after being mustered Phil Halcom [perhaps Philemon Holcomb] joined us as Major he was marched & Joined Baron Steuben's Army at Point of Fork on James River at the ford on the South side of the River the British Army being on the North side Steuben's Army moved off the evening that Tucker's Regiment joined him to the South through Cumberland & Prince Edward to near Boyd Ferry in Halifax County thence turned about to Prince Edward Court House thence to Carter's Ferry on the James River the Army crossed over and joined the main Army under the Marquis de Lafayette near Hanover Court House thence moved down after the retreating British Army to near James Town where an action took place between the British Army and a part of the American Army under General Wayne [perhaps

a reference to the action at Green Springs July 6, 1781] which was in the beginning of July Colonel Saint John Tucker's Regiment was discharged about the 10th July having served out their time, he then returned home and went into North Carolina Montgomery County Entered as Lieutenant of Volunteers under Captain John Randle about the middle of August joined Colonel Thomas Wade's Regiment of Militia went with him in pursuit of the Tories in the lower end of Richmond County and at Beatties Bridge [Beatti's Bridge, August 4, 1781?¹] on Drowning Creek (now Lumber River) came up with the Tories under Ray [Duncan Ray] & Fanning [David Fanning] and on the first day of September had an engagement in which Colonel Wade was defeated he returned to Montgomery County and in a few days joined General Rutherford's Brigade and was appointed adjutant of Colonel William Lofton's Regiment marched down through the Counties of Richmond Cumberland & Bladen to Elizabeth on the Cape Fear [River] where the Army crossed over to the North East side & marched down to Moore's Bridge through Duplin County into New Hanover to Bluford's [Beaufort's] or Clayton's Bridge on the North East River within a few miles of Wilmington which was then in the possession of the British under Major Craig [James Craig] in the Army continued in that neighborhood until sometime in November near the last the British left Wilmington after which the Troops were marched back to Salisbury in Rowan County and discharged between the middle & last of December making in the whole four months which with the other tours make a whole ten months. That he has no documentary Evidence and that he knows no person except Benjamin Bell whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

He 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Johnson



[William Hammon & Alex Little gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

1st When and where [were] you born [?]

Answer I was born on the 5th day of November 1761 in the County of Chesterfield State of Virginia.

2. Have you any Record of your age and if so where is it [?]

Answer. My Father kept a register of the ages of his Children which at his death fell into the hands of his younger children I do not know where it is.

3rd Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live [?]

Answer. I lived in the County of Brunswick State of Virginia until the first of August 1781 when I removed to the County of Montgomery State of North Carolina where I lived until the year 1791 when I removed to the County of Anson where I have lived ever since.

4th How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom [?]

Answer The first time I entered the service as a substitute for my Father second time I was drafted a third time I volunteered fourth time I volunteered

¹ David Fanning was not at the engagement at Beatti's Bridge. The Tories there were under the command of Hector McNeill. Col Duncan Ray of the NC Tory militia may also have been in that engagement.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the Troops where you served such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service

Answer My first Tour being short and not having served any other body of Troops than the Regiment to which I belonged I can only state such officers as I recollect in that Regiment. The Colonel was Colonel Judkins of Sussex [could be Suffolk] County I was under Captain Claiborn of Brunswick County and the other Captains that I recollect Captain Douglass Wilkins & Captain Harrison. The second Tour in Captain Michlin's Company Colonel Watson was Colonel of the Regiment Captain Nathaniel Green & Captain Call also belonged to the Regiment. Colonel Parker who I believe commanded the State Troops Colonel Wells who commanded the Nansemond and other Militia Major Boyer who I believe was a Continental officer but then had the command of a Battalion of Militia from which I was detailed as one of a guard under Lieutenant Isaac Rowel on the Nansemond River & while there saw a British Sloop take an American vessel which was said to be commanded by Captain Barron at the mouth of Nansemond River in April I believe General Nelson to be the commanding General Baron Steuben was there part of the time being detached off on the Nansemond River full half or more of my time I had not much acquaintance or knowledge of the main Army & what I did then no is nearly forgotten in my third Tour Baron Steuben was commander General Lawson was also with the Army as a Brigadier after joining the main Army on the North side James River & General de Lafayette was commander in chief Colonel St. George Tucker was my Colonel Duval I believe commanded a Regiment of regulars I also recollect Colonel Bowyer it being now upwards of 50 years since I left Virginia I have little recollection of the other Officers I served with on my fourth Tour General Rutherford was the commanding Officer Colonel Lofton commanded the Regiment to which I belonged Colonel Smith commanded another Regiment Colonels Owens & Robinson had two remnants of regiments there was no regular Troops attached to Rutherford's Army.

6th Did you ever receive a Commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it [?]

Answer. I had a Commission as Lieutenant signed either by Governor Burke or Governor Martin but which is not recollected. I had also a commission as Adjutant signed as well as now remembered by General Rutherford & both of which have long since been lost or destroyed being considered of no value – my commission bore date sometime in 1781.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood and who can Testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a revolutionary soldier Answer for the last 40 years I have been acquainted with almost every person of standing in the County and named Major William Hammon & Alexander Little.

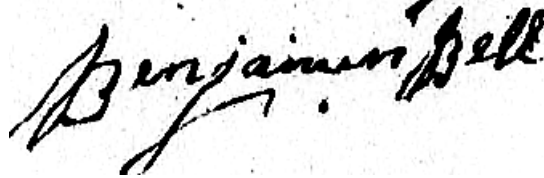
[f p. 13]

State of North Carolina Montgomery County: This day Benjamin Bell² aged seventy years appeared before the Subscriber one of the justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions of said County who being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that in September 1781 he this deponent became acquainted with William Johnson who was then Adjutant in Colonel William Loftin's Regiment of Militia General Rutherford's Brigade on a Tour of Duty of three months against the British & Tories at and near Wilmington North Carolina that the said William Johnson continued Adjutant of said Regiment until it was discharged at the end of said Term & after the British

² [Benjamin Bell W3925](#)

Army left Wilmington & that he the deponent belonged to the same Regiment & served with & under the said William Johnson.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 26 day of September 1832
S/ E. F. Lilly, JP S/ Benjamin Bell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Bell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[f p. 21]

State of North Carolina Anson County: Amended declaration April Court 1833

William Johnson appeared before the Court and being first duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services in the Revolutionary War – but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades first as soldier in Captain Claiborne's Company seven weeks, second in Captain Macklins Company three months as Sergeant third in Captain Jones' Company six weeks forth in Captain Randle's Company one month, fifth as Adjutant of Colonel Loftin's Regiment three months. This deponent further states that at the Court at which [he] made his declaration he this deponent was engaged as a member of the Court in taking and certifying the declarations of the Revolutionary Soldiers of the County & that at the time of making his own the Reverend John Culpepper an aged devine who attended the Court for the purpose of Testifying to the services & character of the Applicants had left the Court & gone to his him a distance of twenty miles or upwards and could not then be got within the Term of the Court. This deponent further states that it has been upward of fifty years since he left the State of Virginia where he first served & that he has no knowledge of more than one person John Threadgill³ living with whom he served in that state and that in the Company & Regiment in which he served as Lieutenant & Adjutant in North Carolina he has no knowledge of any officer now living and cannot hear of more than three or four living & they scattering & far distant except Benjamin Bell & out of his power to procure their Evidence this deponent further states that he has now collected and herewith sent all the proof within his power to procure.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 9th day of April 1833

S/ William Johnson

[The Reverend Joel Gullidge gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 26]

State of North Carolina Anson County: This day appeared before the Subscriber one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County and State aforesaid at his own House John Threadgill aged 82 years who being first duly sworn deposed & saith that sometime in the beginning of the year 1781 he this deponent then living in the County of Brunswick State of Virginia was ordered out on a Tour of duty in the Militia of three months to the lower parts of Virginia under Colonel Watson that while on this service he saw and became acquainted with William Johnson who was also in the militia from said County the said William Johnson appeared to act as an inferior Officer but not belonging to the same Company & from the length

³ [John Threadgill W18126](#)

of time & consequent loss of memory he is unable to say what was his rank that the Militia under Colonel Watson served out the Tour of three months and was discharged the said William Johnson being one of the number.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this ___ day of April 1833

Test: W. Threadgill, JP

S/ John Threadgill

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Threadgill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ John Threadgill".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$65 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for nine months service as a private, Sergeant & Lieutenant in the Virginia militia.]