

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Johnston (Johnson) S30510

f54VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/5/14

[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.]

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State of Kentucky Woodford County Sct.

On this 6th day of June 1834 Personally appeared before me Samuel M Wallace a Justice of the peace in and for Woodford County and one of the Judges of the County Court for said County William Johnston [sic] aged seventy-three years and after being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

This declarant states that he was residing in Loudoun County State of Virginia when he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated and under the following named officers. That in the first of March 1778 a draft was ordered in said County for a tower [tour] of twelve months when he the said declarant was drafted into the service for the above stated period and served as herein stated and rendezvoused at Leesburg in said County of Loudoun and was marched from said place of rendezvous under the command of Captain Mercer and was attached to Colonel William Heath's [William Heth's] Regiment it Being the third Regiment of the Virginia Line – he states they marched to Frederick town in the State of Maryland and from thence to Tawney town [sic?] and from thence to Little York in the State of Pennsylvania and from thence to Lancaster and from thence to join the main Army which Junction was formed at the Valley Forge and there he states they encamped until the British left Philadelphia and then by order of General Washington he states they pursued on after the British and overtook them at Monmouth Courthouse where a spirited engagement took place [June 28, 1778] which resulted in the defeat of the British. He states they list on the part of the Americans a number of Brave men amongst whom was Major Dickerson of Virginia and Colonel Bonner of Pennsylvania officers highly esteemed by their country he states from thence they marched to the White Plains where they encamped until sometime in the fall and then retired to Middlebrook in New Jersey where they built themselves huts to encamp in during the winter he states after remaining here some time about the first of February 1779 he was sent down to Loudoun County State of Virginia with a wagon by General orders in Company with Doctor David Griffith who being Surgeon to the Regiment and Chaplain to the Brigade he states the wagon he took as directed to the house of Doctor Griffith where he remained until his term of twelve months expired when by order of Doctor Griffith he went home where he states he remained until sometime in the month of September 1780 when the British were frequently landing and committing depredations on the inhabitants and there being a call for some men and he the said Declarant did turn out as a volunteer under one Captain Daniel Figgins [Daniel Feagan] for three

months and rendezvoused at one Jacob law's [?] tavern formerly called West's ornery [West's Ordinary] about the middle September and was marched from said place to Fredericksburg and from thence to Richmond and from thence to Petersburg and from thence to join the Army under General Steuben which Junction was formed near Cabin Point and from thence to the Isle wite [sic, Isle of Wight?] Church where they encamped for a short time and from thence to Petersburg where he states they remained until his term of service expired when they were verbally discharged by General Steuben and went home in the month of December 1780 where he was discharged by his Captain he states that on this campaign the [there] were but three Companies of militia which was commanded by Captain figgins, Captain Vincel [Adam Vincell], and Captain Russell, he states that during this campaign they were constantly marching from place to place in order to prevent the British from landing as they were in the habit of stealing and plundering the Country whenever they were permitted to land. He states he has no documentary evidence of his service but independent of respectable traditionary evidence which he now offers he is able to prove by a respected living witness that he did render a greater part of the services as is alleged in the foregoing declaration. He states that from old age and bodily infirmity he is unable to appear in open Court to make his declaration, 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 any State.

S/ William Johnston

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Johnston". Above the signature, the words "my State" are written in a smaller, less legible cursive hand.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of June 1834

S/ Samuel M Wallace, JP WC

Answers to the Questions put by the Magistrate

Answer I was born in Bucks County State of Pennsylvania in the year 1761 – I have no written record of my age but from the best information from my parents I was born in the year 1761. When I entered the service of the United States I was living in Loudoun County State of Virginia, where I remained until the latter of the year 1789 when I moved and in the early part of the year 1780 I reached Kentucky & have lived the greater part of the time since in Woodford County where I now reside and I was drafted in the service of the United States for a Tour of 12 months and afterwards volunteered for 3 months. On my first tour there were of the regular Officers General Washington, General Lafayette, General Putnam, General Wayne, Muhlenberg, Scott, & Woodford whose Brigade I belonged to and Colonels Heath, Buford, Febiger & c. On my 2nd Tour there were of the General Officers – General Steuben, Colonels Gibson, Captain Figgins, Vincell & Russell and major. Captain Figgins being the Senior Officer acted as Major. On my first Tour I was verbally discharged by Doctor Griffith and on my 2nd tour I was discharged in writing by my Captain, which discharge I lost many years ago – And I will state the names of John Harper and George L Carlisle who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

[John Harper and George L Carlyle gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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I John Johnston aged 68 years do certify that I was residing in Loudoun County State of Virginia during the Revolutionary war and have a personal knowledge of the service of William Johnston the above named applicant which was as he has stated in the above declaration.

S/ John Johnston



[Attested October 11, 1834 in Shelby County Kentucky]

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State of Kentucky Scott County Sct.

On this 14th day of September 1836 personally appeared William Johnson in open Court before the Judge of said Court now sitting Resident of Woodford County in the State aforesaid aged 76 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 in the year 1778 he entered the Continental service for twelve months in the 3rd Virginia Regiment under Colonel William Heath & General Woodford, he joined the Army at the Valley Forge, marched after the British & overtook them at Monmouth & fought them; was marched to Brunswick & afterwards to White Plains New Jersey & then at West Point – & then back to New Jersey in winter quarters at Middlebrook. – & was discharged at termination of his year. He also served a tour of militia duty 3 months under Captain Fagans was marched to Richmond & received arms & defended the adjacent Country until the 3 months expired making 15 months & was discharged at Petersburg – that he is a citizen of Woodford County Kentucky that he came to this County because the Circuit Court was in Session that he has no documentary Evidence that he knew knows of and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except John Norton whose testimony is here attached.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension 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 & year aforesaid

S/ William Johnson



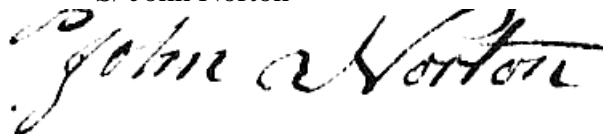
[John T Johnson, a teacher of the Christian religion residing in Georgetown Kentucky and R M Johnson member of Congress gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Scott County Sct.

John Norton¹ personally appeared in court and made oath that he lived a near neighbor to Wm Johnson when he performed his tour of duty of twelve months as stated in his declaration that he knew him to have been absent that length of time, that the said Johnson was with me and in the same Company in the three months tour as mentioned in my declaration.

S/ John Norton



¹ [John Norton R7720](#)

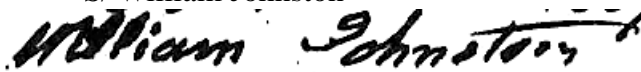
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And amended Declaration

State of Kentucky County of Woodford

Be it known that on this day personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid William Johnston a resident of the County of Woodford State of Kentucky aged about 80 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered in the Army of the United States as set forth in his former Declaration which he refers to and prays that it may be made a part of this declaration. From his great age and in consequence of his loss of memory at this great length of time he is unable to state positively what his Captain's name was but is of the impression it was Mercer. He well recollects of receiving the Bounty when he enlisted but does not at this time recollect who he received it from. In a short time after he enlisted the Services he was taken by Doctor Griffith to drive his wagon and to attend to his baggage and did serve his Country faithfully as set forth in his former declaration and the only reason why he did not apply for a Pension sooner was that he did not know that he was entitled and was of the impression that the law only applied to those soldiers who were unable to support themselves and those who enlisted for and during the war and served until the close of the same. He has lived a very private and retired life and made the application for a pension as soon as he was informed he was entitled and has never heard from his Claim until this day and was not apprised that any amended declaration was required of him until he saw a copy of a letter of the Honorable RM Johnson which appears to have been sent from the Pension [office] on the 9 day of September 1839 and written to him on the 30 day of September 1836 which is the first and only information he has received in relation to his application for a pension. He has no recollection of ever receiving any pay for his Services in the War of the revolution from any person and prays that a pension may be granted to him. Given under my hand this 23rd of September 1839

S/ William Johnston

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

[Robert M Johnston gives a standard supporting affidavit; Thomas Suter, a clergyman, gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending February 17, 1841, the day of his death. He was pensioned for service as a private for 15 months in the Virginia service.]