

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Johnson S30512

f24NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/23/08: rev'd 2/11/16

[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.]

[The handwriting of the scribe is very challenging—use this transcript with great care and circumspection. The handwriting got worse the more the scribe wrote. THIS IS A VERY POOR TRANSCRIPTION, LARGELY DUE TO THE EXTREME DIFFICULTY OF DECIPHERING THE HANDWRITING OF THE SCRIBE.]

State of Kentucky, County of Pike: SS

On this 2nd day of June 1834 personally appeared before the County Court of Pike County, John Johnson, a resident of Pike County and State of Kentucky, aged seventy-four 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.

He was drafted for six months in the State of North Carolina in the year 1777 under Captain Samuel Henry, Colonel John Sevier in Burke County North Carolina he was the first Sergeant in his Company -- he marched over to the Cherokee Nation, crossing French Broad [River], he was marched down to the South West Point, commonly called "Sow West Pint" he was in no battles during this six months, after arriving at "Sow Wes Pint" he used to scout, as did many, from the block houses, he states that many scalps were taken, and he was in several brushes, himself went out a scouting. The country through which he marched was all then North Carolina, and Tennessee being formed out of the same. He states that he was in no battles, only in skirmishes, There was no Continental regiments that served with him during the period aforesaid. McDowell's Regiment came from Quaker Meadows, he states he was at Big Pigeon [River], this was shortly after Christy [sic, William Christian's] & Pickens [Andrew Pickens'] Campaign. He knew Colonel Cocke [could be Locke], Captain Jamieson, Lieutenant Caleb Wallace and many other militia officers that was out.

And the next spring 1788 [sic, 1778], he entered for a six months Tour as a volunteer and served out his tour under Colonel Cocke, Captain Samuels, and this was also in Burke County North Carolina, he thinks it was April, about the 10th of that month, and he was marched down to the Tennessee [River] after crossing the mountains [indecipherable word, looks like 'drunding'] the Tennessee waters from Catabee [Catawba] River. The Indians had killed several families and they [the?] State of North Carolina had to Kich futs [keep forts?] all along on the Catawba during the summer season of the year [indecipherable word or words, could be "at Crider's"] fort at this place as the head of the same he remained during the summer of 1778. He

states that the scouts from the Fort killed several Indians in the period of his last engagement. He does not know certainly that he ever did kill any Indians, The Tories had approached before this to the same place and the Whigs had burnt it up in August 1778 there were several families killed and they were chiefly all women and children. In October the Indians most all left the County for the Indian Nation the country through which he marched was then North Carolina the Cherokee Indians had made peace before but there was one tribe there who did not like the old Chiefs and could not be prevented [?] from plundering and burning. He served with no Continental officers and he never did as he did. Joe White from Rowan [County] was killed up on the Catawba [River] cunty [country]. This year he knew Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland], Myer Jones [Major Jones?], Capt. John Harris Captain Black, Captain Fisher and many officers during his last service. He believes Colonel McDowell was a regular officer. He served out his term of six months and left the service.

He served another tour of six months as substitute for one John Clarke in the year 1780 on the 15th day of March under Colonel Ware [? War Dept. interpreted this as Wau], Captain Blair and served with [one or more indecipherable words] in November down [?] at nine miles from [one or more indecipherable words] station down the French Broad, he served there till April, and [indecipherable word] scouting and protecting the North Carolina frontier during the whole of that summer, but [several indecipherable words] was done during that year's service and no battles were fought he scouted from the 1st of May (the bushes in that County about that time were all full-grown until the fall, each day no Indian disturbance worth a mention occurred during that year and he does not believe the Indians done anything but steal horses, but few men could be spared out of Rowan whilst the frontier and the forts on French Broad and Catawba [Rivers] had to be kept up. He marched directly to the Fort and there remained until he was discharged in September or about the first of October 1780. He left the service for each of the tours of service aforesaid he received a written discharge. He knew Colonel Ollaw [?], Major Harrow, Capt. Speight, Lieut. Privel [?could be Privet], but he served alone as an Indian scout and was not after the British or Tories, and he states he has always lived in the mountains and never saw a Continental Regiments, he knows of no particular circumstances to mention unless it is to name the persons who was killed by the Indians, which he can do, he states he can establish this claim by living witnesses. He was very young when he entered the service and it being so long since he cannot remember all-- as to what has become of his discharges, he has no idea and therefore can only say they have been long since lost in fact he never took any care of them. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State, Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Johnson, X his mark

[William Tackitt, a clergyman, and Thomas May gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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His answers to the Questions –

1. He was born [indecipherable word] in the year 1760.
2. He has it only by the count [?] of the family.
3. In Burke County North Carolina and then moved to Tennessee and then to this state.
- 4th He was drafted for six months in North Carolina Burke County for six months, the 2nd tour was as a volunteer for six months -- the 3rd tour for six months as a substitute.
- 5th He knew but few officers -- Captain Blair Colonel McDowell Captain William Nelson, A.

Lofton Captain, Colonel Ware & Colonel Sevier and Colonel Otlaw [Outlaw?] who lived at the end of French Broad for many years afterwards -- he states that he served three tours of six months each against the Cherokee Indians during which time many were killed, and some few whites were massacred by the Indians, he was never in any battles of any particular. The hardest fighting was some way the year of our first served.

6. He received his discharges & they were all given by his Captain As he now remembers, but what has become of them nobody knows and they are all not among his papers.

7. There is Thomas May Esquire, General Ratliffe, Rev.d James Roberts, Rev'd William Tuckitt, Samuel Hall, George Tuckitt, Henry Newson and Hart Newson.

[Thus ends the horrible handwriting—hallelujah!]

[In a letter dated July 9, 1935, the War Dept. personnel interpreted some of the names in the application as follows: Captain Samuel Henry, Colonel John Sevier, Captain Samuel; Colonel Cocke, Captain Blair and Colonel Wau (?).]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]