

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Johnson S31177

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/4/14

[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.]

State of Kentucky Rockcastle County: Sct.

On this 9th day of June 1834 personally appeared before Joseph Eve Circuit Judge of the 15th Judicial district including the County of Rockcastle – Thomas Johnson a resident of the waters of Eddy Creek about two miles from Princeton in the County of Caldwell and State of Kentucky aged seventy years on the 28th February last past who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

He states that he entered the service as a substitute for John Scott in the County of Amherst and State of Virginia in the year 1778 as well as he remembers to guard the Prisoners taken by Gates in the North – that he marched from Amherst down to Albemarle Barracks – he states that he served for five weeks in guarding the prisoners there – he went under Captain Landram [probably Younger Landrum] But who was the Commandant of the Barracks he does not remember – he received a written discharge for this service, but who signed by he cannot state – it was handed to him by the orderly Sergeant, which has since been lost or destroyed – he states that he was very young in his fifteenth year as well as he remembers when he served this tour – he states that John Scott gave him \$100 in Continental money to take his place –

He states that in March 1781 he was drafted or the method was to draw lots which fell upon him to go a tour of six weeks against the British under Captain Jacobs [perhaps John Jacobs] – he was then living in Amherst County Virginia and marched from there under Captain Jacobs – Colonel Gabriel Pen [Gabriel Penn], Major James Franklin and Colonel Hugh Rose – he states that he joined the Army of General Green [presumably Nathanael Greene] on the 16th March 1781 the day after his battle with Cornwallis [battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] – that his officers who went down with him resigned and went home – that he was then placed under Captain Lewis of Mecklenburg – Colonel Holman – he marched with Greene's Army to the Dan River – there the Virginia militia separated with Green and marched up to Staunton River where he was discharged, he received a written discharge for this service but has long since lost or destroyed [it] – he does not remember who signed this discharge.

He states that in July 1781 on the 9th day he was drafted for a tour of three months in Amherst County Virginia under Captain John Lovin [probably John Loving] he does not remember the name of the Colonel if any marched with him – he states that he marched through Richmond Virginia, Williamsburg &c until he reached York – he states that upon the route down he joined the main Army under General Washington – he states that he continued with General Washington until the 9th day of October 1781 when he received a written discharge which has

also been lost or destroyed – he does not remember who signed by.

He states that in the year 1783 [?]¹ he volunteered to go a Tour against the Indians in Lincoln County now State of Kentucky where his Father had removed under Captain George Murrel he states that he was engaged in this service not less than ten days.

He states that he has no documentary evidence by which to prove his service or any part thereof & that he knows of no one now living whose testimony he could procure that has a personal knowledge of his service –

He states that he visited this section of the state to attend to a lawsuit – and did not know that he was entitled to His service as a volunteer against the Indians until he casually mentioned the circumstance to his counsel – he states that he is better and more generally known in this part of the state than that in which he now lives – he states that he lived in the County of Knox for upwards of twenty years – he states that he often canvassed [?] for the legislature of his adopted state whilst residing in the County of Knox – 3 times with the Honorable Judge who now sits upon the Bench of this court. He considers it fair to state that he was beat twice out of the three trials by the Honorable Judge – He states that he moved to Caldwell County in 1819 and settled where he now resides.

He states that he was never in any engagement but drawn up in line of battle several times – that he was among the first who aided in constructing what was called the Poplar Fort at the siege of Cornwallis.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Answer to Question 1st – I was born in Albemarle County Virginia on Carter's low Brown in the year 1764 on the 28th of February.

2nd. My Father told me my age – and I set it down in my Bible which I now have at home.

3rd. I was living in Amherst when first called into service and continued to reside there until my last Tour which was from Lincoln County – now Kentucky thence I moved to Knox County Kentucky – thence to Caldwell where I now reside.

4th. I was first in the service as a substitute for John Scott and served not less than __ weeks next I was drafted for 6 weeks – next for 3 months and lastly volunteered and served not less than 10 days.

5th. General Greene – General Washington General Lafayette it is possible that I have been mistaken in the officers under whom I served particularly in my captains it may have been Captain Landrum that I served under at York and Captain John Lovin at Albemarle Barracks – I am certain of Holcomb, & Lawson & Murrel – I do not remember the number of any of the regiments with whom I served.

6th. I always received discharges except for my last service I do not remember who they were signed by nor what has become of them.

7th. I am known to John Rockabay –Asberry Harpindin, Will. Lander, Robert Patterson – E. Shepherson &c who I doubt not if present would testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution. In this country I am acquainted with General Smith – C. Colyer & Captain Kincaid now canvassing for the Senate, and with all the old settlers who have been prominent men in these parts. I doubt not that all of them would testify if present

to my character for veracity though it is probable that but few of them know of my revolutionary services.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ Thos. Johnson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thos. Johnson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a prominent flourish at the end.

[William M Bledsoe and General William Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]