

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Johnston S31780

f31VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/9/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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 Georgia County of Bibb: SS

On this ninth day of February in the year of our Lord 1835 personally appeared in open Court in the Inferior Court of said County of Bibb and State of Georgia William Johnston aged eighty-one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered the service as a regular soldier at Valley Forge in the State of Pennsylvania in the month of January in the year 1777, as well as he can now recollect, and enlisted in the company commanded by Captain William Lewis in which company, Frank Minnis and Hallman Minnis were lieutenants; for the term of one said company was then in the first Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker in the Brigade commanded by General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg]. – That he was in the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] in the same company commanded by the same officers – General Washington commanded at said battle, Claimant was on that day in the advanced guard and under the immediate command of Baron Steuben – Claimant was discharged in the year 1778 as well as he now remembers, after having served out the full term of his enlistment by Captain Pain, but he has lost his discharge. Claimant served two or three other terms of service but no other service in the Continental Army. – He was at the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] in the company commanded by Captain Archer;¹ the command then was under Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. After this service claimant went to Salisbury and again substituted to serve a three months tour to guard prisoners. Claimant knows of no person by whom he can prove his service. Claimant is about eighty-one years of age, was born in Amelia County State of Virginia, that he has no record of his age, from Amelia County he removed to Prince Edward County, from thence to Henrico County, thence he removed to North Carolina, thence he removed to South Carolina, & thence he removed again to Guilford County, North Carolina, thence to Salisbury in the same State, thence he removed to Columbia County in the State of Georgia, thence he removed to Washington County in the said State of Georgia, thence to Hancock County in said State of Georgia, thence to the County of Baldwin in said last mentioned State, thence to the County of Bibb in said State of Georgia where he now resides, that the Reverend Jonathan Neal has known him for a number of years and that the Reverend William G Collins has known him for about ten months and that

¹ Captain Thomas Archer of the Guilford County North Carolina militia is known to have been in command of his company at the battle of Cowpens. No other officer by the name of Archer is known to have been at said battle.

they live in his neighborhood who can testify as to his veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. Claimant 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 & subscribed before me in open Court

9th February 1835

S/ Charles S Lewis, D. Clk. J. C.

S/ William Johnston



[Jonathan Neal and William G Collins, both clergymen, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 14]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 2nd day of November 1787, in the name of William Johnston, as a Soldier for £11.10.7, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Colonel Cropper² and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
12th day of January 1837.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[Note: this file contains no family data.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the Virginia service.]

² This is probably a reference to Lieutenant Colonel John Cropper of Accomack County Virginia. This Colonel Cropper is referred to repeatedly in the pension records as having collected funds for soldiers who served in and from Accomack County. Because he is listed as having received the pay due William Johnston under the above certificate, I think it unlikely that this certificate applies to this veteran since the veteran does not claim to have served from Accomack County which is on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.