

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Barnabass [Barnabas] Johnson S4448

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/20/08: rev'd 2/6/16

[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.]

State of Tennessee, County of Warren: SS

On this the 6th [could be 5th] day of October 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Warren the same being now in session present the Worshipful William McGregor Samuel Durby & Aaron Higginbotham Esquire residing Justices of said Court Barnabass Johnson a resident in the County of Warren and State of Tennessee, aged about Eighty 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 early part of the year 1776, the Militia of North Carolina were called out and into the service to defend Wilmington against the attack of the British commanded by General Clinton. Applicant then lived in Cumberland County in said State (North Carolina) when he about the first of May in the year 1776 volunteered into the service for the space of three months, he joined a Company commanded by a Captain Guess [Joshua Guess] he does not recollect his given name, he joined the Company and Rendezvoused at a place on the Neuse River in Johnson County [sic, Johnston County] State of North Carolina called Smithfield, he does not recollect the name of the Ensign or Lieutenant of the company, various other companies rendezvoused at the same place he recollects one of them was commanded by Captain of the name of Bryant. At the place of Rendezvous the American flag was suspended from a pole. From Smithfield he was marched to Wilmington North Carolina crossing the Cape fear River, passing through Fayetteville, he also crossed [word obliterated] Creek and a little River of the same name: At Fayetteville his company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Armstrong [probably Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Armstrong of Cumberland County] does not recollect his given name nor does he recollect the names of the Majors of the Regiment or of any of the other officers commanding it than Colonel Armstrong nor does he recollect his given name: from Fayetteville he was marched to Wilmington NC he thinks it took them ten or twelve days to perform the route they crossed the Cape fear River at a ferry near Fayetteville. After his arrival at Wilmington, there was an officer attached to his Regiment by the name of Fulsome [Lieutenant Colonel Ebenezer Folsome] or some such name he thinks he was a Colonel though he may have been a Major he thinks there was a General in command in Wilmington by the name of Brown. Also thinks General Lee [perhaps Charles Lee] was there a part of the time he

was in Wilmington, he does not recollect of seeing him, when he arrived at Wilmington there was a British ship of war in the Cape fear River below Wilmington, he also understood that the whole British fleet sailed to the Cape during the time he was there and shortly after sailed for Charleston South Carolina; he remained in Wilmington until some time in the first part of the month of August in 1776 when after having served out his Tour of three months he was discharged in writing by his Captain Guess in Wilmington in the State of North Carolina, during his stay there he was frequently exercised and sometimes stood Sentry whilst there the intelligence of the declaration of Independence was received in that City it was greeted by the fire of thirteen Cannon. He served in this Tour at least three months.

From Wilmington he returned to his residence in Cumberland County North Carolina. After he had been home about six months perhaps a few months longer he was again in Cumberland County State of North Carolina drafted into the service for three months and commanded to rendezvous at Fayetteville in the same County, which he did he thinks it was in moderate weather perhaps the spring season indeed he feels satisfied that it was late in the spring from the circumstance that during the service of this Tour one of his Company who had ate a watermelon was afterwards shot, and a watermelon seed came out at the bullet hole. Applicant therefore states that late in the spring season of the year of 1777 he entered the service he was attached to a company of infantry commanded by a Captain Armstrong [James Armstrong] does not recollect his given name a son of the Colonel who commanded his Regiment at Wilmington, he does not recollect the Lieutenant or Ensign of the Company. His company as applicant understood was by the order of Colonel Armstrong to range through the Country in pursuit of Tories and to keep them in proper subjection. What Regiment if any it belonged to applicant does not know as it was not attached to any during his service he does not recollect the day or month when he entered the service: Shortly after he joined his company they marched to Drouning Creek [sic, Drowning Creek?]. From there to the little Pedee River. There they received information of a company of Tories being on the Cape fear River, wherefore they immediately marched back to that River upon their arrival at which they ascertained that they had been there but a few days previous and had killed a man by the name of Guess [?] and fled in the direction of the big or Great Pedee [River] to which place they immediately pursued them, upon their reaching the latter place they found that their object had fled down that River causing them to be beyond the reach of a successful pursuit. Applicant and his company were marched back to Fayetteville for the purpose of refreshing and resting -- themselves and horses here applicant remained for some time does not recollect how long. From there they marched to a place known by the name of the Bare Swamp [Bear Swamp?] which place was frequently resorted to by the Tories, finding none there they were marched to a place called the Ash pole Swamp [Ashpole Swamp], not finding any Tories at either of these places they marched back to Fayetteville and after having been there a few days they marched to Guesses Ford on the Cape Fear River, there they found a large Company of Tories commanded by one Fannon [sic, David Fanning],¹ they attacked them and had a pretty sharp skirmish with them. The Tories retreated and were not pursued being as was believed superior in number to applicant's Company. In this skirmish they killed four Tories and had three of their Company killed and one by the name of Young Birt [?] badly wounded, after this applicant and his Company scoured about in the neighborhood of that place for a few days and then returned to Fayetteville where they remained a few days when his Tour expired where and when he was in the latter part of the summer or first

¹ David Fanning and his Tory militia was not active in NC until after the fall of Charleston SC in May of 1780. Fanning's attacks in NC took place principally in 1781-82.

of the fall in the year of 1777 in Fayetteville in Cumberland County State of North Carolina discharged in writing by his Captain Armstrong. Applicant understood that his Company was retained in the neighborhood of Fayetteville by the direction of Colonel Armstrong, from there he went to his residence in Cumberland County in the State aforesaid where he remained until about two or three months before the siege of Little York when he was again drafted into the service after which he had a rising to come on his body being so much troubled by that as to make the service uncomfortable to him and at the same time it not being a sufficient inability to extricate him from the service he hired one Hogwood does not recollect his given name to serve his Tour as a substitute which he did for which Applicant paid him Fifty-two dollars. This was the termination of applicant's military service in the last Tour under Captain Armstrong he served at least three months, in all he served at least six months for which he claims compensation.

He has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

1st . He was born in Edge Comb County [Edgecombe County] in the State of Virginia in the year of 1753 as he believes from the information of his parents.²

2nd . He has not nor never did have any record of his age.

3rd . When called into the service he lived in Cumberland County North Carolina. Since the Revolutionary War he lived a few years in Cumberland County North Carolina, he then moved to Johnson [sic, Johnston] County in the same State lived there several years, then he moved back to Cumberland and remained there until about six years ago, when he moved to this Warren County in the State of Tennessee where he now live and has ever since he moved to it.

4th . The first Tour of three months he served he volunteered into the service. The second Tour of three months he served he was drafted into the service.

5th . When he served in Wilmington he understood that there was Regular Officers and Continental regiments there, if so he does not if he ever knew at this time recollect any of their names or Nos., nor does he State anything more about Militia Regiments than he has [stated] in the body of this declaration, he was an ignorant back woodsman, and had not either the means or inclination to make any inquiries upon the subject & if he had he does not suppose that after the lapse of fifty-seven years with a naturally weak mind and that too enfeebled by old age that he could recollect them, his mind is now quite feeble as well as his body, he is very poor, to his weakness of memory he attributes his not recollecting more of the field officers of his Regiment.

6th . For each of the Tours he served he received written discharges from the service, the first one was given to him by his Captain Guess, the second by his Captain Armstrong, they have been lost or destroyed many years ago when how and where he does not recollect.

7th He is known to Joseph Banks, Sampson Bethell and some others all of whom live in his present neighborhood and can testify as to his character for veracity and of their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

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/ Joseph Colville, Clerk

S/ Barnabass Johnson, X his mark

By S/ L. Colville, DC

[Joseph Banks, a clergyman, and Sampson Bethel gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

² No such County existed or exists in Virginia. There is an Edgecombe County in North Carolina.

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