

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Gideon Johnson S4456

f48NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/9/16

[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.]

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State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 2nd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful Wright Stanley ~~Joseph Crockett~~ and Jabez Owen and George Shannon Esquires composing the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Williamson County now sitting at Franklin, Tennessee, Gideon [sic] Johnson aged seventy eight years 7th November 1832 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 7th, 1832.

That I enlisted in the army of the United States some time in the last of the month of July 1776 for the term of twelve months under Capt. John Armstrong from Surry County, Lieutenant Joseph Tate from Guilford County in North Carolina. I resided in Guilford County N.C. at that time and joined the army in the County at a place called Spring Garden. Capt. Armstrong's company joined the Second Regiment of the Continental line at Salisbury shortly after my enlistment, as well as I can recollect, which regiment was commanded by Col. Alexander Martin. We lay at Salisbury about three months when we marched thence to a place near Hollisworth [sic, Hollingsworth?] mills on Duncan's Creek which I think is a branch of the Catawba River. Receiving information that there was a body of Tories collected either on ~~Rabin's Creek~~ or Duncan's Creek about fifteen miles distant. We were marched thither in the night and surrounded them near day break when we were fired on by their sentinels and our men closed in upon them and took, as was reported, 100 prisoners whom we marched to headquarters on Duncan's Creek where we guarded them two days when they were sent to Charlestown [sic, Charleston], South Carolina. Shortly after that we rendezvoused at Salisbury, I going by home by furlow [sic, furlough] whence I, in the company of Capt. Samuel Martin who had recruited a company of fifty men with some delinquents, marched to Charleston, S.C., where we joined the main army the latter part of the summer 1777. I in the meantime having been employed in assisting Capt. Samuel Martin in recruiting men, he being a recruiting officer of the U.S. army, and in scouting after the Tories in N.C. On account of the sickness of the troops in Charleston we left that place, where I took sick, and was hauled to Campden [sic, Camden] in a wagon, where we lay 8 or 10 days. From that place the army marched towards Salisbury, N.C., and I being too sick to travel further was left at the Widow Sutton's on Seven Mile Creek under the care of Sergeant Reuben Curtis. At the end of ten days I went to Charlotte, N.C., where I met with Capt. Samuel Martin with whom I traveled to Salisbury where I arrived about the last of October 1777 where I think I received a discharge signed by Col. Alexander Martin, which I have lost not thinking it would ever be important to me.

Some years after this when Col. Alexander Martin was chosen Governor of North Carolina, the year I cannot recollect, it being necessary for him to have a life guard, I was chosen by him as one of his life guard and became such in Guilford County and marched with him thence to a place called Nutbush in Granville County where we, after remaining some time, were dismissed and returned home

after an absence of about four weeks. Captain Josiah Gates commanded this company of Life Guards. It was represented to us when acting as his guard that that tour should answer as a three months' tour but whether I got a discharge for the same I do not now recollect.

In Dec. 1778 or winter of 1779, I carried an express from Col. James Martin of the County of Guilford to the western part of the state into Birk [sic, Burke], Burkum [sic, Buncombe], and Wilks [sic, Wilkes] counties and delivered the same to Col. and Maj. Ervin, Col. and Maj. McDowell and to Mr. Greenlea of Buncombe County. In this expedition I underwent much hardship on account of inclement weather and high waters and returned home after having been absent about four weeks.

I was born, as I have been informed by my father, in Amelia County, Virginia, on the 7th day of November 1754. I have a record of my age now with me which I got from my father and in his own handwriting. I lived in Guilford County, North Carolina, when I was called into service. Sometime after the Revolutionary War the County of Rockingham was taken off the north part of Guilford, in Rockingham I resided until 1819, when I removed to Davidson County, Tennessee, where I resided till the year 1826 when I removed to Williamson County, where I have ever since resided.

I know of no person, except Abner Johnson¹ and John W. Crunk,² by whom I can prove my services personally, all my other companions in arms whom I have known in this country having departed this life. Neither have I any documentary evidence by which I can prove any said services.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/ Gideon Johnson



Sworn to in open Court 2nd October 1832

S/ Thos. Hardeman, Clk.

[Garner McCornis [?], a clergyman, Joshua Farrington, Nicholas Scales gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee, Rutherford County: September 13, 1832

This day came John W. Crunk before me one of the acting justices of the above mentioned County and made oath that in the year of 1776 he was intimately acquainted with Gideon Johnson in the Continental Army and further saith that he knew him to be a regular soldier in the revolutionary war in the second Regiment of the North Carolina troops commanded by Colonel Alexander Martin in Captain John Armstrong's company and he further saith that he (Crunk) and the said Johnson both belonged to the same company at the same time and he further saith that in consequence of sickness that he (Crunk) was separated from the Regiment and sent home and that he never returned to the Regiment again, the time for which he enlisted having expired before he recovered from his sickness. But that said Johnson continued in the Army for a long time and returned home to Guilford County honorably discharged. The time for which he enlisted being eighteen months. He further adds that they were both born and raised in the same neighborhood.

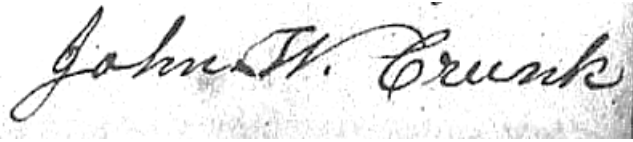
Sworn to and subscribed to before me the day and date above written.

S/ Joseph Mason, JP

S/ John W. Crunk

1 [Abner Johnson R5649](#)

2 [John Walter Crunk S38646](#)



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State of Tennessee, Maury County

This day personally appeared before me James Walker an acting Justice of the peace in & for said County Abner Johnston who after being duly sworn according to law says that he is now in his 74th year – that he cannot from infirmity & great inconvenience attend the courts of Williamson County. That he was himself a soldier of the Revolutionary War – that he served one tour as a Guard for the Governor of North Carolina to Nutbush with Gideon Johnston [sic] that he knows the fact that the said Gideon Johnston was a soldier of the Revolution – that he is well acquainted with Gideon Johnston & knows that he has always been reputed to be a soldier of the Revolutionary War and is of undoubted veracity. He has reason to believe that the said Gideon Johnston served at least twelve months as regular or Continental soldier in South Carolina.

And sworn to before me this 22nd of September 1832.

S/ Abner Johnson



S/ James Walker, JP

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State of North Carolina

2nd April 1833

James L Edwards, Esquire

Sir

Although I do not find the name of Gideon Johnson on the musterrolls, I am of opinion he served as stated in his declaration; I lived near him in Rockingham County several years and do not believe he would make an incorrect statement. I also knew persons and places mentioned by him in his declaration; and as very few of the Soldiers who served to the South a short time in the early part of the revolution are found on the rolls I think it likely he was among them.

Very respectfully

your Obedient Servant

S/ Wm Hill [the Secretary of State of North Carolina]

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State of Tennessee Williamson County

Gideon Johnson in addition and explanation of his said declaration here with enclosed states that he served as a private from July 1776 till October 1777 fifteen months for which he got a discharge as stated in said declaration.

He states that he served as a private for one month as a lifeguard for Governor Martin in the year 1778 as well as he recollects he is not certain of the time.

He states that he served as a private one month in carrying an express from Colonel Martin to Colonel & Major Erwin & others as stated in his declaration in 1778 & 9 making in all as near as he can recollect seventeen months and in every instance as a private soldier.

He also states Garner McConico, a clergyman, Joshua Farrington, Nicholas Scales and Robert

McClellan or persons to whom he is known in his neighborhood and who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution and that they have certified as to the same according to the printed form of the War department.

S/ Gideon Johnson

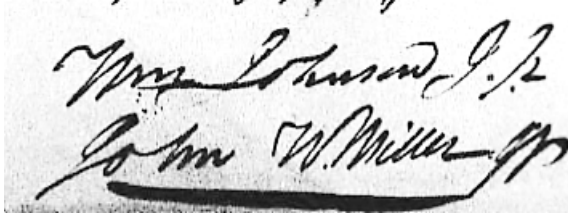
State of Tennessee Williamson County: This day personally appeared before us William Johnson & John W Miller two of the acting justices of the peace in and for said County and state Gideon Johnson the above declarant who made oath that the facts contained in the foregoing amended statement are true to the best of his recollection and belief.

Sworn to and acknowledge before us this 9th day of August 1833

S/ Wm Johnson, JP

S/ Gideon Johnson

S/ John W Miller, JP

Handwritten signatures of Wm Johnson, JP and John W Miller, JP. The signatures are in cursive and appear to be written in ink on a light-colored paper.

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State of Tennessee Wilson County

This 12th day of July 1838 I have proceeded this day to take the deposition of John W Crunk a Revolutioner as a witness for Gideon Johnston [sic], about the age of Eighty-one years at Salisbury in said County in obedience to an act of Congress in such cases made and provided, to be read as Evidence, so as to enable the said Gideon Johnston to draw his full pension from the General Government as a pensioner, the said John W Crunk after being sworn on the holy Evangelist to speak the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth Concerning the services of said Gideon Johnston in the revolution his age and residence deposes as follows

In the year 1776 I was intimately acquainted with Gideon Johnston in the revolutionary army in the Second Regiment of the North Carolina troops Commanded by Colonel Alexander Martin, and in Captain John Armstrong's Company for the term of Eighteen months, during the term of Eighteen months we were separated by sickness, and I saw him no more until his time was out and came home, he resided in Guilford County, North Carolina, and there we both continued until the Revolution was over, the said Gideon Johnston is about Eighty-four years of age, does not know how long he remained in the State of North Carolina after the Revolution, but removed from there to the State of Tennessee, Davidson County remained there about four years and removed to Williamson County State of Tennessee and there continues.

S/ John W Crunk

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State of Tennessee, Williamson County: Circuit Court January Term 1840

On this twenty second day of January 1840 personally appeared in open Court before the Circuit Court of Davidson County now sitting, Gideon Johnson a resident of Davidson County and State of Tennessee; aged eighty six 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 the service of the United States under the following named officers; and served as herein stated.

He entered the service in the month of June 1775, he thinks in the 7th Regiment of the Continental line of North Carolina as a regular soldier under the command of Colonel Alexander Martin, in which there were four companies; First company commanded by Captain John Davidson of

Rowan County, Second company and to which defendant belonged, commanded by Captain John Armstrong of Surry County, Third company commanded by Captain ___ Picket of Anson County, Fourth company commanded by Captain John Bell of Guilford County, which four companies composed said Regiment. Defendant states that he first turned out as a volunteer under Lieutenant Joseph Tate; who was Lieutenant under his Captain, John Armstrong, at Spring Garden, Guilford County, North Carolina, for a term of (he thinks) twelve months; rendezvoused in the latter end of the same month at Salisbury and (he thinks) left Salisbury in September following. While at Salisbury a dissatisfaction arose amongst the troops and a second enlistment became necessary and was proposed by Colonel Alexander Martin for a term of eighteen months for which time said defendant volunteered, he thinks about the last of July or first of August 1775.

The troops when leaving Salisbury were ordered south; kept headquarters at Hollingsworth's Mills on Enoree River about four weeks after which the troops were ordered south on a meandering route to the Hickory Camps, he thinks, near the borders of South Carolina. From thence he thinks in the month of January following; they were informed there was a company of Tories collected on Duncan's Creek, to which place the troops were ordered and marched under the guidance of our informants. On our arrival at said Duncan's Creek we had a small skirmish with the Tories – they fled, save three hundred prisoners we took and marched back to Hickory Camp, guarded them there two days and nights, thence they were sent to Charleston, South Carolina, under a guard of militia. From Hickory Camp we marched south in the direction of Ninety Six through the country watered by Tiger [sic, Tyger] river, Congaree, Wateree [River] &c, falling down below Ninety Six. There we bent towards Bell's Mills on Deep river in the direction of Fayetteville in North Carolina; thence we returned to Salisbury where we stayed five or six weeks, and where many of the troops were furloughed for a small space of time.

We were from there marched to Charleston, through the swamps of Santee River, and arrived at Charleston sometime in August just in time to see the British embark, when they evacuated Charleston or Sullivan's Island, near Charleston, where we continued until (I think) the latter end of October following, occupying the old British Barracks, from which place we were then ordered to march in consequence of the bad health of the troops, of whom many had died. On our first or second days marched at night going towards Camden on Goose Creek, deponent for the first time was taken sick and put in a waggon, he thinks, about twenty miles from Charleston; and hauled from there to Camden, he thinks, 130 or 140 miles – there in consequence of sickness of the troops we lay about three weeks, some two or three men died there. From there we marched to Seven Mile Creek at Widow Suttle's. Deponent was given out for dead and left in the care of Sergeant Reuben Curtis for an attendant. Deponent thinks he lay here about three weeks, from whence defendant started alone, leaving his gun, shot bag, and belt, not being able to carry them, has never heard of them since. He pursued the army alone (having left Sergeant Curtis sick) to Charlotte in North Carolina; where he stayed with Samuel Martin, about two weeks. From thence by the assistance of the said Samuel Martin, he went to Salisbury, where he joined the remaining fragment of his Regiment, he thinks, sometime in the month of November 1776. After remaining at Salisbury a short time defendant, by permission of Colonel Alexander Martin, left for his home in Guilford County, being very weak; arrived there he thinks in November; near the latter end. He afterward saw Colonel Martin who gave him a discharge, his term of eighteen months being ended.

Sometime in the month of January or February in the year 1777 or 1778 declarant was engaged by Colonel James Martin of the Militia of the County of Guilford to bear some expresses, he thinks to Joseph and Charles McDowell living in Wilkes County, North Carolina, both bearing commissions in the United States service, and to Major Alexander Erwin and Major Green Lee living he thinks in Burke County and state aforesaid, for which service Colonel James Martin gave him a discharge for a term of three months served as a militiaman.

Deponent thinks in the month of May, June, or July 1779 he again volunteered as a life guard to

Colonel Alexander Martin, to guard and convey him to Wilmington, he being appointed Governor of the State of North Carolina to fill the place of ___ Governor³ who was taken prisoner by the British; in consequence of some express which Col. A. Martin met, we did not escort him quite to Wilmington. Josiah Gates being Captain we marched back to Guilford, for which service declarant got from (he thinks) Colonel Martin a certificate for a three month term of service as a militiaman.

Deponent further states that he was at home plowing in his field, when he heard the firing of the cannon and platoons at the battle of Guilford on the 15th of March, he thinks, 1781 or 1782. He immediately took out his horses, seized his gun and hastened hither, though not at that time in service himself he had a substitute (Elise Curray). He met the baggage waggons near Guilford making their way to a safe place out on Dan River. He turned around and led them on till he knew they could not mistake the way. He then hastened to the place of action and joined his country men in that engagement. It having nearly ended, reconnoitered and assisted in burying &c for about nine days. This service was voluntary for which deponent has no receipt; nor did he expect, demand or wish any.

Deponent had been previous to this summoned as a guard to the Legislature at Salem in North Carolina in which service he was engaged about three or four weeks. The receipt from Colonel James Martin and the lost receipt from Colonel A. Martin making in all a term of two years service. He viewed said documents as being of entirely useless to him and he thinks he destroyed the same in the year 1819 when he left Carolina to remove to Tennessee in Davidson County where he now lives and has lived ever since.

Deponent further states that his name is already on a pension roll of the agency of the State of Tennessee, was placed there on the 20th day of August 1833 and receives a pension of fifty dollars payable semiannually; that said pension is not proportionate to his term of Revolutionary services for the want of living testimony to the facts herein before stated. That he has since making application before found living witnesses of whom he did not know, which accompanies this declaration. Many things have also come to his own recollection since, which are true and not named in his former declaration.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is listed on the pension roll of an agency of the state of Tennessee in the amount stated above.

S/ Gideon Johnson

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State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 29th day of January A.D. 1840 Personally appeared before me Gilbert Marshall one of the acting Justices of the Peace for the County of Williamson in the State of Tennessee aforesaid Richard Vernon⁴ aged about eighty one years and made oath in due form that he has been acquainted with Gideon Johnson for upwards of seventy years, first in the State of North Carolina & then in this State – that he was present when said Johnson enlisted into the Regular Army or Continental service with Lieutenant Joseph Tate of Captain John Armstrong's company, Colonel Alexander Martin's Regiment, that the troops to which he belonged marched to the South as he then understood, that about the time his enlistment expired he returned to his father's house where deponent visited him and found him reduced almost to a skeleton by sickness, that said enlistment was for twelve or eighteen months – that he knows Colonel James Martin sent expresses to some persons in Wilkes County North Carolina but does not recollect who was the bearer of them – he knows also that Colonel Alexander Martin when he was appointed Governor of North Carolina had a Guard to escort him on his way to Wilmington &

3 Governor Thomas Burke was taken prisoner by forces commanded by Colonel David Fanning at Hillsboro on September 12, 1781. http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hillsborough.html

4 [Richard Vernon S1883](#)

that Isaiah Gates was Captain of that Guard but he does not recollect who composed the guard & that said Johnson served as one of the guard to the Legislature at Salem. Said deponent also states that he was personally acquainted with Colonel Alexander Martin, Col. James Martin, Captain John Armstrong, Lieutenant Joseph Tate & Joseph & Charles McDowell. He also states that during the revolutionary War & afterwards said Johnson was considered a good Whig and a true friend to his Country & was frequently engaged in active service during the War. He also further states that he was acquainted with Walt Crunk and would believe him on his oath, and that he would believe what said Johnson would state on oath, and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Rich^d Vernon

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Vernon". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

S/ Gilbert Marshall, JP

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