

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Johnston S5639

f33VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/8/14

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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Fredericksburg Virginia August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1832

James L Edwards, Esquire

Sir,

I take the liberty of enclosing to you the papers relating to the application of my Father Richard Johnston for a Pension in the first place I will call your attention to document No. 1 which sets forth the evidence of his service in a State Corps termed the minute men under Major Buchanan.

No. 2 is his affidavit or Declaration as a Soldier in Colonel Bland's Regiment of horse, it is supported by the affidavit of Benjamin Truslow – in fact his name can be found [on] the role of that Regiment in your Department.

No. 3 sets forth his services as a militia man, I believe the forms in relation to the each case is fully complied with and under this his compensation would be greatest. My Father has in former years given himself much trouble and spent a good deal in prosecuting his claims and procuring evidence to support his claims, unfortunately all of his papers were burned in 1823 when he lost a large amount of Property very little being saved in the upper part of his House –

May I asked the favor of you to give the accompanying papers your early attention and let me know the result – My Father is an old man with the infirmities of age on him and he is all anxiety [?] to receive what may be coming to him.

And much oblige yours truly

S/ Fayette Johnston



State of Virginia Corporation of Fredericksburg: to wit

On this Ninth day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Corporation Court of Fredericksburg Richard Johnston a resident of the town of Fredericksburg, in the County of Spotsylvania, and State of Virginia, 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 provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: he joined Captain James Johnston's company as a volunteer, in the

County of Caroline, Virginia, in the year 1780 and marched with said Company to the South and the Company joined Colonel Holt Richardson's [Holt Richeson's] Regiment at Hillsborough, in North Carolina, was in the Army at Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] in the South and in several skirmishes in the Carolinas, from the Carolinas returned with the Company to Gloucester Town, Virginia, and at Gloucester Town was Commissioned a Lieutenant. He served nine months in Captain Johnston's Company as a Sergeant; and he served nine months more as a Lieutenant (after he was promoted) in Colonel Philip Johnston's Regiment to the end of the War. General Weedon [George Weedon] commanded the Army at Gloucester Town & Rochambeau the French troops. He has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. His Commission and papers relating to his services in the war were destroyed by fire in the year 1823 at the time that his house was burnt in Fredericksburg, with a good deal of his property.

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/ Richard Johnston

*a ay am y--*  
*Rich. Johnston*

[Samuel B Wilson, a clergyman, and George Rothrock gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9]

Corporation of Fredericksburg to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the Corporation aforesaid Fayette Johnston who states that he is the son of Richard Johnston now applying for a Pension under the late act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832 – this deponent states that he well recollects his Father having visited Richmond & Washington City (for the purpose of obtaining Land or money for his Revolutionary services) about the year 1808 or 1809 that coming home disappointed at his Fayette he placed his papers in an old paper case not much used in a part of the house remote which case together with everything in that part of the house was destroyed by fire in 1823 – this Deponent recollects seeing the Bundle of papers in said case endorsed ("Papers relating to my own & Brother Larkin's [Larkin Johnston] services in the Revolution") – the deponent never saw all the inside of the Bundle but always believed that it contained his Father's Commission & certificates as a Lieutenant in the Militia of Virginia to which he was promoted (after having served in various parts of the Country) at Gloucester town or more properly Ware's Church – This Deponent further states that he has good grounds for believing same as he has in former years heard his Father and some of his old Comrades relate some of their exploits &c

Given under my hand & seal this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832

S/ John Terrier, JP

[p 28]

State of Virginia Corporation of Fredericksburg, to wit

On this Ninth day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the

Corporation Court of Fredericksburg Richard Johnston a resident of the town of Fredericksburg in the County of Spotsylvania and State of Virginia, 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he enlisted in the service of the state troops of Virginia in a Corps of minute men sometime in the year 1776, which Corps was commanded by Captain Charles Woolfolk of Caroline County Virginia and said Corps joined a Regiment at Hampton in Virginia under the command of Major Buchanan. He was in actual service as a minute man in the Corps aforesaid nine months, paid off at Williamsburg Virginia with the rest of the Company and returned home in Caroline County, Virginia, where he lived when he entered the Corps aforesaid.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State  
S/ Rich'd Johnston

[p 31]

State of Virginia Corporation of Fredericksburg, to wit

On this Ninth day of August 1823 [sic, 1832] personally appeared before the Justices of the Corporation Court of Fredericksburg Richard Johnston a resident of the town of Fredericksburg in the County of Spotsylvania and State of Virginia, 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States sometime in the year 1777 Cuthbut Harrison [Cuthbert Harrison], Captain of a troop of Cavalry and served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment he believes. He enlisted under Captain Cuthbut Harrison in the town of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in the Cavalry. The Troop was commanded by Captain Harrison, one Belfield was the Lieutenant and Baylor Hill was the Cornet, The Regiment to which the Troop (to which he belonged) was attached was commanded by Colonel Theodorick Bland. The Officers of the Regiment were Colonel Bland and Major Jameson. He served two years and he thinks more and was discharged at Winchester in Virginia. He was at the Battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Rougely's Mill, Yellow Springs, Germantown [October 4, 1777] and Monmouth Court House [June 28, 1778]. He went with the troops to which he belonged from Fredericksburg Virginia to Philadelphia, thence to Trenton, thence to Morristown New Jersey, thence to a place called Battle Hill, from there lower down to a place then called Quibbletown, and marched to and fro in the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York and returned to to Winchester in Virginia and was there discharged. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

S/ Rich'd Johnston

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Baltimore February 13, 1832

Mr. Fayette Johnston

Dear Sir,

My only apology for not answering your letter sooner is owing to a long indisposition having been confined to my bedroom mostly since 1<sup>st</sup> December last & nearly every member of my Family having been sick, but thanks to God we are all likely to do well again.

I now take up my pen to state all I can recollect of the services of your honored father at

this remote period when it must be expected my memory is defective. It was from your Father that I obtained the information, when we had met in Fredericksburg in his own house the conversation almost always turning on this all absorbing & interesting subject. He would relate of circumstances that took place & mention places he had been at which were satisfactory to my mind that there could be no mistake & moreover I have a perfect recollection of my recognizing him as an old acquaintance the very first time after the Revolutionary War that I met him in Fredericksburg but I have forgotten the number of the Troop in Bland's Regiment of Dragoons & the name of the officer who commanded it – these doubtless he remembers & this being the case I should promise that a Record of all who served in the Virginia line is to be found in the War or Chancery office in Richmond I know this to be the case in Maryland & have reason to believe in all the States. This is the mode pursued by myself to obtain my land warrant from your State after finding that Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] had made a return there of the members of his Legion though many of the members enlisted were Citizens of other States & this simple return entitled each member to \_\_ acres of land reserved for the purpose – when I joined Captain Lee's Dragoons in the winter of 1776 – 7 near Bacon or Middlebrook on the Rapidan River it was No. 5 we were seldom with the Regiment being mostly kept on the lines near the Enemy watching his movement & in September 77 Captain Lee obtained a separate Command of his own men (Exempt from Colonel Bland) at the Head of Elk a short time & immediately after the enemy made good his landing and was ever afterwards [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> employed on the Lines – & in the winter of 1780 – 1, the Legion was ordered to the South. Thus you will perceive depriving us from that knowledge and acquaintance with the Officers & men which we otherwise would have acquired had the two Corps united under the same head. This my Dear Sir is all I can recollect & say in relation to the service of your Father, but which may put you in a proper train of obtaining that debt of gratitude from the Government of the United States or the State of Virginia which he is in my humble opinion so justly entitled to.

The land due from the US for a Sergeant I think 200 acres & from Virginia 4 to 600 – as for money or Certificates of arrearages is out of the question but he would be entitled provided you can establish his claim, to the years full pay from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1828 to March 1830 & to monthly pay during life.

Please make my kind respects to your honored Father & family & believe me your friend & Obedient Servant

S/ Wm McDonald<sup>2</sup>



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Corporation of Fredericksburg to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the Corporation

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<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> [William McDonald W6806](#)

aforesaid Benjamin Truslow<sup>3</sup> who makes oath that he knew Richard Johnston now of Fredericksburg during the Revolutionary War, and that he said Johnston was in Bland's Regiment of Horse and further that he said Truslow recognizes him to be the same person and has lived in the adjoining County for a number of years.

Given under my hand and seal this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832

S/ John Terrier, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a Corporal for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line.]

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<sup>3</sup> [Benjamin Trusloe \(Truslow\) S7757](#)