

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Isaac Johnson S5645

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/20/08: rev'd 2/9/16 & 10/2/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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State of Tennessee, Davidson County

On this 25 day of October 1832 Personally appeared in open Court Before William Williams, Jesse Whorton and Enoch P. Connel Esquires Judges of the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions for the County of Davidson at Nashville now sitting Isaac Johnson a Resident of Davidson County State of Tennessee who was born in Craven County North Carolina on the 14th day of April 1761 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 7 Day 1832 that he Entered the service of the United States as a volunteer for a bounty offered by the State of North Carolina and on the Tenth day of March 1779 I was mustered into service at the Richland Chapel in Onslow County and was sworn to serve three months out of the State of North Carolina under the Command of Captain Jamieson and Lieutenant Josiah Warren and Daniel Glessen Ensign and Jonas Johnson [Jonas Johnston] Colonel and Major Dotey [Benajah Doty] and Lowery [possibly John Lowry who is known to have served as a major under Jonas Johnston] and I think belonged to the first Regiment we then marched to Cross Creek or as it is now called Fayetteville there we joined Captain Charles Roaches [Charles Roach's] Company from Craven County North Carolina we stayed in Fayetteville one or two days and then marched to Charlotte where we joined Colonel McDowell's [Charles McDowell's] Regiment under General Butler [John Butler] we stayed in Charlotte about one week we then marched through the State of South Carolina for Georgia we crossed Savannah River at Augusta then marched down the River to Mobley's Ponds and joined General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and his Army several thousand strong at a saw mill where he was encamped there I saw the first British soldier that I ever saw they were prisoners to General Lincoln then he marched us across the Savannah River towards Charleston in South Carolina on marching several days and crossing Ashley River we then came to Bacon's Bridge where we had a small scrimmage with the Tories under McGirt [sic, Daniel McGirt?] I was then taken ill with the Flux and was sent to the Hospital the Army marched on within about five miles of the British Army that was stationed on Stono I stayed about two weeks in the Hospital and wagons were sent to move about one Hundred of us to the Army and I did not Enter the Hospital again for I had like to have died there the Doctor gave me ointment to kill the itch and I was caught in Rain which came neigh killing me. General Pulaski was sent with Colonel Johnson's Regiment below the British works where a part of the British was Burning two Large houses and Pulaski Endeavored to draw them out of the field into

the woods where we were stationed by the roadside our men killed one Briton and took one a Prisoner of their sentinels this alarmed the British and they were soon under arms but would not venture out and we started the next morning about daybreak for our Camp the Friday before the Battle of Stono [June 20, 1779]¹ a part of the Regulars and two pieces of artillery and three men out of each Militia Company was sent on an Expedition which I was one to take three British vessels on their way up the River as was said to be after Negroes But on firing on a Barge that were ahead of these vessels they turned down the River again and we lost our Prizes and the Battle of Stono was Fought while I was on this Expedition and General Lincoln's Army returned again to their old Encampment five miles from the British where we camped I think forty or fifty days in all the British moved off and we Militia were discharged of our three months out of the State of North Carolina I think I reached home about the 15 Day of August myself and two more men was sick John Burley and Enoch Master and Colonel Johnson sent Brother Charles Johnson and John Ramsey to assist us in getting home to Craven County and me to Onslow County North Carolina I think I served in this tour one month in North Carolina and three months out of the State -- again about the first day of January 1781 when the British was in Wilmington under Colonel Craig [James Craig] I again volunteered myself to serve three months under Captain Mathey Alberton [Matthew Allbritton] Lieutenant Nathan Murray Ensign Enoch Thompson under Major Smith & Colonel Grant [Lieutenant Colonel Reuben Grant] and General Linenton [John Alexander Lillington] We were mustered into service at Colonel Rodeses [Rhodes?] in Onslow County North Carolina and camped at Moore Hill about one week and then marched up the Holle [Holly] Shetter [Shelter] Road to Rutherford's Mills² where I was ordered to stay with Lieutenant Murray to thrash or shell corn and grind meal for the Army that went down to Blufords Bridge [Buford's Bridge]³ where the Army was stationed until Corn Wallace [sic, Cornwallis] came down from Guilford Court House to Wilmington while we were at Beaufort's Bridge the British under Colonel Craig came up to Bluford's Bridge and demanded a surrender of our works to this General Lillington refused to surrender but sent Colonel Brown [Thomas Brown] to cross the River above and surprise the British and draw them off the Bridge Lillington failed to do his part as agreed to with Brown and Brown's advance Guard was mostly killed or made Prisoners by the British Light horse several of the British were killed and Robert Gressom [sic, Gresham?] took one of the British Light Horse a prisoner John Osborn [John Osborne] a young man and near neighbor of my was killed in this Battle at Bluford's Bridge⁴ about two days after the Battle the British marched to Wilmington our Army stayed until Cornwallis came and we marched up to Rutherford's Mills again where we stayed about one week then we marched to Limestone Bridge in Duplin County there we stayed one or two weeks and then marched to

¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

² GEN. ALEX. LILLINGTON TO MAJOR MOLTON OF DUPLIN.

Rich Lands, 28th June, 81, 10 o'Clock A. M.

Sir: The Enemy are advancing this Morning from Rutherford's Mill, with about 800 Tories & Regulars you will please to March forward immediately with all the Horse and Foot you can Muster not a Moment is to be lost we shall rendezvous at Hines's where I hope to have a large Force this Evening; every Thing will depend on your quick Dispatch.

I am Sir yr. hble Servt.

ALEX. LILLINGTON, B. G. [letter accessed 10/21/08 <http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr15-0424#p15-496.>]

³ J. D. Lewis notes: "The bridge was a recently constructed "swing bridge" that was built by a man named Mr. Buford in the early 1770s. But, by the late 1770s, it had been purchased by a Mr. Heron and everyone in the vicinity knew it as Heron's Bridge - primarily because he strengthened it considerably and made it much more reliable. But, the "old timers" still called it Buford's Bridge."

⁴ Veteran appears to be describing the engagement at Heron's Bridge, January 30, 1781.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html

Kingston [sic, Kinston] on Neuse River there we left our artillery and we were discharged by Colonel Grant at Kinston after having served out our three months -- Sometime in June the same year Captain Alberton and about fifteen Militia and Captain John Mason of the Light Horse and seven or eight of his men went into Hollishetler Precoson [sic, Holly Shelter Swamp]⁵ there we caught eleven Tories from Duplin County that had been to Wilmington and was on their return home with ten new British muskets we brought them out and sent them to Newbern [New Bern]-
- I also Listed [enlisted] on board of the Privateer vessel called *Black Joke* with seventy men For six weeks trip we sailed out of New River Inlet under the Command of Captain Gilbert Harrison & Lieutenant Bradley & James Estine and John Miles Gunner we sailed to the South of Charleston and on cruising in Winyaws Bay [Winyah Bay] near to Georgetown in South Carolina we made a Prize of the British sloop of war *Permudas* [?] with only eight men on board she had been unarmed and sent to the North to exchange Prisoners but had overstayed her time and we made a Prize of her for which I received a few dollars Prize money in these two last Routes I was engaged as above some over six weeks -- in the year of 1800 I moved from Onslow County North Carolina to Davidson County Tennessee where I yet live I have two sisters in Tennessee Rachel Johnson and Hannah Roach that knows of my Service in the Revolution War and Benajah Gray also he was a child at the time of my serving he well remembers of my being in the Revolution war with his Father James Gray I know of no person in Tennessee that was with me in the service of my Country I hereby Relinquish all claims whatever to a Pension or annuity Except the Present & declare that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State sworn to and subscribed the day and date above in open court.

Test: S/ Henry Ewing, Clerk

S/ Isaac Johnson, X his mark

[Guy McFadden and William H. Nance gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Rachel Johnson, 76, gave a supporting affidavit dated October 6, 1832.]

[Hannah Roach, 80, gave a supporting affidavit dated October 6, 1832.]

[Benajah Gray, 57, gave a supporting affidavit dated October 6, 1832.]

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State of Tennessee Davidson County

Personally appeared before the Court of pleas & quarter sessions for the said County at their October sessions 1833 Isaac Johnson of said County who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned here below and in the following Grades. First this deponent served from the 10th day of March 1779 four months as a volunteer a Private in Captain Jemison's company as per declaration. The second tower [Tour] this deponent served three months a Private and a volunteer in Captain Alberton's Company from the first of January 1781 and in June in the same year the deponent served two days under Captain Alberton and caught eleven Tories and the

⁵ One of our best supporters and friends, Patricia Forster, found a map in the North Carolina Archives which solves this mystery. She writes: "What Isaac Johnson was referring to is spelled on the 1775 map as "Holly Schelter Precoson" or by its proper name today, "Holly Shelter Pocosin." A pocosin (an Algonquin word for evergreen shrub bog) is an upland swamp formed by depressions. The Algonquin believed the depressions in the earth were caused by falling stars...strangely enough, modern scientists believe they were caused by falling meteorites. The Algonquin had it right!"

same year this deponent served forty-two days as a volunteer and a private under Captain Harrison on board of the *Black Joke* vessel a privateer in all the above Expeditions this deponent served not less than eight months & thirteen days as a private soldier to the best of his knowledge and belief possibly the right dates is not remembered but the above is as near as is now remembered and for which I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court October 24, 1833

Test: S/ Henry Ewing, Clerk

S/ Isaac Johnson, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the North Carolina militia and as a privateer.]