

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Johnson S7093

f44NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/23/08: rev'd 2/13/16 & 7/10/21

[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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.]

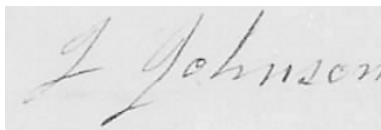
[p 16]

District of North Carolina

On this Ninth day of May 1818, before the Subscriber, one of the Judges of the United States for the District aforesaid personally appeared Joseph Johnson, age Sixty-three years, resident in Chatham County in the said District, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he the said Joseph Johnson, in the year 1776, obtained a commission of Ensign, in the State of North Carolina, in a company commanded by Captain Matthew Ramsay [Matthew Ramsey] of the 9th Regiment, of the North Carolina line, on the Continental establishment, in the war of the Revolution; that he continued to serve under said commission for some months, when, in the year 1777, he received a commission of Lieutenant, under the same Captain, and served as such, and the said service of the United States, in said Regiment & in the 6th Regiment, to which he was transferred, until the end of the war, when his service ended of course, in the State of North Carolina -- that he was in the battles of Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780],<sup>1</sup> Stono [June 20, 1779],<sup>2</sup> & Guilford [March 15, 1781],<sup>3</sup> and that he is in reduced circumstances, & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support -- and that he has no other evidence now in his power, of his said services, except the papers now exhibited.

Sworn to & subscribed before me, the day & year aforesaid.

S/ J. Johnson



S/ H. Potter, DJUSNC

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State of North Carolina Chatham County

Personally came before me Francis Drake one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_stono\\_ferry.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

State and County aforesaid James Christian and maketh oath that he was well acquainted with Joseph Johnson during the revolutionary War & Since, and of his services during that period; He was himself a Soldier under Matthew Ramsey Captain and the said Joseph Johnson Lieutenant of said Company; that the said Joseph Johnson acted as a Lieutenant under Matthew Ramsey in the Ninth Regiment of the North Carolina Continental Line; that he believes some time in the year 1777 the said Johnson and Company marched from Hillsboro North Carolina to Halifax North Carolina and from thence to Fredericksburg in Virginia and thence to Alexandria Virginia where he believes he was ordered on to the South for the purpose of recruiting men in the regular Service and believes the said Johnson served faithfully his country in that Capacity for Nine months & longer – He said deponent maketh oath that he is in no wise interested in the said Johnson getting a pension from Government; that he has ever known the said Johnson since that period that he is now in reduced Circumstances of Life & Stands in need of his Country's assistance for support. Given under my hand & Seal this 14<sup>th</sup> November A.D. 1818  
Sworn to & subscribed before me this day  
S/ Francis Drake, JP

S/ James Christin [sic]<sup>4</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Christian". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a large, decorative flourish at the end.

[p 31]

State of North Carolina Chatham County

This day came before me Zachariah Harman one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the State and county aforesaid Thomas Ragland Esquire Clerk of the Court of the Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the said County and maketh oath that he was acquainted with Joseph Johnson of the aforesaid County during the Revolutionary War and Since, that during the year 1777 and 1778 he was frequently with the said Johnson, that the said Joseph Johnson was acting in the Ninth Regiment of the Continental line as a Lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain Matthew Ramsey; that he never saw the Commission of the said Johnson but well remembers he was always understood to act in that capacity – and was duly obeyed as such – I also remember that during this time a company of Nine months men of which the said Johnson appeared to have a command or somewhere near about it that was ordered to march to the Town of Peytonsburch in Virginia there to rendezvous and believe they did go on to Virginia and then returned; after this I left the company myself at Moon's Creek but understood that the said Johnson was ordered to march on the southward – it is hereby intended that the said Thomas Ragland maketh this statement to the best of his recollection; and he always understood that the said Johnson was in service of his country during the greater part of the War – That the said Deponent is no wise interested in the said Johnson getting a pension from government; and he believes some his knowledge of the circumstances of said Johnson that they are quite reduced & that he stands in need of his country's assistance for support. – 11<sup>th</sup> November 1818  
Sworn to & subscribed in the presence of  
S/ Zach. Harman, JP

S/ Thos Ragland

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<sup>4</sup> This MAY be the same man as [James Christian S12699](#). I base this suggestion solely on the similarity of signatures – not the description of services since Christian gives very little information as to his service in his application for a pension.



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State of North Carolina Secretary's Office 25th of December 1818

I do hereby Certify that it appears from the muster roll of the North Carolina Continental line that Joseph Johnston a Lieutenant was in the service of the United States on the 28th of November 1776 and served until the 15th of May 1782 in the 9th Regiment in Captain Ramsey's Company.

Given under my hand the date above  
S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

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State of North Carolina, Chatham County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions begun & held on Monday, 14 August 1820

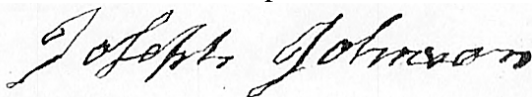
On this day of August 14, 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County and State aforesaid Joseph Johnson aged about Sixty Six years resident in the County of Chatham and State of North Carolina who being first duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War that the said Joseph Johnston was appointed an Ensign in the year 1776 in the Company commanded by Captain Matthew Ramsey in the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Williams in the Line of the State of North Carolina in the Continental establishment; that he continued to Serve in said Corps until about the year 1778; and the said Joseph Johnson still continued to serve in the Continental Army of the United States under the said Captain Matthew Ramsey & commanded as well as I can remember by Colonel Thomas Armstrong until the peace between this Country & Great Britain in 1781 at which time the said Joseph Johnson was held as a prisoner in ~~Charleston South Carolina~~ Wilmington North Carolina. That he was engaged in the Battles of Stono [June 20, 1779], Cambden [sic, Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], in Guilford [March 15, 1781] besides many other skirmishes with the Enemy and that he has no further evidence of his services save that which was exhibited before his Honor Henry Potter at Raleigh Judge of the District Court North Carolina in the year 1818 and thence returned to the War Department at Washington City on which a pension was granted to the said Joseph Johnson commencing with the date of the aforesaid declaration before his honor Judge Potter and that he has regularly received his pension down to the 4th of March last 1820 commencing as well as I can State about May 1818.

And I the said Joseph Johnson do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or other wise disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed--

Here follows a List of my property, I owned no real estate to wit <sup>of personal</sup> one small heifer; a small Hogs; 3 grown Hogs; 5 small pigs, one pine chest, one pine Table; 3 old chairs; one Pot, one Dutch oven; some small articles of pewter & earthen Ware about the value of \$5, one

weeding hoe, one grubbing hoe, 2 old plow hoes, I have been in the habit of cultivating the Earth; but have been for some years unable to pursue it; That for some 2 or 3 years I have been in the habit of earning as far as I was able for my support the business of shoemaking; but now from a loss of my eyesight am unable to do but very little at that business -- I have a wife aged about 45 years, a daughter Hannah aged about 17 years; a son Joseph aged about 15 years, a son Caswell aged about 12, Daniel about 10 years, Morgan about 7 or 6 years, Jackson about 4, Jasper about 2 years old -- I have a charitable neighbor who allows me to live on a small piece of Land --

S/ Joseph Johnson



Sworn to and declared on the 14th day of August 1820 before

S/ N. Stedman

S/ Thomas Parish

S/ Thos. Clegg

[p 35: On April 20<sup>th</sup> 1840 in Troup County Georgia, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension payment to the Georgia agency stating that he has removed to the state of Georgia where he intends to remain. He states his reason for removing to Georgia from North Carolina as follows: "That in Consequence of age and bodily infirmity he was induced to leave North Carolina and remove to Georgia where his Sons reside, and that he may receive their aid assistance and protection."



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[p 5]

State of Georgia Troup County

Personally appeared in open Court Daniel Johnson of the County and State aforesaid and after being duly Sworn depose and Saith that to the best of his Knowledge and from the Records of Court and all other Concurring testimony that Joseph Johnson was married to Mary Cummings in the year 1801 or thereabouts both living in Chatham County State of North Carolina at the time of their marriage.

He further states that Joseph Johnson volunteered his service in the Army of the United States in the year 1774 or five and continued in said Service as first Lieutenant until the close of the war.

He further states that Joseph Johnson drew annually the sum of \$240 from the time of the Pension Act of 1818 up to the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1839 and was residing at that time in Chatham County State of North Carolina.

He further states that on the Seventeenth day of March in the year 1839 he the said Joseph Johnson Removed from Chatham County State of North Carolina to Troup County State of Georgia and was regularly transferred from the pension Roll of North Carolina to the Agent for paying pensions in the State of Georgia and here Claimed and received from the Pension Agent in Savannah State of Georgia the above named sum from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1839 up to the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 1840.

He further states that Joseph Johnson died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1841.

He further states that no payment has been made since the death of Joseph Johnson. He also states that Mary Johnson wife of Joseph Johnson died on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 1841.

He further says that at the time of the death of Mary Johnson which was on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 1841 there was then and it is at this time living Six of the children of Joseph and Mary Johnson. He further states the following named Children of Joseph and Mary Johnson are yet living and was living at the time of their death all of lawful age to wit Hannah Sorrell, Joseph Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Morgan Johnson, Andrew J Johnson and Benjamin J Johnson. He further states that Mary Johnson the wife of Joseph Johnson departed this life as before stated on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 1841 without being intermarried to another person after the death of her husband. He also states that Arris Sorrell of Chatham County North Carolina departed this life in the year 1842 and that Hannah Sorrell his wife yet resides in Chatham County State of North Carolina.

Sworn to and Subscribed before us this 4<sup>th</sup> September 1843

S/ J. W. Beall, JIC

S/ Daniel Ware, JIC

S/ John Douglass, JIC

S/ Daniel Johnson

*Daniel Johnson*

[p 12: On November 15, 1843, Hannah Sorrell, 41, daughter of Joseph Johnson, filed in Chatham County seeking the 'more liberal' pension due her father under the 1832 Act versus the 1818 Act under which he was pensioned. She states she has heard her father speak of serving under Capt. Ramsey, Col. Williams, Genl. Caswell, Genl. Gates & others. She files on behalf of herself and all the surviving children of Joseph Johnson, to wit: herself, Joseph, Daniel, Morgan, Andrew J., and Benjamin J. Johnson, all of lawful age; she states that her father married a 'second time' to their mother, Mary Cumming, in 1801; that Mary died in 1841; the court found that Lieutenant Joseph Johnson was pensioned under the 1818 act; that he settle in Troupe County, Ga., in 1839 and died there May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1841.

*Hannah Sorrell*

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Georgia, Muscogee County

Personally came before me Daniel Higdon<sup>5</sup> who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that Lieutenant Joseph Johnston volunteered in the revolutionary war in the year 1774 or 5 and continued until the end of the war and the witness further deposeth and saith that the said Lieutenant Joseph Johnston was married in the year 1801 or thereabouts to Mary Cummings both of Chatham County North Carolina and continued there until the said Joseph Johnston removed to Georgia I saw him in Troupe County Georgia in 1839.

Sworn to and subscribed before me in office this August 18, 1843.

S/ Daniel Higdon, X his mark

[Facts in file: Mary the widow died September 27, 1841; Hannah Johnson, daughter of the

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<sup>5</sup> [Daniel Higdon W25769](#)

veteran, married Arris Sorrell.]

[Veteran was initially pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing May 9, 1818, for service as a Lieutenant in the North Carolina Continental line. Subsequently, Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, and ending May 23, 1841, the date of his death. He was pensioned for service as a Lieutenant for 2 years in the North Carolina Continental line.]