

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Johnson S7095

f12NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/27/08: rev'd 2/21/16

[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 North Carolina, County of Wilkes: SS

On this 31st day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina now sitting, William Johnson Esquire a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, aged Seventy-eight 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 was born on the 28th day of July 1754 in the County of Amelia & State of Virginia, (the record of which is entered in his family Bible) where he lived until his father removed to Johnston County (now Wake) North Carolina, at which time he was very small. He lived in said County until he was about seventeen years of age, when he removed with his father to the County of Rowan (now Surry) in the same State, where he lived until he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in the month of February 1776 in a company of volunteers commanded by Captain Hamblin [John Hamlin], and marched forthwith to Cross Creek or Fayetteville, with a view of suppressing the Scotch Tories who were at that time committing great depredations in that section of the Country -- before however they reached the scene of their expected operations, an engagement [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] had been fought between the Tories, under command of General McDonald [Donald McDonald], and the Americans under General Moore, Colonel Caswell [Richard Caswell] & Colonel Lillington [John Alexander Lillington] at a bridge on Moore's Creek, in which the former were defeated & taken prisoners. After the engagement was over the prisoners were brought to Fayetteville where this deponent was stationed as one of the guard for a considerable time and until the prisoners were sent off -- this deponent was one of twelve persons detailed from Captain Hamblin's Company to form part of the guard to convey the prisoners to Halifax, but for some reason unknown to this deponent they did not go, and after being detained there some time after the principal part of the troops were discharged, they were also discharged and returned home, which place this deponent reached some time in the month of April, having been in service about two months and a half --

In the month of July or August following the deponent again volunteered himself as an Ensign in the company of Captain Samuel Mosby [Samuel Moseby], under a commission given him by Governor Caswell [Richard Caswell], and rendezvoused near old Richmond in the said County of Surry, where they remained about a week, making preparations for their intended expedition, and thence marched across the Blue Ridge to Fort Chissel [Fort Chiswell] near the Lead mines in Virginia, where they remained a few days and thence marched direct to the Long

Islands of Holstein [sic, Holston River] where they joined the Virginia troops under Colonel Christie or Christian [William Christian], and after remaining there about two weeks, they marched as direct as they could to the Cherokee Nation [Cherokee Expedition]¹ -- upon arriving at the Cherokee Towns they found that most of the Indians had fled and abandoned the Towns; & after destroying their towns, corn and such other property as they could find, they marched back as far as the Tennessee River where they were halted until they received their rations to carry them home, and then set out for home which place this deponent reached about 19 November -- having been in service during this tour from three to four months -- From the time that this deponent returned from the Indian nation until the Spring of the year 1780, (at which time this deponent removed into Wilkes County) he performed several tours of duty against the Tories in various parts of the County but the length of each and the particular circumstances connected therewith, he cannot now after a lapse of so many years pretend to recollect -- In the month of March 1781 directly after the battle of Guilford [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781], this deponent was drafted for a short tour, to oppose Lord Cornwallis who was supposed intended to return to South Carolina, and rendezvoused at Hamblin's old store where he joined the company of Captain John Cleveland (son of Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland]) and marched direct to the old trading Ford on the Yadkin [River] near Salisbury, with a view of opposing the passage of Lord Cornwallis -- and after being stationed there for a short time, it was ascertained that Lord Cornwallis had marched for Wilmington, when there being no longer any necessity for their services, they were discharged and returned home, having been in service during this expedition about three weeks --

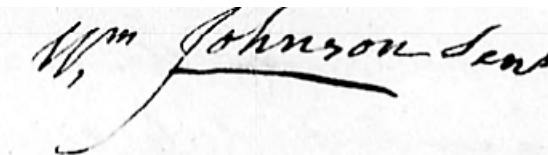
This deponent has resided in the County of Wilkes ever since the revolutionary war, and resides there at this time -- He has no documentary evidence to prove his services, the commission given him as Ensign by Governor Caswell having been lost or mislaid for many years -- He has no discharges, nor has he any recollection of ever having received any -- nor does he know of any person living whose testimony he can procure, who could testify to his service, but refers to Colonel William P. Waugh and Samuel F. Patterson as persons to whom he is well-known and who can testify as to his character for veracity and 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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ R. Martin, Clk

S/ William Johnson Senior

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Johnson Senior". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Wm P. Waugh and Saml. F. Patterson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Wilkes County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in & for said County William Johnson Esquire, who, being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that by reason of old

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776_TN.html

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 below, and in the following grades: For Four Months, I served as an Ensign – For Two months & twenty-one days, I served as a private: and for such service I claim a pension.

This deponent further states that the reason he did not procure the certificate of a clergyman, is, that there is none residing in his neighborhood, nor any within a convenient distance that he could procure – He further states that he knows of no person living by whom he could prove the fact of his having been commissioned as an Ensign.

Sworn to & subscribed this 21st day of July 1833

Test

S/ Jno Gambill, JP [John Gambill]

S/ Wm Johnson Senr.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$48.99 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & Ensign for 6 months in 21 days in the North Carolina militia.]