

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Moses Johnson W153

Nancy Johnson

f55NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

[p 8]

State of Tennessee, Hawkins County: SS

Personally appeared on the 5th day of September 1833 before me William Babb one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for said County & State Moses Johnson a resident of said County aged ninety-three 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 --

That this declarant sometime in the month of August in the year 1776, while living in Surry County North Carolina, joined the troops under the command of Colonel Williams [Joseph Williams] of North Carolina as a volunteer under Captain Garvis [sic, Jabez Jarvis], and marched to the Long Island of Holston River, (in Tennessee,) and at which place they formed a Junction with the Virginians under Colonel Christian [William Christian], from the Long Island they were marched to the Cherokee Towns -- crossing the Holston River at the Great Island, and after remaining some days at the double Springs on Lick Creek, they were joined by other troops from Watauga -- they afterwards crossed the French Broad River, on to the Tennessee River, then to Tamotbe [probably Tomotley ?] which they took possession of (an Indian town) from thence to the Great Island Town, and remained there about twenty days -- and then to Neowee [?], Tellico, Chilhowee, which they burnt, also TusKegee [?]¹ -- then they were marched to Chota, from thence returned to the settlements on the Holston -- having continued in service six months, not being discharged until sometime in February 1777 -- but whether he received a verbal or written discharge he cannot now remember.

That in the year 1780 sometime in the month of March he again volunteered for nine months, in said County of Surry North Carolina, under a Captain Humphreys [David Humphreys] in the Regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Martin [sic, Martin Armstrong], as well as he now remembers, in the United States Service, and from Surry was marched to within a short distance of Camden South Carolina and during the battle [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780],² that took place about the middle of August -- this declarant was left guarding the baggage, -- after the defeat of General Gates [Horatio Gates] this declarant was marched back to North Carolina and discharged -- in the month of December, but he does not now remember at what place -- but this he does remember that he served out his nine months --

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

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

That again in the month of January 1781 he again entered the service of his country under Captain Patrick [Paul Patrick], as a volunteer, and was marched to the Catawba River, where he came under the command of General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], who was killed³ (in attempting to cross a ford on that River) by the troops under Lord Cornwallis, from thence he with the troops marched to Guilford Court House -- and this declarant states that he was in the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781],⁴ where General Greene [Nathanael Greene] was obliged to retreat, from Lord Cornwallis, and from the Guilford this declarant was finally marched to Ramsey's Mills and from thence he with part of his company was marched home, in Surry, which place the troops did not reach until the month of July, but the exact time he does not recollect, having served six months that tour. He states furthermore that he was acquainted with General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] of North Carolina while in service and with Generals Butler [John Butler] & Eaton -- and was General Greene who commanded at the battle of Guilford and many other officers both regular & militia whom he has now forgotten. He knows of no person, by whom he can prove his Services excepting Henry Blevins⁵ & John Dodson⁶ of Hawkins County whose certificates he will obtain, should they be living. He has no documentary proof having lost all his discharges, one sense -- He has no record of his age. He has been living in Tennessee, almost ever since the close of the revolutionary war, and still lives in said State as before stated. There is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood. He is acquainted with James Long, Milam Davis & Jacob Lifer his neighbors who have testified to his reputation. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 & year aforesaid.

S/ William Babb, JP

S/ Moses Johnson, X his mark

[James Long, Milam Davis & Jacob Lifer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this night day of September 1833 Personally appeared before me Richard Mitchell -- a Justice of the peace in and for said County John Dodson a citizen of to Hawkins County, who being duly sworn according to law states that he is now a pensioner of the United States his name being on the Jonesborough Agency in East Tennessee. He states furthermore that he is well acquainted with Moses Johnson, whose declaration is hereto annexed, made out before William Babb Esquire -- that said Johnson served as he states in his declaration, six months against the Indians under Captain Garvis -- this affiant was with said Johnson on the same campaign in 1776 & 1777. He furthermore states that he has understood that said Johnson served over periods during the revolutionary war, and that seems to be the opinion of all said Johnson's acquaintances and this affiant concurs in that opinion, and he has the fullest reliance on the Statement made by said Moses Johnston and the declaration hereto annexed. Sworn to and subscribed before me the date above.

S/ Richard Mitchell, JP

³ William Lee Davidson was killed February one, 1781 at the battle of Cowan's Ford.

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

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

⁵ [Henry Blevins \(Blevens\) W1703](#)

⁶ [John Dodson S2518](#)

S/ John Dodson, X his mark

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State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

Personally appeared before me Richard Mitchell a Justice of the peace in and aforesaid County Henry Blevins a citizen of Hawkins County and a Pensioner of the United States of the agency of Jonesborough who being first duly sworn states that he was acquainted with a certain Moses Johnston in a campaign against the Indians in 1776 and 1777 when the troops marched from Holston to the Indian Towns, mentioned in the said Johnson declaration hereto annexed, and he believes that the said Moses Johnson now an applicant for a pension is the same person who served in that campaign -- and from that he high standing the said Johnson has for truth and integrity this affiant would place the utmost confidence in any statement he would make & further saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 9th day of September 1833

S/ Richard Mitchell, JP

S/ Henry Blevins, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Hawkins County

Personally appeared before me William Babb an acting Justice of the peace Moses Johnson, the aforesaid applicant for a pension ^{on this 23rd day of November 1833} who being duly sworn according to law, States that there is no person living in the State of Tennessee, that he knows of, by whom he can prove his nine months campaign, under Captain Humphreys & Colonel Martin because he performed said Service in the States of North and South Carolina, as before stated and, he is now so enfeebled by age and infirmity that it would be impossible for him to go and procure proof in those states, neither has he the means, if he had the power to perform the journey being at this time in extreme poverty. He solemnly avers that he performed said 9 months Service as a volunteer under militia officers and served altogether 21 months as before stated. Sworn to & subscribed before me date above

S/ William Babb, JP

S/ Moses Johnson, X his mark

[p 39: On February 26, 1839 in Hawkins County Tennessee, Nancy Johnson, aged about 92, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Moses Johnson, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married Moses Johnson on the 19th day of October 1762; that her husband died April 9th, 1834; that she has no documentary proof of her marriage; and that she remains a widow. She signed this application with her mark. This application was supported by an affidavit given by Jacob and Judy Liford in which they state they were acquainted with Nancy Johnson and that she was married on the day and year stated in her application. They both signed with their respective marks.]

[p 42: On February 12, 1841 in Hawkins County Tennessee, Nancy Johnston [sic], aged 83, made another application under the 1836 act for a widow's pension as the widow of Joseph Johnston, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married Moses Johnston in Surry County North Carolina in the month of October 1769; that Sarah Stapleton now living in Clay County Kentucky was her attendant; that she has no record of her marriage or the births of her children; that her husband died May 9, 1834 and that she remains his widow. She signed this application

with her mark.]

[p 4: On October 16, 1841 in Hawkins County Tennessee, Nancy Johnson, aged 83 years made another application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Moses Johnson a private in the revolution; she refers to his application for a description of his services; that she married him in 1779 the month not recollected; that they were married in the state of North Carolina; that her husband died April 9, 1834; that she has no family record of her marriage or the births of her children; and that she remains a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 5: On October 16, 1841 in Hawkins County Tennessee, Judith Liford, 52, gave evidence that she is the daughter of Nancy and Moses Johnston [sic]; that at the time her mother made an earlier application for a pension her mother was very old and her memory much impaired; that she has heard in the family that her parents were married in 1769; that affiant is now satisfied from the age of her oldest sister and other facts that have come to heard knowledge that her parents were married in 1779; that her father died April 9, 1834. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 6: On December 8th, 1841 in Clay County Kentucky, Sarah Stapleton, aged 80, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Nancy Johnson widow of Moses Johnson, a revolutionary war pensioner; that Moses and Nancy were married in Surry County North Carolina sometime in the year 1779; that affiant was present at the wedding as an attendant of Nancy Johnson. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 20: On March 11, 1842 in Hawkins County Tennessee, Nancy Johnson, 84, applied again for a widow's pension stating that she was the widow of Moses Johnson a pensioner of the United States for his revolutionary services ; that she married him in 1779 and that he died April 9, 1834 in Hawkins County [in 1839, she said she was then 92]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836 for her husband service for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]

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[NOTE: The following relates to someone other than the above applicant, possibly someone named Moses Johnson who lived in New York at the time of the Revolution and served there.]

The following questions were propounded by the court to the applicant

First Where, and in what year were you born

Answer was born in Schenectady New York in 1753

Second Have you any record of your age and if so where is it.

Answer Has no record of Age -- thinks his age is recorded in a family Bible at Schenectady

Third Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer When first called out he lived at John, Town then Tryon, now Montgomery County afterwards at Shawangunk, Ulster County, NY -- About 9 years ago he moved to Greene,

Chenango County where he now lives....

4th How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom

Answer; He was drafted and performed class duty