

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Johnson W24  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Nancy Johnson

f106VA  
rev'd 1/5/14

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

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Hawkins County, The state of Tennessee: May Sessions 1818

On this 27<sup>th</sup> [?] day of May before me the Subscriber Chairman of the said County Court and one of the Justices of the Quorum of said Court, personally appeared in said court William Johnson aged 56 years resident in the County of Hawkins aforesaid who being by me duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the 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 William Johnson enlisted in the County of Caroline State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Samuel Seldon [Samuel Selden] of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Hawes commanded by General Green [Nathanael Greene] and as near as this Deponent now recollects in the year 1779 for the term of Eighteen months, that he continued to serve in said Corps in the United States Service until sometime in the year 1781 or thereabouts that he was discharged in Caroline County aforesaid by Colonel Hawes but that said discharge which was an honorable one, is not in his possession nor has he any other Evidence in his power to furnish by reason of the long space of time, that has elapsed. That said Deponent was in the battles of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781], Camden,<sup>1</sup> at the Siege of Ninety Six [May 21 – June 19, 1781], and at the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], where he was wounded by a sword on the top of the head, was bayoneted on the left arm, was shot in the knee, hip & leg Severely by the Enemy at which battle General Greene Commanded. That he is not only in very reduced circumstances but is almost totally unable to support himself by reason of the hardship he has underwent, and the wounds he has received in the Service of his Native Country the United States and that he greatly stands in need of the assistance and support of his Country though he has no other Evidence than this declaration to offer in support of his Services and that all the time he served in the United States Service was at least twenty one months.

Sworn to and declared before George Maxwell one of the Justices of the Quorum and Chairman of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County in open Court on this the 27<sup>th</sup> [?] day of May 1818.  
S/ Geo. Maxwell [George Maxwell]

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State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 1820 first appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record for said County, William Johnson aged about 59 years Resident in said County who being first duly Sworn according to law, doth on his oath, declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows: Enlisted in Captain Samuel Seldon's Company who was succeeded by Captain Campbell of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment,

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1 Probably the Battle of Hobkirk Hill (a/k/a the Second Battle of Camden) based on the other battles in which he says he fought. The Battle of Hobkirk Hill was fought on April 25, 1781.

Virginia Line for 18 months that he has Received a Pension certificate number 12,140 that my first Declaration was made out on or about the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1818 and the County Court aforesaid.

And I 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 otherwise 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 or personal or real estate belonging to me except the clothes on my back, nor have I any wife or children but a daughter who does not live with me who is about 16 or 17 years old: that I am extremely weak & debilitated & unable to support myself by my own occupation which is that of a daily labor & Stand in abstract need of the assistance of my Country for Support. Sworn to & subscribed in open Court.  
S/ William Johnson, X his mark

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State of Tennessee, County of Grainger

On this twenty seventh day of September 1844 personally appeared before me William Colvin a justice of the peace in and for said County and State aforesaid Nancy Johnson a resident in and of the said County and State aged 70 or 71 years old; who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows; That she is the widow of William Johnson who was a private in the Army of the revolution and served in all the southern division of the Army under Generals Greene and Morgan was in the battles of the Cowpens, Guilford, Eutaw Springs and several other engagements as she has been informed and believes: and received several wounds in various parts of his body the scars of which I have many times seen: with a cutlass or sword on his head and his arm with a bayonet; and in his knee and hip with bullets and was a cripple until the day of his death which took place in Grainger County on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 being three or four days after the great falling of the Stars or Meteoric Light which took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of that month in the same year; I am unable to give a detailed or particular account of his services but he was I believe pensioned under one of the first pension laws were for Revolutionary Soldiers when we resided in Hawkins County in this States; as an invalid pensioner and drew his pension for many years before his death in Knoxville of Robert King who was then the Agent for paying pensions and was on his Roll when he died at a full pension of \$96 a year and after his death I drew the arrearage of pension being some \$18 or \$19 the exact amount not recollected and then surrendered of his certificate and receipted for the same all of which I suppose will be found on the files of the war department in the pension office or treasury office in as before stated she supposes that the proof of his said husband's services on which he was pensioned will be as she supposes all sufficient to entitle her to the amount of pension that her husband was entitled to draw under the law above referred to; She states that she was married to her said husband about the last day of September or first day of October 1790 in Northampton County on Maheren [sic, Meherrin] River in the State of North Carolina by one James Vincent a Baptist preacher of the Gospel by a certificate or license from publication in the Church my name before my marriage was Nancy Briant being then the law of the land; she states that she is unable to produce any record evidence of her marriage or over documentary evidence from church Books or records as they have been long since gone to destruction or lost in the lapse of so many years and she has no family record of the ages of her children or marriage her said husband never having one; he being no scholar and was careless about such matters; but will be able to prove the positive and lawful solemnization of her marriage to her late husband William Johnson who was a pensioner referred to in the first part of this declaration by the evidence contained in the deposition of James Johnson which is hereto affixed who is a man of respectable

standing in society and of good moral character which will be fully sustained; she would state that her oldest child is fifty-two or three years old according to her best recollection.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Johnson on the last day of September or first day of October in the year 1790 and that her said husband the aforesaid William Johnson did die on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz. At the time above stated. Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me.

S/ Wm Colvin, JP

S/ Nancy Johnson, X her mark

[On September 17, 1844, in Grainger County, Tenn., James Johnson (relationship, if any, not stated), 73, gave an affidavit supporting Nancy Johnson's claim.]

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State of Tennessee, Grainger County

Personally appeared before me Elijah Evans one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County Nancy Johnson widow and relic of William Johnson deceased who was a pensioner of the United States and in order to amend her former declaration which is now on file with the department of war; of the United States Amends her said declaration so far to explain a statement of her said husband in the year 1820; in relation to his "family and property" She states that it was true her said husband had at the date of his statements in 1820 no property in his own right at all; and it was also true that all his children was then married or dead except a daughter his youngest which then and for two years resided with her sister a married lady in North Carolina but returned soon after the date of the above statement and married and now resides in this neighborhood to one William Daughtry And the testimony of both son in law and daughter will accompany this declaration; which Testimony she is in hopes will fully explain the discrepancy of her late husband's statements in her own: She further states that at or about the time of the statement he was in the habit of continual drinking –and drunkenness and that on those occasions she sometimes left home and staid or resided with some one of the children until he would get over his fit of drinking; and at the time referred to by the Commissioner of pensions in 1820 she was staying with one Daniel Widows who married Julia Johnson who was our fourth child and who is now about 50 years old after this he built a house in 1827 or 1828 in this County and we then resided together, until his death and all other matters are referred to in my former Declaration except that she is informed and believes that no record of the license or bond or church record can be found in North Hampton [sic, Northampton County] North Carolina having made proper search and many of the records have been destroyed in the lapse of years and by vermin and carelessness of the Clerks &c cannot be found; but the Testimony of James Johnson who was present at their wedding whose character stands as far as any man in the community and other collateral testimony taken in connection with his testimony will place the date of her marriage beyond controversy and that it took place at the time and place stated in her first declaration that she was married lawfully in Northampton County in North Carolina by one James Vincent a preacher well-known in that Country she avers most positively; and the positive testimony of James Johnson ought to be sufficient She has no family record as stated in her former declaration but by the testimony of accompanying this amended declaration will prove the ages of the children of William Johnson by his then lawful wife and now this lawful widow of the late William Johnson a pension or referred to in my former declaration and now the applicant to be placed on the pension list; in right of the Services of her said husband referred to in her formal declaration in in this my amended declaration to wit William Johnson who died about the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1833. Sworn and Subscribed to before me this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 1845.

S/ Nancy Johnson, X her mark

S/ Elijah Evans, JP

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[On October 17, 1845 in Hawkins County, Tenn., William Daughtry, husband of Ann Johnson, daughter of William and Nancy Johnson, gave an affidavit supportive of Nancy Johnson's claim. In his affidavit, he lists the children of William and Nancy Johnson as follows: Patsy "will be fifty six year old last June; Betsy was about two years younger Reuben Johnson first son was two years younger than Betsey and Ann my present wife who is a bout forty two years old or about that age." Daughtry states that he William and Nancy Johnson were married "last of October or first of November at 1790 or 1791."]

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17<sup>th</sup> of October 1845

Ann Daughtry who was Ann Johnson being duly sworn and cautioned by me deposes and saith as follows that she is aged forty-two years old and that in 1820 my father William Johnson who was the pensioner referred to in the declaration of Nancy Johnson my mother was the lawful husband of my mother and in the year 1818 or near two years before 1820 I resided in North Carolina with a married sister of mine and soon after that time or the latter end of that year I returned to the State of Tennessee in Hawkins County and was then married to my present husband William Daughtry I also know when I came home my Father was in the habit of drinking too much and it must have been in his drinking frolics that he made the Statement referred to by the Commissioners of Pensions that he had no wife for I know the present applicant Nancy Johnson was his lawful wife as I have always understood and never heard the lawfulness of their marriage disputed I was acquainted with them from my birth until my father's death and with Nancy Johnson my mother from that time to the present and knows she is the identical person she represents herself to be and that she was his lawful wife as I have always understood and never heard it disputed.

Question 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Daughtry please state if you know the names of your elder sisters and Brother the children of William Johnson by his wife Nancy Johnson the present applicant for a pension in right of the services of her husband William Johnson your Father.

Answer: The names of the Children was Patsy, Betsy, Reuben, Julia, William, James, Ann the last named being myself the present deponent and being now 42 or three years old at this time in my oldest sister as I have always understood was 14 or 15 years older than myself my father never kept any family register as far as I know and if any it was lost or destroyed before my time.

Question 2<sup>nd</sup> Please state if Nancy Johnson is a widow still of your father William Johnson the deceased pensioner referred to in Nancy Johnson's declaration and so often named by yourself.

Answer: She is a widow still and has remained a widow from my father's death until the present time and further this deponent saith not. Sworn and subscribed to on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 1845 before me.

S Ann Daughty, X her mark

S/ Elijah Evans, JP

[Nancy Johnson survived the Civil War and filed for the reinstatement of her benefits.]

[p 37: From a letter dated February 6, 1840 summarizing the contents of this file, the following facts are stated:

*"The following data in regard to the children of William Johnson, and his wife, Nancy, are shown in the claim:*

*First child, Patsey, aged about 55 years in 1845;*

*Second child, Betsey, two years younger;*

*Reuben, first son, two years younger than Betsey;*

*Julia, fourth child, married Daniel Widows, and was living in 1820 in North Carolina;*

*William, no data relative to him;*

*James aged about 67 years in 1869, then a resident of Union County, Tennessee;*

*Ann, their youngest child, was about seventeen years old in 1820; she married William Daughtry and they were both living in 1845 in Grainger County Tennessee; they were married in Hawkins County, Tennessee, soon after 1820, and the said William Daughtry was about 64 years old in 1845.*

*The son, James Johnson, gave his post office address in December 1875 Warwicks Cross Roads, Union County, Tennessee, and then stated that he was the only surviving child."*

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing May 27, 1818, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum commencing July one, 1848.]