

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Johnston (Johnson) W254 Rachel Johnston f51VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/8/14 rev'd 2/23/21

[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 10]

State of Alabama St. Clair County: SS

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared before Parmenus Castleberry an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Johnson [sic] a resident of Coosa Valley in said County and State aforesaid aged seventy-three or four 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 –

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 or 7 with Thomas Hutchings (or Hudgins) [Thomas Hutchins or Hutchings] as Captain as he believes and served in the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Line (Continental Troops) under the following named officers – the aforesaid Hutchings (or Hudgins) Captain – Henry Williams Lieutenant – Hardin Perkins Ensign & Aaron Hudgins (Captain's Brother) Orderly Sergeant – Buckner Colonel [probably Mordecai Buckner]. His enlistment took place in the summer season as he believes – but what particular time, cannot state – at a muster on Sandy River in Pittsylvania County [Virginia] – for eighteen months – they Rendezvoused at Halifax old town and there remained two or three weeks. His place of residence was on Sandy River thirty miles above Halifax old town. He marched from Halifax to Williamsburg and there was stationed and remained about three or four months. When his company was divided after marching to Jamestown and not quite one half – supposes about 17 or 18 went across the River (James) to Cobham under John Biswell as Sergeant – they were there stationed as a guard and watch upon the British who were in their shipping on the River below – Governor Dinmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last were royal Governor of Virginia] was then on Gwins Island [Gwinn Island] outfit to which Island he was marched from Cobham where Governor Dunmore had his thigh broken, his Captain at this time whom he does not now recollect was killed by a splinter from his own gun which bursted striking him on the head – Some of the company had made a wooden Gun which was the one that bursted. It was called a mortar piece & used to throw Bombs with – This one bursted at the first fire – they only remained there until Dunmore made his escape at night on the River – from thence his company was sent back to Springfield old camp, two miles below Williamsburg. At this place he was taken down with the fever – placed in the hospital at Williamsburg where he remained five or six weeks until he obtained a furlough from Colonel Buckner for forty days – And which was allowed him upon condition of obtaining another person in his place – and which he did – from thence he was carried to his brother's and there remained sick for 10 or 11 months. He was out at this time near seven months – and went home in the winter – he remained at home

and at his brother's something like a year before he was able to join his Company – when a recruiting officer came round to collect the Deserters – those who had been left sick & those who had not returned from their furloughs – when this Deponent again joined him at the place of Rendezvous which was at Captain Black's on the Snow Creek Pittsylvania County – at this place he hired a substitute to serve in his place by the name of James Newland (or Newlan),<sup>1</sup> the Captain would not receive him as a substitute unless he, Newland would agree to enlist for a longer time than this Deponent had to stay – He accordingly enlisted during the war. This Deponent giving him \$40 – and all his back pay. This Deponent recollects distinctly that his amount of back pay thus given Newland was fourteen pounds. And he thinks it was fifteen pence a day that was allowed him as a soldier but is not certain – This Deponent received a discharge in full from the officer at Blacks – whose name he does not now recollect – This discharge he has lost – and does not recollect how or when – although he remembers having it several years after the war – Upon his enlistment he received twenty shillings Bounty – This deponent thinks he was about eighteen or nineteen when he enlisted – but is not certain as his memory has failed him so much that he cannot recollect even the most common daily occurrences. Henry Williams his first Lieutenant was not long with him having been drummed out of camp at Springfield for having stolen Captain Hutchins' money. This Deponent was again out as a militia man and drafted in Pittsylvania County State aforesaid – He went out this time against the Indians on New River and was out three months – there Colonel was from Botetourt County – name not recollected – they were stationed at one Trigg's on New River – he was out again against the Tories on New River for two months under Colonel Frotter [? Trotter? ] and from the same County was drafted – does not recollect the names of the Captain or Lieutenant. He was out again for three months & went to Hillsboro North Carolina –

The examination here close on account of the deponent being taken suddenly sic – and his mind becoming so does served and childish that he could not recollect anything

In presence of

S/ A. Lewis

S/ Thomas Johnson, X his mark

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 any agency in any state or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of Virginia. This Deponent also states that he is unable on account of age and sickness to attend the court to make this Declaration. Having had the palsy for nearly 3 years which totally incapacitates him from riding or going about. The distance to the courthouse by a trail way across the mountain is something like 26 miles – and by road 40 miles. Sworn to & subscribed the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1832 before me at the residence of applicant

S/ Thomas Johnson

S/ P. H. Castleberry, JP



[William Capps, Thomas Johnston, Wesley Hill and John Longbridge gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 6]

Ashville St. Clair County Alabama April 24<sup>th</sup> 1834

Received of George S Gaines Agent for paying pensions \$72.67 being for 21 months and 24 days

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<sup>1</sup> Newland's name is found on the company muster roll.

pension due to Rachel Johnston widow of Thomas Johnston deceased from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831 to the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832, for which I have signed duplicate receipts  
S/ Archibald Sloan, attorney for Rachel Johnston

[p 7: On June 2, 1845 in Monroe County Tennessee, Rachel Johnston, 75, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Johnston a revolutionary war pensioner; that her husband died December 29, 1832 in St. Clair County; that she married Thomas Johnston in April 1785 in Washington County Virginia. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Facts in file: The veteran married Rachel Mullen in Washington County Virginia in April 1785; and 1849, the widow was living in McMinn County Tennessee; in 1846, Thomas Johnston, 48, a resident of St. Clair County Alabama gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Thomas Johnston and his wife Rachel but his relationship to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated. His signature appears on page 44 as follows:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas Johnston". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. The first name "Thomas" is written in a large, flowing cursive, and the last name "Johnston" is written in a smaller, more compact cursive.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for one-year in the Virginia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]