

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Peter Johnston W27629

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution," approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828, I Peter Johnston, residing near Abingdon in the county of Washington and State of Virginia, do hereby declare, that I was an officer in the army of the revolution, on continental establishment, and served as such to the end of the war, at which period I was a Lieutenant in the Infantry of the Legion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee.

And I also declare, that I afterwards received a certificate, commonly called a commutation certificate, for the sum of two thousand dollars, equal to the amount of five years full pay, which sum was offered by the resolve of Congress of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1783, instead of the half pay for life, to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1780. And I do farther declare, that I have received no money, of the United States, as a pensioner, either before, or since, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1826. Witness my hand, this thirteenth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight.

[signed] Peter Johnston

It is not in my power to transmit the commission which I held, while in the military service of the United States, to the Secretary of the Treasury. I probably retained it for some years after the termination of the revolutionary war: but, at present, I have no recollection how it was disposed of. My diploma as a member of the society of the Cincinnati is inclosed herewith, and is the only document which I can exhibit in confirmation of my own assertions, and of the testimony of General Preston, and Mr. Russell. I can adduce the most positive proof, if it is indispensable, that I was an officer in Colo. Lee's corps, at the close of the war, and for some years before. Two gentlemen, Judge Brooke of our Court of Appeals, & Colo. Henry Bowyer [probably pension application W5859], are yet alive, in this State, who, when the southern army was disbanded, in August 1783, at Charleston in South Carolina, in a transport chartered by our Government, and arrived, with me, and many other officers and soldiers, three weeks afterwards in Hampton road. But the residence of these gentlemen is so remote from mine, that much time and trouble would be required for procuring their evidence. It shall, however, be exhibited, if necessary. My name and rank will, without doubt, be found amongst the rolls of the Legion in the War office. I must pray, that my diploma may be carefully returned, and that the Secretary of the Treasury will accept the assurance of my high consideration, and respect

[signed] Peter Johnston Abingdon, Va June 14<sup>th</sup> 1828

NOTE: On 5 Apr 1853 Anne B. Johnston of Richmond VA applied for a pension stating that she married Peter Johnston on 13 Dec 1828, and he died 8 Dec 1831. Her application was supported by the deposition of Peter C. Johnston, 60, of Washington, D.C., a son of Peter Johnston by his first marriage. He stated that his sister also from Washington possessed their father's Bible in which was written, "On Saturday evening Dec'r. 13<sup>th</sup> 1828, Peter Johnston was married to Miss Ann Bernard, daughter of John Bernard Esq'r. formerly of Buckingham County, Virginia, and of Henningham Covington his wife, sister of Judge Paul Covington Sen'r., formerly of the Court of Appeals. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Right Reverend Richard Channing Moore, at the house of Charles Copland Esq'r., in the City of Richmond." On 28 Jan 1869 J. W. Wills, Jr., nephew of Anne B. Johnston, applied for the restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, stating that his aunt "was very old and confined to her bed most of the time during the existence of the late rebellion and during most of that period she was imbecile and incapable of forming or expressing any intelligent opinion of the late rebellion." The file includes a copy of Anne B. Johnston's will dated 2 Feb 1862, which bequeathed to her niece, Louisa E. Blair, the

proceeds from the hire of her "servant man John" with the right to bequeath the slave. Also named in the will is niece Heningham E. Blair.