

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Johnson (Johnston) W371 Elizabeth Johnson f48NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/26/08: rev'd 2/19/16

[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.]

[p 11]

State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 6th day of September 1834 personally appeared before Shadrach Epperson an acting Justice of the peace for said County Robert Johnson resident of Hawkins County and State of Tennessee aged seventy-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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1780 as a volunteer under the command of Colonel Collier [John Collier] Major Sharp and Captain Johnson [sic, John Johnston] I was then living in Randolph County State of North Carolina. I entered the service the first of October 1780 and marched on to Salisbury and lay there some time from there we marched. On crossing the Yadkin River at the Shallow Ford from there we went on through Salem and from there we joined General Green [Nathanael Greene] at the high rock Ford we lay there until Greene collected all his forces and then marched on towards Guilford Courthouse we were met by the British under the Command of Cornwallis and a severe battle took place sometime in March 1781 [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781].¹ From there Greene and his men marched on to South Carolina I went on and stayed with General Greene until I was discharged at Rugeley's mill by Colonel Collier and returned home in my own County of Randolph, about the first of May as well as I now recollect being gone eight months. After I arrived at home the Tories were so troublesome it was dangerous for a Whig to stay at home. The first of June 1781 I volunteered myself again under the same officers for to go against the Tories that were collected in different parts of the country doing mischief we marched against one Fanning [sic, David Fanning] a Tory Officer and his men at Linsey's Mill [Lindley's, September 13, 1781]² we defeated them killing 36 of his men and wounded Fanning but he escaped. We were always scouting about from place to place against the Tories we came up with Fanning at another place at one Needams [sic, Needham's?], in the night and fired on Fanning and his men and they fled and Fanning escaped again we were Continual against the Tories that were doing mischief in the Country they burned Colonel Collier's house in the time we came upon them while the house was burning but they escaped -- we had various skirmishes with them during the summer and fall of 1781. The Tories being roused out of that part of the Country in a great measure we had some stiller times and I was dismissed and returned home being in actual

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

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html

service 6 months. When I entered the service this time it was in Randolph County North Carolina. I was dismissed the first of December as well as I now recollect.

This declarant further states that Colonel Collier called out men after this declarant returned home different times as occasion would require against the outlying Tories and he always volunteered himself when required and went various trips against the Tories but of short duration that he cannot now recall as to the precise length of each trip but is satisfied so served not less than two months actual service in short trips during the winter of 1781 in the spring of 1782. This Declarant declares he was in actual service the time he states above and always was ready and willing at any call always volunteered himself and was called out by competent authority. That he was either in the field or in Garrison and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit. This Declarant says he knows of no one and who he can prove his service by he has no documentary evidence of his service he hereby relinquishes every Claim to a pension or annuity whatever 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 and year last above mentioned before me.

S/ Shadrach Epperson, JP

S/ R. Johnson



[p 13]

State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 6th day of September 1834 personally appeared Robert Johnson before Shadrach Epperson an acting Justice of the peace for said County and made Oath that he is not sufficiently acquainted with any clergyman that he can procure one to sign his declaration as he does not go about any of consequence in the neighborhood.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above mentioned before me.

S/ Shadrach Epperson, JP

S/ R Johnson

Questions proposed to Robert Johnson applicant for a pension by the war department

1st Question

Ans: I was born in the year 1760 in the State of Pennsylvania

2nd Question

Ans: I have not that I know of

3rd Question

Ans: I was living in the State of North Carolina Randolph County from North Carolina I moved into the State of Tennessee Hawkins County where I now live

4th Question

Ans: I volunteered myself every time

5th Question

Ans: Colonel Collier, Major Sharp, General Greene, Captain Sharp

6th Question

Ans: I received one from Colonel Collier which I have lost

7th Question

Ans: Thomas Epperson, Shadrach Epperson, Valentine Wolf, Captain John Wolf

[p 10 & 14: William Walker and Major Charles Wolf gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 46]

Amendment to the foregoing Declaration of Robert Johnson on the 28th of September 1834 personally appeared Robert Johnson before Shadrach Epperson one of the acting Justices of the peace for Hawkins County and after being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to the foregoing Declaration.

He entered the service of the United States first of October 1780 and served as he before stated. I did not join General Greene at the high rock Ford until some time in the winter after I went out. The cause of my serving as long at one trip before I returned home was as follows: I always volunteered myself and when my tour of service expired I was importuned by my officers to remain in service That if we all would go home it would greatly weaken the forces and in all probability I would be killed by the Tories at home and if I would remain I could be dismissed whenever I chose. There were some went home when their term of service was out and some remained I being a young man and had not much to look after at home I chose to remain in service --

I knew if I went home I would have to be on my guard for fear of the Tories and I contented myself to remain in service. This Applicant further states it was the same in relation to his service in 1781. Immediately on his return from his first trip he could not remain in safety at home the cry was Whig and Tory all round him Tories would hate the Whig whip him or hang him the same by the Whig find the men at home and he was accused of being a Tory even if he was a Whig and he was a [indecipherable word] a man it appeared was not safe in his own house and this was the cause I remained in service. I could have returned home at the end of my service but we kept embodied -- our own safety and in order to check the Tories this applicant further states if he had come home he would have been in more danger than he was, he could continually hear of the Tories making mischief either by stealing, murdering, burning [indecipherable word] and the like and he was [indecipherable word] generally searching from place to place when circumstances would require. This applicant solemnly states he was engaged in actual service the time he before stated to the best of his knowledge and to say more or less he cannot if he never gets one cent.

Sworn to and subscribed this 26 September 1834 before me
S/ Shadrach Epperson, JP

S/ R Johnson

[p 26]

Amendment to the declaration of Robert Johnson
State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 6th day of December 1834 Personally appeared Robert Johnson resident of the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee before Shadrach Epperson one of the Justices of the peace for said County and after being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to the foregoing declaration.

After mature consideration I recollect after the battle at Guilford Courthouse we marched on to some Iron works [Troublesome Iron Works] where we encamped and from there we marched on to South Carolina some time towards the latter end of April we were attacked by the British near a town called Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781]³ we were forced to

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hobkirks_hill.html

give ground. We retreated to a place called Rugeley's Mills where we encamped -- at which place I was discharged and arrived home the first; or near the first of May being gone eight months -- From the time I first entered the service in Randolph County North Carolina and took up a line of March I cannot recollect the names of the counties I went through and there being no particular occurrence took place until we joined General Greene I was always subject to military duty -- while I was gone and cooperated with the rules and regulations of the Army -- the same as any soldier in camp and thought myself bound so to do. When I returned home in May Colonel Collier raised man either by draft or volunteers as men chose (whether he had any authority to do so I am not able to say but expect he had) I volunteered myself under Captain Johnson a second time and entered the service but for me to recall every little circumstance after the lapse of so many years I cannot. I do not recollect every place we camped or was stationed neither do I remember the particular direction we marched. I know we were often upon the scout after Tories and outliers that were doing mischief in the country and at different times we were stationed for a while in the country but the names of the places we were stationed at or whether they bore any particular name I am unable to say. When I say we were always scouting about I do not mean I was continually night and day But going but as circumstances would require I recollect of an attack we had with Colonel Fanning a Tory and his men at Linneys [Lindley's] Mill and defeated him at another time we marched upon the same Colonel at one Needham's, and fired on him and his men and continued from place to place through the country until my time Expired. And as respects my last term of service or during my last trips of service in small scouts I cannot recollect them precisely as they occurred. But I know that several times in the winter 1781 and spring 1782 Colonel Collier called men by draft or volunteer in go through the country after Tories and I always went as a volunteer whenever there was need of men in the country and I am certain my last trips under Captain Johnson as well as I can now recollect was two months -- Sworn to and subscribed this 6th day of December 1834 before me.

S/ Shadrach Epperson, JP

S/ R Johnson

[p 28]

State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 6th day of December 1834 personally appeared Robert Johnson before Shadrach Epperson one of the acting Justices for said County and after being duly sworn according to law deposed and saith that owing to old 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 the following grades, for eight months I served as a private under Captain Johnson in 1780 in 1781 for six months I served under Captain Johnson a second time in the summer and fall of 1781 for two months I served under Captain Johnson a third time in the winter 81 and spring 82 for which service I claim a pension sworn to before me the day above written.

S/ Shadrach Epperson, JP

S/ R Johnson

[p 7: On February 2, 1844, in Knox County Tennessee, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston, 69, filed for a widows pension under the 1838 act stating that she was the widow of Robert Johnson, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$40 per annum; that she married him April 1, 1791; and that he died April 20 1840. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 4: Bible record]

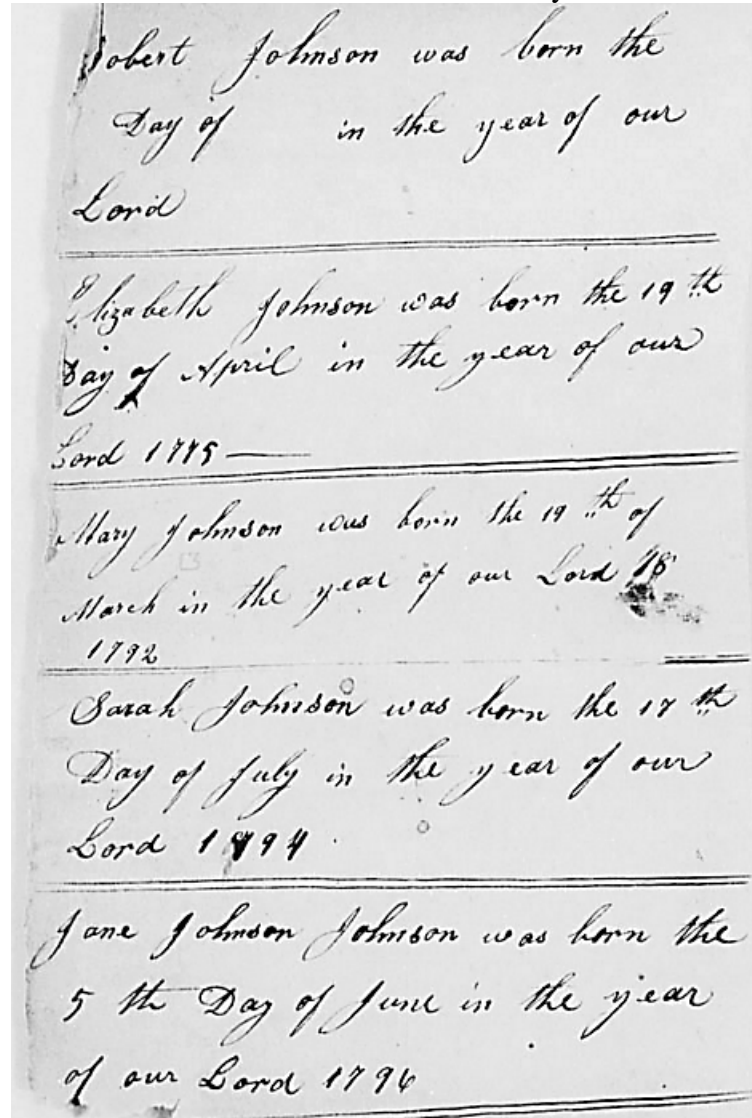
Robert Johnson was born the ___ Day of ___ in the of our Lord ___

Elizabeth Johnson was born the 19th Day of April in the your of our Lord 1775

Mary Johnson was born the 19th of March in the year of our Lord 1792

Sarah Johnson was born the 17th Day of July in the year of our Lord 1794

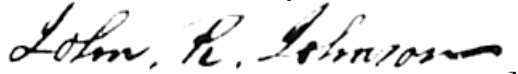
Jane Johnson Johnson was born the 5th Day of June in the year of our Lord 1796



[p 9: On February 5, 1844 in Knox County Tennessee, Robert Johnston [sic] a resident of said County and State, aged 36 in April next, gave testimony that he is the son of Robert and Elizabeth Johnson; that his parents lived together as man and wife from his earliest recollection up until the death of his father on April 20, 1840; that he is the eighth child born to his parents; that the family record attached to his mother's declaration he believes to be a true record of the births of their children; and that his mother has remained a widow.

Robert Johnston]

[p 32: on June 27, 1844 in Knox County Tennessee John R Johnson, a resident of said County and state aged 38 gave testimony that he is the son of Robert and Elizabeth Johnson. He authenticates the family record attached to his mother's application.

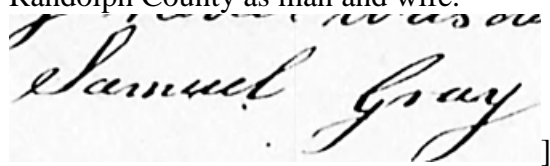

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[p 34: On June 25, 1844 in Knox County Tennessee, Mrs. Sarah Hulgan, 62, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Elizabeth "Jonstin" and her husband Robert "Jonston" up to the time of his death; that they lived together as man and wife; that in the year 1792 the affiant's mother moved from Virginia to Randolph County North Carolina where Robert and Elizabeth were recognized in the neighborhood as man and wife. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 37: On February 10, 1845 in Randolph County North Carolina Mrs. Rosey Johnston, 81, gave testimony that she is well acquainted with Elizabeth Johnston of Knox County Tennessee and was well acquainted with her husband Robert Johnston up to the time of his death; that the affiant had a son born April 30, 1792 at which time said Robert and Elizabeth were living together in Randolph County North Carolina and they were always recognized as man and wife. She signed her affidavit with her mark. Her name is spelled Rosey Johnson in the signature line.]

[p 40: On February 10, 1845 in Randolph County North Carolina, Mrs. Jane Gray, 62, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Robert and Elizabeth Johnston when they lived in Randolph County; that affiant had a daughter Mary born in 1792 at which time Robert and Elizabeth were living together in Randolph County and regarded as man and wife. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 41: On February 10, 1845 in Randolph County North Carolina, Samuel Gray, 67, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Elizabeth and Robert Johnson; that he, affiant, had a brother born December 25, 1791 at which time Robert and Elizabeth were living together in Randolph County as man and wife.


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[Facts in file: Elizabeth's maiden name was Sumner]

[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 in a like amount.]