

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Martin Johnston (Johnson) W436 Nancy f59VA
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 7/20/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky

Martin Johnston of Clarke County and State aforesaid came before me James Clark one of the Circuit Judges for the State aforesaid this 20th day of June 1818 and made the following statement upon oath for the purpose of obtaining a pension under an Act of Congress entitled an act "to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval services of the United States in the Revolutionary War." Being first sworn [he] makes the following statement: That he is at present a citizen of Clarke County and State of Kentucky – that he is by birth a Virginian. That he was two years a soldier in the war of the Revolution on Continental establishment. That on the 9th of February 1776 in Culpeper County Virginia he enlisted for the period of two years in Captain John Thornton's Company, Third Regiment Virginia line in the Continental establishment. That he faithfully served the two years and was on the eighth day of ~~January~~ February 1778 duly and regularly discharged at the Valley Forge Pennsylvania which discharge was issued by the Genl. Woodford [William Woodford] which discharge he has lost or misplaced so that at this time he cannot find it. He further states that he is about sixty-one years old and from infirmity he is incapable of labor and that by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, he is in need of sustenance from his Country for his support. The said Johnston further states that he can prove that he was a soldier as aforesaid by his Excellency James Monroe President of the United States who was part of the time Lieutenant of the company in which he belonged and was present with him at the battle of Trenton [December 26, 1776] where the said Monroe was wounded.

S/ Martin Johnston



The following is the statement of William Wright¹ of Clarke County Kentucky aged about 67 years who being first duly sworn states that he has known the aforesaid named Martin Johnston from his early youth – That he knew that the said Johnston enlisted in Captain Thornton's Company, 3rd Regiment Virginia line for the period of two years agreeably to the foregoing statement of said Johnston. That he marched with the Army, and was absent for about the period of two years as he always understood, and as in part he knows, he the deponent being part of the time absent in the militia service. That during the two years in the year 1777 he the deponent joined the Army as a Militia man and was told by his [words written over and indecipherable] in the 3rd Regiment aforesaid – that the said Johnston had a short time before that been transferred to Morgan's Regiment of riflemen. That at this time he lived near neighbor to said Johnston and thinks that he is statement as to his reduced circumstances in life and he is living in need of assistance from his Country for support is correct and true.

¹ [William Wright S11905](#)

S/ Wm Wright

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wm Wright', with some additional scribbles above and below the main name.

[f p. 15: On November 25, 1839 in Clarke County Kentucky, Nancy Johnson, 77, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Martin Johnson, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him March 1, 1779 in Culpeper County Virginia; that she has no record of her marriage to him; that her husband died July 3, 1820 and that she has remained his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 38]

State of Tennessee Maury County

Be it remembered that on this 29th day of January 1840 before the Subscribers William H Wilkes & Taswell S. Alderman two of the Justices of the Peace for the County & State aforesaid personally appeared George Johnston aged about eighty-four years and being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God depose and saith

That Martin Johnston a brother of deponent sometime in the year 1777 in Culpeper County in the State of Virginia enlisted as a regular Soldier for the term of two years. When he first entered the Service the person that he was under the command of was by the name of John Thorn as well as I can now recollect. But before the two years expired he was attached to a Rifle company which was under the command of General Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. After he had served out the term of two years, that he had enlisted for he returned home, and married Nancy Wright – and was at some short time again drafted to another term of Service this term he did not perform in person but another man was hired by me in his place to perform his last tour for hire, for which I paid the man employed \$1000 in Continental money – during the whole time that my brother Martin Johnson [sic] was in the Army he was nothing but a private as well as I now recollect.

He was married about the 1st of March 1779 to Nancy Wright in Culpeper County in the State of Virginia. The names of his children were William Johnson, Francis Johnson and George W Johnston.

And further deponent saith not.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'George Johnston' in a cursive script.

[f p. 48: On March 21, 1840 in Clark County Kentucky, Nancy Johnson, 77 on the 27th day of March last past, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Martin Johnson, a revolutionary war veteran who served some time under John Thorn a Captain; that he was attached to a Rifle Company Commanded by General Morgan; that after serving 2 years he was drafted as a militia man and was at the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]; she states that she married her husband in Culpeper County March 1, 1779. This Application was attested by William Hickman.]

[f p. 10: On April 28, 1840 in Clarke County Kentucky, William Johnson gave testimony in support of the claim of his mother Mrs. Nancy Johnson for a pension; he authenticates he belief or paper annexed

to his deposition has been torn from the Bible now in his possession which family Bible was given to him by his father Martin Johnson; that the first three entries in the record were made in the handwriting of William Wright who is now dead; that those entries show the marriage of Martin Johnson to Nancy Wright, the birth of this deponent William Johnson and Elizabeth Lawrence; that some of the other entries on the paper all in the handwriting of his brother George W Johnson now residing in Tennessee; and the balance of the entries are in the handwriting of the deponent; that his parents had 3 children, this deponent, Frances Johnson now the wife of John Johnson and George W Johnson.



William Johnson]

[f p. 12: family record]

Births

Martin Johnston son to William Johnston & Sarah his wife born February 1, 1748
Nancy Johnston and his wife born March 27th 1762
William Johnston son to Martin Johnston & Nancy his wife born September 11th 1780
Elizabeth his wife born November 2nd 1781
John Johnston born December 25 1774
Francis Johnston his wife born June 3rd 1783
George W Johnston, son to Martin Johnston & Nancy his wife born July 31st 1793
Cornelius Spry Born January 6 1801

Births

The ___ of the children of William Johnston & Elizabeth his wife as follows

1st Matilda Johnston born October 2nd 1801
2nd Martin Johnston born June 2nd 1803
3rd Henry Johnston born March 9, 1804
4th Nancy Johnston born May 29, 1806
5th Betsy Johnston born February 28 1808
6th William Johnston born March 11th 1810
7th Francis Johnston born February 8th 1812
8th George H Johnston born November 19th 1813
9th Cinthy Johnston born October 4th 18 15
10th John Roberts Johnston born February 17th 1818
Lawrence Johnston born October 17th 1821

Marriages

Martin Johnston & Nancy Wright entered into marriage March 1, 1779
William Johnston & Elizabeth Lawrence entered marriage December 25th 1800
John Johnston & Frances Johnston entered into marriage February 4th 1802
Asa S Wright & Matilda Johnston entered marriage September 9th 1819
George W Johnston & Matilda Murphey entered marriage September 6 1820
Martin Johnston & Lucy Sanders entered into marriage March 28th 1822

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing June 20, 1818, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836.]