

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Johnson W4467 Ann Johnson NJ
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

District of Pennsylvania, SS.

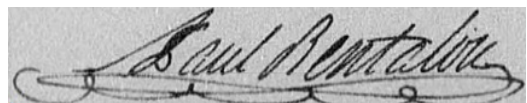
On this seventeenth day of April 1818, before me the subscriber, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, personally appears Benjamin Johnson aged sixty years, resident in the City of Philadelphia in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late 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;" That he the said Johnson enlisted in Egg harbour in the state of New Jersey in the company commanded by Captain [Paul] Bentalou of the Legion of Pulasky [sic: Gen. Count Kazimierz Pulaski]; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States until about two months before Charleston was taken by the British [12 May 1780], when he was discharged from service in Charleston state of South Carolina, that he was in the battles of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] & Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services, except the testimony of Jacob Davison [pension application S34299]

Pennsylvania Ss. On the 17 day of April in the year of our Lord 1818 before me William Tilghman Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania personally appeared Jacob Davison of Monmouth in the State of new Jersey aged about 60 years, who being duly sworn on the holy Evangels of Almighty God did depose that he well knows the within named Benjamin Johnson who was a troope in Pulasky's legion in the year 1778 & that he has every reason to believe the whole of the declaration within written & made by the said Johnson to be true. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand on the day & year aforesaid.

Baltimore 20th May 1820

Sir [Mr Benjamin Johnson, Corner of Second and Market Street, Philadelphia] In answer to your letter of 16th Inst. I sincerely assure you, that nothing can afford me greater pleasure than to be of service to the needy and particularly to my old companions in arms during our late revolution, but I much fear I can not, at this time, give you such certificate as will answer the present scrutiny, the most rigid, as so may [many] frauds have been detected, and as I have not preserved a roll of my Troop, it is impossible for me, after a long lapse of upwards of forty years, I should recollect every one who served under me, so as to give positive certificate of personal recollection; all I can positively say in your behalf, is that from the facts and circumstances related so accurately in your letter, there can be no doubt in my mind that you must have belonged to Gen'l. Pulaski's legion in the revolutionary war, should that be deemed sufficient, this letter, I presume, will answer the purpose as well as a certificate drawn up in a different form; I hope you may succeed, and assure you of my best wishes.

Paul Bentalou/ late Capt. of Dragoons in G'l
Pulaski's legion in the revolutionary war.



Pennsylvania Ss

On the 16 day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty before me William Tilghman Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania personally appeared Jacob Davison of Monmouth in the State of New Jersey aged about 62 years who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God did depose in addition to what he deposed before me on the 17 April AD 1818 in the case of Benjamin Johnson and which is endorsed on the back of his petition to the

Government for a pension, that Benjamin Johnson was nine months and upwards in continuance on the continental establishment in Pulaskey's Legion, as a trooper, and his captains name was Bantleou. This deponent was in the same regiment or Legion and was under captain Bedkin [Henry Bedken] – was discharged before Johnson and now receives a pension. Deponent says he has no interest in this case, and has nothing to gain or loose by the event

Pennsylvania Ss

On the 25th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty before me William Tilghman, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, personally appeared John Fulmer [or Volmer, pension application R3845] of Penn Township farmer, County of Phil'a and State aforesaid who being duly sworn agreeably to Law deposes and say that he is well acquainted with Benjamin Johnson of Philadelphia, an applicant to the Government of his Country for a pension for services performed during the revolutionary war; that the said Benjamin Johnson enlisted at Egg Harbour in the State of New Jersey, in the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, as a horseman, in Captain Bantleous company of horse attached to Pulaskey's Legion. Deponent was then a trooper in Captain Brown's [Le Brun de Bellecour's] company which was also attached to said Legion. Deponent further says that the said Legion with Benjamin Johnson above named as an enlisted Soldier marched to Trenton, thence to Sussex County, thence to Middletown, Lancaster County Pennsylvania, thence to York and finally to Charleston South Carolina – the troops remained there and Johnson with them until Deponent obtained permission to leave the Corps which he did in the month of October of the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine. Deponent unhesitatingly declares that to his knowledge Benjamin Johnson above named served more than nine months in continuance on the Continental Establishment in the Legion of Pulaskey and deponent has no doubt he served longer as he was in the Legion when deponent left it and he did not see him again until after the war was over. Deponent could detail many circumstances which occurred between him and Johnson while in the same legion, that are still alive in his memory, but supposes it would be deemed superfluous. Deponent thinks it was in the month of October in the fall of the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, not later that Johnson enlisted, and therefore when Deponent left the Legion, Johnson had been nearly if not quite twelve months in the service. Deponent further says that he is wholly disinterested in this case and has nothing to gain or loose by the event.

District of Pennsylvania Ss.

Benjamin Johnson of the city of Philadelphia an applicant to the Government of the United States for a pension as a revolutionary soldier, being duly sworn according to Law depose and says that he enlisted in the armie of the United States in the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight at Egg Harbour in New jersey in the company commanded by Capt. Bantleou. Deponent cannot precisely say the month or day of the month he enlisted, but he recollects distinctly that it was on the day when an attack was made by the British on Pulaskey's Legion at Egg Harbour when Col. Bose or Boxe belonging to the Legion was killed by the enemy [sic: Col. Baron de Boze, 5 Oct 1778]. Deponent further states that he remained in the service attached to Pulasky's Legion until after the General was killed at Savannah [mortally wounded 9 Oct 1779; died 11 Oct 1779] – the date he cannot recollect, the circumstances he does distinctly. He remained upwards of two years in the service at that time. Deponent further says that he enlisted again at the close of the war at Allen Town [Allentown] New Jersey and served one year in the army. He enlisted under Lieutenant [William Eugene] Imlay on this occasion. Deponent also served as a militia man at different periods during the war before and after his enlistments. He was as a militia man in several battle and skirmish

Sworn this 7th June 1820 before the subscriber
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
of Pennsylvania/ Wm. Tilghman

Eastern District of Pennsylvania Ss.

On this seventeenth day of July 1821 personally appeared in Open Court, being a court of Record for the said District, Benjamin Johnston aged upwards of sixty years (By reason of age, much sickness, a permanent issue, and great trouble of mind the declarant's memory fails so as to be unable to state his age with precision, and knows of no record whereby to ascertain it) resident in the City of Philadelphia in said District, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath, declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows, vizt. in Pulaski's legion, Captain Bantelo's company. The declarant's original declaration was dated April 17 1818. N. of certificate 17474

And I the said Benjamin Johnston do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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 18th 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 other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Benjamin hisXmark Johnston

Schedule

In pursuance of the Act of Congress of May 1 1820 the declarant States that the only real estate he ever did own is a part of a house and small lot on Jones's Alley, in the City of Philadelphia, which property, by reason of sickness, security, ships and other misfortunes, he has been constrained to mortgage to an amount beyond it's present value, besides taxes and interest several years in arrear. A long illness of ten months and upwards now last past, has caused to be consumed all the pension money he did receive. He is now helpless of being able to pay off arrears or balance of debts left after sale of said property, by the Sheriff, which will soon take place; the declarant having been by his last long sickness entirely thrown out of business. The only property, then, owned by the declarant (and that of course liable to the aforementioned balance or unsatisfied claims against him) consists in the following enumerated articles of household furniture, over and above indispensable necessary apparel and bedding.

One old bureau – appraised at	\$5.00
Six Plain Windsor chairs, long used, and four very old common chairs – together	} } 3.00
One Pair cast iron Andirons, and one pair old shovel and tongs	} } 2.00
one old tub ³⁰ / ₁₀₀ . one old chest without Lock	1.30
A Lot of crockery and glass ware	3.50
Two looking glasses	3.00
One old iron pot & a small old wash kettle	1.50
One old copper tea kettle	1.00
A Lot of tin ware, chiefly very old	2.00
Three old Candlesticks	0.60
One old mahogany dining table	5.00
Two very old common tables (one broken)	1.50
One old frying pan and bake iron	0.60
One large old waiter, and two small ones	0.50
One old family Bible	1.00
One Old Stand	0.50
Three Old window curtains	<u>0.75</u>
	\$32.75

Benjamin hisXmark Johnston

The declarant's family living with him consists of his Wife Nancy, aged about fifty years, as yet healthy, and of strength and activity sufficient to contribute by her labor and exertions considerably towards supporting the family.

Son Robert, aged eighteen years: having been bound to a trade, and his master dying without his learning it, is unable to do more than barley gain by labor his own maintenance.

Son Edward aged thirteen years }

Daughter Jane “ eleven “ } These three are not yet able to earn their own living.

Son Thomas “ Nine “ }

The declarant has for many years been occupied as an Oyster man, but his last long illness compelled to the giving up his establishment, and he is now destitute of means to get reestablished, neither has he yet recovered sufficient health and strength, if he had means.

Benjamin hisXmark Johnston

[The Pension Office deemed property valued at more than \$200 to be disqualifying for a pension under the act of 1820.]

Eastern District of Pennsylvania Sct.

On this sixth day of June A.D. 1823, Personally appeared in Open Court, being a Court of Record in and for the said District, Benjamin Johnson, who being duly Sworn according to Law, Says, that he is old and infirm and unable to work – that he has been lame for thirty years, in his left leg – that he has no property of any kind, other than the house and lot mentioned in his Schedule, and the small amount of personal property therein named – that he has faithfully detailed, in his last deposition, the amount of the incumbrances on his real Estate – that he now understands, that in his deposition, made on the 17th of July 1821, he stated that his house and lot were mortgaged, to an amount beyond their value – that he cannot read or write and relied upon another person [Daniel Brodhead], to make a proper Statement for him – that this person either misunderstood him, or in some other way, mistated, what was his situation, at that time there was then no Mortgage on his property, although he was much in debt, which debt has been since increasing – he represented his embarrassed circumstances to the person who drew up his Statement, and he supposes told him he owed, more than he was worth, and it was in this way the mistake about the mortgage, was made in his said Statement – the deponent imputes no improper conduct to his agent, but believes, that he was mistaken, and supposed there was a mortgage, when the debts were due otherwise

Benjamin hisXmark Johnson

Declaration in order to be restored to the pension List under the Act of first March 1823 [providing for those who had become impoverished after 1820.]

State of Pennsylvania S.S.

County of Philadelphia

On this seventeenth day of January 1829 personally appeared in open Court Being a Court of Record for the City and County of Philadelphia – The Court of Common Pleas. Benjamin Johnson resident in said County aged about Seventy years, who being first 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 of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820. That he the said Benjamin Johnson enlisted for the term of two years on the — day of — in the year 1778 in the State of New Jersey, in the Company commanded by Captain Paul Bantelow, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Vose [sic: Boze], in the line of the State of New Jersey, on the Continental Establishment; that he continued to serve in the said Company until 1779 about two years: when he was discharged from the service in Guilford in the State of South Carolina [sic: Guilford is in North Carolina] – That his name has been placed on the pension List, and dropped therefrom on account of his Property. [Oath similar to that in the 1821 declaration follows.]

That since the exhibition of my first Schedule, no essential changes have been made in my Property.

The following is the Schedule of the Property of Benjamin Johnson late a Pensioner of the United States.

A House in Jones Alley No. 29 Philadelphia – Estimated to be worth Eight Hundred Dollars – subject to a Mortgage of four hundred dollars and some arrears of interest. Household furniture simply sufficient to keep house. the whole amount free of debt not to exceed four hundred dollars.

Sworn to and declared on the Seventeenth of January 1829

Benjamin hisXmark Johnson

Philadelphia April 22nd 1829

Dear Sir [James L. Edwards, Chief Pension Clerk]

Your letter of the 16th Inst. was duly rec'd Mr Johnson states that his papers were made out before Judge Tilghman under the Act of March 1818 and that the pension was stoped under the Act of 1820 that he rec'd two years pension that his Original papers were transmited by Lawyer Bradford who rec'd the original pension Certificate for him. That he was in Captain Buntelous Company the whole time: that General Count Pulaski was Commander: that Col Vose was killed at Egg Harbour about the time of his enlistment: that Cowatch, as near as I can make the name was Col the greater part of the time and was killed in Charleston S Carolina [sic: Michael Kowats, 11 May 1779]:

That he left all his papers with the late Spencer Sergeant inclusive of the pension Certificate: a search will be made for the Certificate by the Exeutors: if not found, satisfactory proofs of identity will be transmited to the Department. I am Sir very Respectfully/ your obiet Servt/ P/ W. Sprout

NOTES:

On 3 April 1837 Ann Johnson, 62, applied for a pension stating that she married Benjamin Johnson on 3 Dec 1833, that he "was wounde during the revolutionary war," and that he received a pension up to the day of his death on 19 March 1832. On 8 August 1838 Ann Johnson was still said to be 62. On 12 Sep 1848 she was said to be 75.

The file contains an extract from the Register of Baptisms in the Parish Record of St. Paul's Church of Philadelphia: "Tues. 3 Dec'r 1793: Married Ben. Johnson and Agnes Rhoddy." A document in the file explains that Agnes in German was considered equivalent to Ann.

The file contains a letter dated 15 Dec 1848 requesting that Ann Johnson's pension certificate be sent to her at the residence of her son-in-law, William Myler, corner of Duke and Chester Sts. in Lancaster.