

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Johnston (Johnson) W5033 Nancy Johnston f41NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/6/06 rev'd 2/23/16

[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 10]

State of North Carolina, Randolph County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term A.D. 1832

On this 6th day of November A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting, Joseph Johnston, a resident of the County of Randolph, State of North Carolina aged Seventy nine years May 5th last; who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers & served as herein stated, viz.:

He states that he was born in Paxton Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania May 5th, 1753. [He] Has a record of his age. In the year 1772 he removed to North Carolina & settled in Randolph County (then a part of Guilford [County]) where he resided at the time he entered the Service of the United States. He states in the early part of the year 1779 perhaps the month of January, he volunteered for three months under Col Collier [John Collier] & Col Balfour [Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Balfour]. From the perilous condition of the Country, it was deemed expedient to raise some troopers; & he, with John Graham,¹ who served with him through the whole of his revolutionary Service, agreed to arm & equip themselves as troopers, being informed by their commanding officers, that if they would do so, two months service as a trooper, would be equivalent to three months service on foot. We were then placed under the command of Captain Thomas Dougan who commanded a troop of light horse. Our first service consisted in bringing in some drafted militia from the lower part of Randolph County, who were suspected of being inclined to join the Tories. We were employed in keeping down the Tories in the County of Randolph & in adjacent Counties; & our service was particularly dangerous & arduous being subject to being dispatched at the shortest notice on Tory expeditions in the most inclement weather & at all hours of the night. We however were not in any battle with the Tories previous to Gates' defeat [Horatio Gates' defeat at the Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. After that disastrous defeat of the American Army at Camden, Young Davie [William Richardson Davie], then Colonel of the Cavalry & afterwards General also General Locke [Francis Locke] & General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], apprehensive of the ruinous consequences of that defeat, & the subsequent approach of Lord Cornwallis to North Carolina, thought it best to raise as large a body of Cavalry as possible in this State; to which end they sent requisitions to Col Collier of Randolph (among others) to send a quota of Troopers. Whereupon Captain Dougan was ordered to join Col Davie with his troop, which he did at or near General Locke's in Rowan County. We then immediately marched to meet the invading army under

1 [John Graham S6936](#)

Cornwallis; we met it at Charlotte where we had an engagement [Charlotte, September 26, 1780]² principally with the Cavalry, in which the brave & promising son of Genl Locke was killed by my side.³ We were compelled to retreat, being overpowered by numbers; our object being principally to harass & impede their march. We retreated to the neighborhood of Salisbury and the Phifer settlement. From this place we were marched under Davie to Rocky River in Mecklenburg County, the British being still in Charlotte. This engagement at Charlotte was about the latter part of summer or first of the fall of 1780. We lay at Rocky River until the battle of Kings Mountain, I think October 7th [1780] when Cornwallis retreated to South Carolina for reinforcements, & was pursued by Col Davie as far as the Catawba; & I was sent over the River with a reconnoitering party, & returning the same night found John Graham standing sentry. Colonel Davie thence marched us back to Mecklenburg, & finding his troop a good deal fatigued & exhausted with their active service, he thought as Cornwallis had left North Carolina, he would give us some respite. He accordingly gave us permission to quarter about in the neighborhood for a few days, with directions to assemble with energy & promptness. We did so, & he then marched us into South Carolina, near the Waxhaw Settlement, where we continued until we were dismissed. While there, we (Graham & myself) were sent out with a reconnoitering party, with direction to quarter with Mrs. Doby, a Whig lady, & to get what information we could respecting the movements of the enemy. When we returned to Camp we found Genl Morgan [Daniel Morgan], Colonel (William Augustine) Washington [William Washington] of the Cavalry, & Colonel Howard [John Eager Howard] with his infantry who had joined Col Davie in our absence. At this place we were discharged, some time in the month of December 1781 [sic, 1780], so well as we can recollect for before our discharge Genl Morgan, with Col Washington & Col Howard, had left us & gone South & after our discharge some few weeks the battle of the Cowpens was fought. We received no written discharge, for that was considered not so much a final discharge as a respite until again called on: for being troopers we held ourselves always ready. Up to this time we (Graham & myself) had served at the least nine months. Shortly after this I went with others to guard the property of many of the citizens across the Roanoke [River], & upon my return, it being understood by the Tories that Graham & myself had returned home, they came down upon us and made us prisoners & we were detained by them two days & nights: when by the generosity of Colonel Fields (a Tory Colonel) a quality very rare among them, we were discharged on parole: & thus saved in all probability from the halter or the dungeon. All of this occurred some short time before the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781]. Graham & myself were also in some other excursions after Tories, who had on one occasion inhumanely murdered my brother Henry; & one Tucker, but these excursions did not amount to much length of time, say one month although there was a considerable amount of danger in them. I have resided since the revolution in this County & now reside in it. I have no documentary evidence of my service but expect to be able to prove some portions of it by Dan Merrell⁴ & can prove the whole of it by John Graham, who was my brother in arms throughout the whole of it. I can establish my reputation for revolutionary service by Genl George Hoover & Genl Alexander Gray & John Elder. I hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joseph Johnston

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

³ Lt. George Locke was killed at Charlotte on Sept. 26, 1780. It is not clear that he was the son of Col. Francis Locke as stated by this veteran.

⁴ [Daniel Merrell S7222](#)



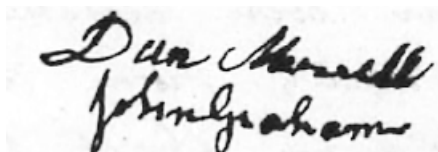
[p 13]

We Dan Merrell & John Graham residing in Randolph County, State of North Carolina, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Joseph Johnston who has subscribed & sworn to the preceding declaration; that we believe him to be 79 years of age: Dan Merrell certifies that he saw said Johnston on several occasion serving as a trooper before he was ordered South, saw him on his way South in Salisbury & also on his return after his discharge passing through Salisbury where he was stationed. John Graham certifies that Johnston served with him as he has stated in his declaration.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Dan Merrell

S/ John Graham



[George Hoover, Alexander Gray & John Elder gave the standard supporting affidavit. In addition, "John Elder certifies that he saw said Johnston while serving as a light horse man & recollects hearing that he was gone southward to fight the British." Elder signed this affidavit with his mark.]

[p 15]

Amendment

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Randolph State of North Carolina, Joseph Johnston who being duly sworn, deposed & saith, that he did not deem it necessary to procure the affidavit of a clergyman inasmuch as he had the testimony of witnesses as to his service, & furthermore there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood, & knows of no one (clergyman) from whom he could procure the requisite affidavit. In answer to the seventh interrogatory, he states in his Declaration the names of George Hoover, and Alexander Gray, his neighbors, by whom he proved his character for veracity & reputation for revolutionary service.

He further swears that by reason of old age & 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 period mentioned below, & in the following grade
For ten months I served as a private of Cavalry, & for such service I claim a pension

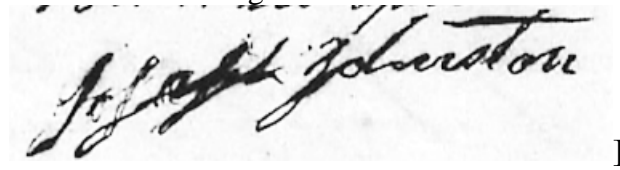
Sworn to & subscribed before me April 17th, 1833

S/ Thos. Fentress, JP

S/ Joseph Johnston

[p 6: On April 7, 1844 in Randolph County North Carolina, Joseph Johnston, aged 45, filed a claim in behalf of his mother Nancy Johnston, the widow of Joseph Johnston, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$41.66 per annum; that he is one of the children and heirs at law of Nancy Johnston, widow of Joseph Johnston; that Joseph Johnston died November 16, 1838 leaving Nancy his widow; that Nancy died March 14, 1843 leaving the following 4 children surviving her: Sarah who intermarried with David Brown, Lytle Johnston, Robert Johnston and the declarant, Joseph Johnston, all of lawful age; that affiant understands that Joseph and Nancy

were lawfully married in 1786; that the affiant here with sends the Family Record showing the date of said marriage.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph Johnston". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid. The signature is written on a light-colored, possibly aged, paper.


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[pp17 & 19: These pages appear to contain the original family record but the pages are so dark that only occasional words or dates can be discerned by me.]

[p 17: On April 30, 1844 in Randolph County North Carolina, Rosanna Johnston, 80, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with the late Joseph Johnston and his wife Nancy who is a heirs are now applying for a pension; that she believes Joseph and Nancy were married in 1786 and never heard it contradicted. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 34: Certificate from the Comptroller of Public Accounts of North Carolina showing payments made to one Joseph Johnson [sic] for military services.]

[p 37: On July 25, 1845 in Randolph County North Carolina Lytle Johnson [sic] gave testimony that he is the son of Joseph Johnson [sic], deceased pensioner of the United States; that he has often heard his deceased father speak of his being a soldier in the cavalry in North Carolina militia several tours during the revolutionary war.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lytle Johnson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid. The signature is written on a light-colored, possibly aged, paper.

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[p 38: On July 25, 1845 in Randolph County North Carolina, David Brown gave testimony as to the reputation of Joseph Johnson as a soldier of the revolution.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Brown". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid. The signature is written on a light-colored, possibly aged, paper.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$41.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia cavalry. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]