

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Lancelot Johnston W5114  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Zeruiah

fn81NC  
rev'd 12/13/11

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 13]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832, And also to obtain the benefit of the third Section of the Act of Congress of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836 &c

State of Georgia, Morgan County

On this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 1846, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Ordinary now sitting in & for said County, William Johnston, a resident of Madison, in the County of Morgan & State of Georgia, who being first Sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in behalf of himself and others, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, And also the benefit of the Act of Congress passed July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836.

That his Father Dr. Lancelot Johnston entered the Service of the United States in December 1776 as Chirurgeon [sic, Surgeon] to the ninth Regiment of the Continental Army raised in the State of North Carolina as will fully appear by Document No. 1 Signed by Jas. Greene Jr. Secretary and which accompanies this declaration,

And that this appointment was confirmed by the Congress of the United States by a commission bearing date of the Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day of May 1777, Signed by John Hancock, President, and Charles Thompson, Secretary, as will appear by Document No. 2.

That he was appointed Surgeon to the New raised Levies of Salisbury & Hillsborough Districts on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1778, as will appear by reference to Document No. 3.

And received in conformity with that appointment a Commission from Ja. Thackston Lt. Col., on the sixth day of November 1778. as will be seen by reference to document No. 4.

And that that he Served in the Capacity of Surgeon until he was honorably discharged by Jethro Sumner, Brigadier General on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1779, as may be Seen by reference to Document above No. 4.

Thus embracing a period from the commencement of his Service, until his discharge, of Two years and about three months.

And your declarant further States, that the before mentioned Lancelot Johnston did on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 1774, intermarried with his wife Zeruiah, as appears from the old family Register hereto annexed, established by the oath of Mary Johnston, in whose possession it has been kept in for the last 25 years, and marked as Document No. 5.

And your declarant further States, that the before mentioned Lancelot Johnston departed this life in North Carolina on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832, as appears from the Certificate of A. Slade, Clerk of Caswell County Court, and marked as Document No. 6.

And that Zeruiah Johnston his widow departed this life on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1838 – as appears by reference to the above Document No. 6.

And your declarant further States that the aforementioned Lancelot Johnston having died without having received a pension to which he was entitled under the Act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, and his Widow Zeruiah Johnston having died without having received a pension to which she was

entitled under the Act of Congress of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836, He files his declaration as one of the Sons and Legal Representatives of the deceased parties above named, in connection with John Johnston of Caswell County North Carolina, Mary Johnston, Mrs. Jane Slade, Lancelot Johnston, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones of Madison Morgan County Georgia, Mrs. Mildred Harrison of Lagrange Tennessee, David Johnston of Tuskegee Marion County Alabama, all of the living Children and heirs of the aforesaid Dr. Lancelot Johnston and Zeruah his wife, together with Lancelot Johnston, Richard Johnston, Alfred Johnston, and Mrs. Nancy Motley, the children of Thomas Johnston deceased who was Son of Lancelot & Zeruah Johnston aforesaid. Also James M. Yancey, Albert G. Yancey, William J. Yancey & Mildred A. Yancey, the Children of Zilpah Yancey deceased who was the daughter of Lancelot & Zeruah Johnston aforesaid, Setting forth the foregoing facts, and claims for himself and the above named Children & heirs of Lancelot Johnston & Zeruah Johnston to be entitled to all the benefit of the Several Acts of Congress above specified, in which the aforesaid Lancelot & Zeruah Johnston were entitled prior to their death, and to which they would be entitled if yet in life.

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court the day & date above written.

S/ Ernest L. Wittich, C. C.

S/ Wm Johnston



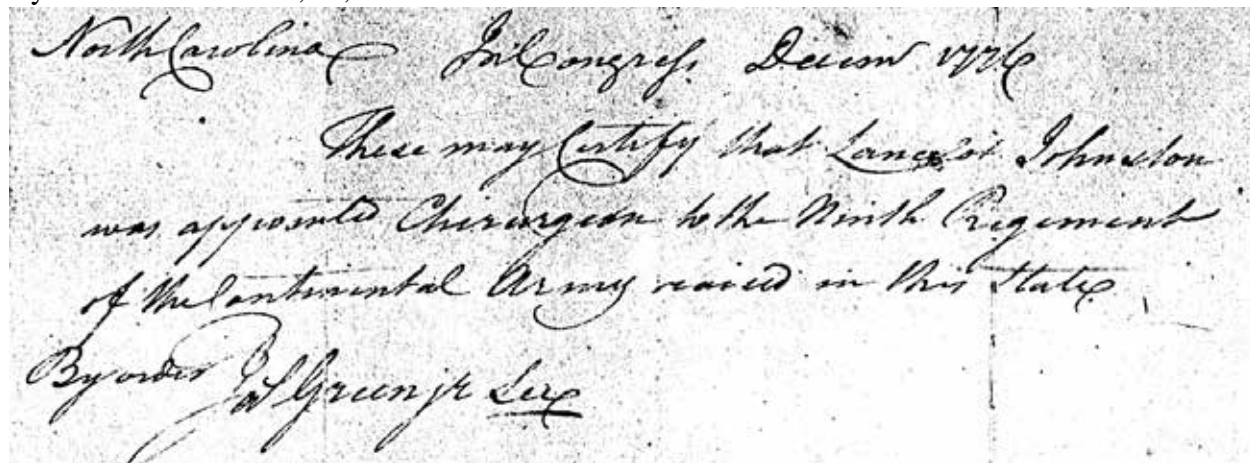
[f p. 25]

No. 1

North Carolina In Congress December 1776

These a Certify that Lancelot Johnston was appointed Chirurgeon [sic, Surgeon] to the Ninth Regiment of the Continental Army raised in this State.

By order S/ Jas. Green, Jr., Sec.



[f p. 66]

No. 2

Copy

In Congress

The Delegates of the United States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of Newcastle, Kent at Sussex of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to Lanslot [sic] Johnston, Gent<sup>n</sup>, Greeting: --

We, reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valor, Conduct and Fidelity, Do,

by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be Surgeon of the Ninth Battalion in the Army of the United States, raised for the Defense of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Surgeon by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as Surgeon. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or any future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Army of the United States, or any other your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission is to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress. Dated at Newbern the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May Anno Dom. 1777-- By order of the Congress

Attest: S/ Chas. Thomson, Sec.

S/ John Hancock, President

[f p. 27]

No. 3

State of North Carolina

In Senate 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1778

Resolved that Dr. Lancelot Johnston be appointed Surgeon to the new raised Levies of Salisbury & Hillsborough Districts during their Continuance in this State.

S/ Allen Jones, S. S.

By order S/ T. Sitgreaves, C. S.

In the House of Commons 17 August 1778

Concurred with --

By order

S/ Tho. Benbury, S. C.

S/ John Hunt, H. C.

Extract from the Journals

S/ T. Sitgreaves, C. S.

[f p. 67]

No. 4

Copy

The bearer Doctor Lancelot Johnston is hereby appointed Regimental Surgeon to the New Levies & Continental Troops now about to March from the District of Hillsborough & Salisbury to the assistance of South Carolina during that Campaign.

Given under my hand this sixth day of November 1778.

S/ Ja. Thackston, Lt. Col.

Commandant

[f p. 67]

No. 5

Camp Purysburg [Purrysburg], 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1779

This is to certify that Dr. Johnston resigned to his appointment in United States service at this day. He has been diligent in his department, and we are sorry to part with him.

S/ Jethro Sumner

Brigadier General

Pension Office February 18<sup>th</sup> 1857

The Originals [Nos. 4 & 5 above] of which the foregoing are true copies were this day Sent to the Honorable Joshua Hill Ho. Rep. for the purpose of returning them to Lancelot Johnston, the Son of the Officer.

S/ S. C. Boynton

[f p. 12]

No. 6

State of North Carolina, Caswell County

I Abisha Slade Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County and State aforesaid hereby Certify that Dr. Lancelot Johnston late of this County died from the best Information I am able to obtain in the month of September 1832, say the 19<sup>th</sup> day, And that Zeruah Johnston his widow died in November 1838, say the 24<sup>th</sup> day. I have obtained this Information from the friends and neighbors of Dr. Lancelot Johnston and his widow – together with my own Knowledge.

And Testimony of all of which I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office this fourth day of March A.D. 1846.

S/ A. Slade, Clk  
of Caswell County Court

[f p. 48]

State of North Carolina, Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from a book of the settlements of the accounts of the Officers & Soldiers of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that Lancelot Johnston a Surgeon of said line, was allowed for his services by a Board of Commissioners which sat at Halifax in the year 1783 -- & 1784, the sum of Four Hundred and fourteen pounds twelve shillings (£414.12.0) for his services as Surgeon aforesaid.

Given under my hand at office in Raleigh this 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1846.

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

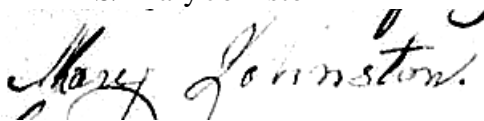
[f p. 52]

State of Georgia, Morgan County

Personally appeared before me John Robson a Judge of the Inferior Court of said County; Miss Mary Johnston who being duly sworn, deposed and saith that the two small sheets hereunto annexed, contains the only original register of the marriage of the late Dr. Lancelot Johnston and Zeruah his wife – of the County of Caswell in the State of North Carolina; by which it appears that they were married January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1774: also containing the dates of the births of all their children – and was the family register kept in the blank leaves of an old English Prayer book, and that she took them from out of the said Book to preserve them, the book being frequently loaned out – for the purpose of performing the marriage ceremony, and that said leaves have been in her possession for the last 25 or 30 years.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1846.

S/ Mary Johnston



S/ John Robson, Judge of the Inferior Court

[f pp. 4-7: Family records from the Prayer Book (entries rearranged in chronological order)]

Lancelot Johnston and Zeruah his Wife married Jany 17<sup>th</sup> 1774

Thomas Johnston Son of Lanclot Johnston & Zeruah his Wife born on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1777

John Johnston born December the 12, 1778

Mary Johnston born Sep. 1<sup>st</sup> 1780

Jane Johnston born Augt. 8<sup>th</sup> 1782

William Johnston born March 15<sup>th</sup> 1784  
Zilpah Johnston born January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1786  
Milridge Johnston born February 28<sup>th</sup> 1788  
Lancelot Johnston born March 29<sup>th</sup> 1790  
David Johnston born January 14<sup>th</sup> 1792  
Elizabeth Johnston born January 25<sup>th</sup> 1794

Births of Negro Sarah Children

Vincy born 29<sup>th</sup> Augt. 1787

Adam born 13<sup>th</sup> May 1789

Beck born 6<sup>th</sup> July 1791

Died February 13<sup>th</sup> 1792

Cale born 25<sup>th</sup> March 179[~~last digit lost~~ born right below it and appearing to be a correction appears the date "1799"]

Frank born Oct. 1794

Beck born Apl. 1795

Phebe born Oct. 1798

Eley born 16 June 1801

~~Alexr born Oct 1801~~

Lettuce born Decr. 1803

~~Sam born June 27<sup>th</sup> 1804~~

Cynthia born June 18<sup>th</sup> 1806]

[f p. 10: letter dated June 11, 1847 post marked Yanceyville, Caswell Co., NC, from A. G. Yancy [sic] to the Commissioner of Pensions in which he states he is the grandson of the veteran.]

[Veteran's heirs received a pension of \$600 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 and ending September 19, 1832, the date of death of the veteran. The pension was awarded on the basis of the veteran's service as a surgeon in the North Carolina Continental line. The pension was payable to William Johnston, John Johnston, Mary Johnston, Jane Slade, Lancelot Johnston, Mary Jones, Mildred Harrison & David Johnston, children of said deceased veteran. Likewise, a pension was awarded to the heirs of the widow at the same rate from September 20, 1832 to November 26, 1838 when she died.]