

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Johnson W7932 Elizabeth Johnson f39VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 1/6/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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 15]

At a Court of Monthly Session held for Goochland County at the Courthouse on Monday the 15th day of December 1828

William Johnson of the County of Goochland & State of Virginia this day personally appeared before the Court of said County & made the following declaration on oath, that he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the Continental service in the County of Charlotte in the State of Virginia in the winter of 1775-6, for two years under a certain Captain Brent [perhaps George Brent] most commonly called by the soldiers Captain Brunt, his first Lieutenant was Edmund Read of said County of Charlotte, the 2nd Lieutenant's name not recollected, his Ensign was named Thomas Spencer, the Company marched from Charlotte Courthouse, the latter end of that winter, or the ensuing spring to Portsmouth in Virginia & embodied in a Regiment under Colonel Adam Stephens [Adam Stephen] called the 4th Virginia Regiment & remained under his command until the Army left Portsmouth & sailed up the Bay to the head of Elk [River] with said Colonel Stephens & Colonel Robert Lawson & remained in service till the Army marched to Valley Forge to take up winter quarters, he was in the action where the Hessians were taken at Trenton [December 26, 1776], and was in the cannonade the evening before the battle of Princeton [January 3, 1777] & was in the battle at Princeton the succeeding morning, was in a number of Skirmishes during that winter, some of them pretty warm, in the following campaign was in the battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] & Germantown [October 4, 1777]; at the Valley Forge Reenlisted for the term of three years under Major William Washington afterwards Colonel William Washington in the 4th Regiment of light Dragoons commanded by Colonel Moiland [probably Stephen Moylan] & Colonel White [Anthony Walton White], during the term of three years there was very little fighting to the North, nothing more than skirmishes about the line, he continued in the Army till his term of enlistment expired, was regularly discharged & returned home, soon after returning home performed a short tour in the militia of two months under the command of General Lafayette after that time he voluntarily performed a tour of eighteen months having marched from Cumberland Old Courthouse in Virginia to Georgia under the command of Colonel Posey [Thomas Posey], and was in two or three skirmishes with the British & Creek Indians, after the term expired, he marched in a body to Cumberland Courthouse in Virginia and was there discharged, having received the news of peace in Georgia at the very spot where the Indians attacked us. He further states that he is now in his seventy third year, is becoming almost blind, and incapable of performing any labor having recently been visited with a paralytic attack, has a

large family of children in a very small estate, that yields little or no profit, and before his late Affliction could with difficulty support himself & family hard labor & the most prudent Economy; –

And at a Court held for the said County, 20th August 1832

On this 20th day of August 1832 application was made to this court on behalf of William Johnson in order to obtain a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 as a Revolutionary soldier, and the court being satisfied from the affidavits of Doctor Richard W Royster and James Pleasants, that the said William Johnson is unable to appear before this Court, and that his mental faculties are so impaired as to render him totally unable to make a Declaration for his enlistment or services – and he having made a Declaration of his enlistment & services as a Revolutionary Soldier on the 15th day of December 1828 before this Court, which this court is satisfied contains the truth – And the said court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named William Johnson was a Revolutionary Soldier, and served as he then stated.

I William Miller clerk of the court of Goochland County do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings are truly copied from the records of said court.

In testimony whereof. I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, this 29th day of August 1832

S/ Wm Miller, CC

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I have been acquainted with Captain William Johnson of Goochland County since I was a small boy & have always understood from himself & many others that he served as a soldier & noncommissioned officer nearly the whole of the Revolutionary War in the Continental Army. Captain Johnson sometime since made a declaration of his services with a view of obtaining a pension under the former pension law of the United States, but did not succeed, his case not coming within that law, as he was informed by Mr. Ingram late Secretary of the treasury, whose answer to his application I have read. I visited Captain Johnson lately at the request of some of his friends and had a long conversation with him, more particularly in relation to events of the Revolutionary War which I had often heard him relate with great clearness, and consistency. I found that his mind was shattered almost entirely & believe him to be totally unable of making a [indecipherable word]¹ statement on any subject whatever. I have the fullest confidence that his former declaration was strictly true in all its circumstances, & that if he was now competent to make one it would concur fully with the former. He was always a highly respectable man, and I believe of the strictest veracity.

S/ James Pleasants

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Goochland August 17, 1832

This is to Certify that I have been the attending Position of Captain William Johnson of this County for several years past, and that he has been afflicted with a paralytic affliction, which has so destroyed his mind as to render him at this time totally incapable of making a connected statement of any past occurrence. Given under my hand.

S/ R. W. Royster

¹ *connected* connected?

[p 7: On August 19, 1839 in Goochland County Virginia, Elizabeth Johnson, aged 80 one years on the 4th of June 1839, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Johnson, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him December 23, 1784; that they were married by the Reverend Reuben Ford; that her husband died June 9th 1833 and that she remains his widow she signed her application with her mark.]

[p 8: On August 19, 1839 in Goochland County Virginia, Joseph D Watkins gave testimony that he was present at the marriage of William Johnson to Elizabeth Woodson now his widow; that the wedding took place in December 1784.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia cavalry for 2 years. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Virginia, Goochland County, to wit:

I certify that in the winter of 1775 – 1776, I enlisted in Charlotte County in a company commanded by Captain John Brent (or Brunt as he was called by the soldiers) for two years in the Virginia Continental line in the 4th Regiment commanded by Colonel Stevens [Adam Stephen] and Colonel Lawson [Robert Lawson] at Portsmouth Virginia. That about half of which time I was a Corporal, which rank I sustained to the end of the period of enlistment. About the end of the term of enlistment, Major William Washington came to Valley Forge to enlist a troop of Light Dragoons, and I, with a number of our men, enlisted under him, for three years in the 4th Regiment of Light Dragoons, which was subsequently commanded by Colonels Milan [Moylan] and White. [Paper damaged and several illegible words] acted as Corporal about a third part for the time of enlistment, in which rank I acted until I was discharged by Colonel Benjamin Temple at Lancaster, Pennsylvania; that I then volunteered for two months in the militia and marched from Hanover [?] and on my return was drafted for 18 months and ended that campaign in South Carolina having served as a Corporal most of this time also. Given under my hand this 19th of June 1824.

S/ Wm Johnson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Johnson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized and slanted.

[Attested June 19, 1824 in Goochland County Virginia by W. H. Pleasants]

[The file contains a letter dated Nov. 10, 1830, from Wm Gordon [Register of the US Bounty Land Office in Washington, DC] to Th. W. Johnson [Thomas W. Johnson] saying that Johnson's father, William Johnson, was not entitled to a land grant from the US because he did not enlist in the Continental Army 'for during the war' but suggesting that his father would probably be entitled to a land grant from the state of Virginia.]