

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Johnston W7945 Joice Johnston VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 June 2020.

[This James Johnston is the same person as [James Johnston VAS1258](#).]

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefits of the act of congress of the 3rd of March 1843 granting pensions for one year to certain widows who received pensions under the act of July 7th 1838
State of Virginia S.S.

On this seventh day of February one thousand eight hundred and forty five, personally appeared before me Jabez Gravely a Justice of the peace for the county of Henry, Joice Johnston a resident of Turkey Cock in the county of Henry and State of Virginia aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed on the 3rd day of March 1843. granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary war. That she is the widow of James Johnston, who was a Sergeant of Dragoons in the Virginia line of the army of the Revolution, who was a pensioner of the United States, and received a pension as Sergeant of Dragoons at the rates of fifteen Dollars per month. She further declares that she was married to the said James Johnston on the 23rd day of April one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, That her husband the said James Johnston died on the thirteenth day of April eighteen hundred and forty one, That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz. at the time above stated, and she further declares that she is still a widow

Joice herXmark Johnston

Leatherwood Store Henry Co. Va. 2nd May 1845
Mr. J L Edwards Comm'r. of Pensions

Dear Sir. I have been requested by Mrs. Joice Johnston widow of James Johnston, who claims a pension under the act of Congress of 3rd March, 1843, to forward you the enclosed copy of return of Carter Torrant of the marriage of James Johnston to Joice Wells with the Certificate of the Clerk of this County under the Seal of office, to you in accordance with your request in your letter to the Hon. Walker Coles of 7 Mar. 1845, you say in your letter to Mr. Coles that the names of James Johnston, appears on the Rolls as a private of cavalry for a year and as a private of infantry for a year for which a rateable pension will be allowed on production of satisfactory evidence, of the date of the marriage," Mrs. Johnston does not claim a pension as widow of the James Johnston that rendered the services as stated above but as widow of James Johnston Sergeant of dragoons in the Virginia Line of the army of the Revolution, who drew pay until his death under the following certificate,

"Revolutionary Claims No. 787"

"Under the act entitled an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution approved the 15th May 1828. I do hereby certify that James Johnston of Turkey Cock in the County of Henry in the state of Virginia is entitled to receive pay, under the above mentioned act as a surviving Sergeant of dragoons with Virginia Line of the army of the Revolution, at the rate of fifteen Dollars and — Cents a month payable during his natural life on the third day of march and third day of September in each year, It is provided by Law that the said pay shall not in any way be transferable or liable to attachment levy or seizure by any legal process whatever, Given under my hand and the seal of the Treasury of the United States this the third day of August in the year one thousand Eight hundred and Twenty nine and of Independence the forty fourth.

Leatherwood,

S D Ingham
Secretary of the Treasury

The original certificate was sent to the Commissioner for paying pensions in the City of Richmond when his last pension was drawn. The widow dont want to draw a pension as widow of James Johnston a private of Cavalry & private of Infantry but as widow of James Johnston, Sergeant of Dragoons, as pr. the certificate of Secretary Ingham No. 787. Please examine and have the pension allowd to her as widow of James Johnston Sergeant of Dragoons She wishes you to send her papers to Leatherwood store Henry County Virginia and you will much oblige the widow who is in very indigent circumstances.

Most Respectfully/ B. F. Gravely

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Virginia

Charlotte County to wit:

This day William Morton of the aforesaid County personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the said County & made oath that he well knows James Johnston now of Henry County, but formerly a citizen of this – that he was raised in this [undeciphered word] to the wheel right's trade.

That he well recollects that about the year 1784 the said Johnston applied in the presence of this deponant at the Auditors Office for his bounty as a Soldier – that he produced to the Auditor a regular discharge from the service & received a part of his bounty in money, but as he did not produce a certificate of his enlistment did not receive any Land. That he believes he enlisted about the year 1776 with Wood Bouldin [W18637] the Lieutenant of the Company that he knows he marched from the County under Capt. Michaux [Joseph Michaux VAS882]. That the said Bouldin & Michaux are now dead. And further this deponant saith not. Given under my hand this 30th day of October 1811.

W. M. Watkins

State of Virginia

Henry County towit

This day James Johnston of the aforesaid County personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the said County & made oath that [undeciphered] Revolutionary war he enlisted himself as a Soldier in the Virginia Continental establishment under Wood Bouldin for the period of three years & served part of his time [several undeciphered words] the balance of his time in [several undeciphered words] he was discharged [several undeciphered lines] the Deponant say as well as he recolects in the month of Fabruary 1784 he delivered out of his own hands his Discharge to Mr. John Pendleton who was then Auditor of Virginia & Demanded his bounty the auditor refused [several undeciphered words]. The Deponant says he only Rec'd. part of his money bounty & no land & has sence made may applications & never has Rec'd his ballance & shall now submit to your Honours to say wheather he is entitled to the Ballance of his bounty as a [several undeciphered words]. This Deponant [undeciphered] Co. William Morton was Born in his Recollection in the year of his enlistment it was in 1776 & he [the rest undeciphered]

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Johnston, Jas. The images are very poor.]

[pp. 2-4; first two lines illegible]

April the 23 [illegible] informing me that my paper stating the amount of my Claim as a revolutionary Character has never been given in the Executive Department Because you want to no the amount of my Claims & also my services while a revolutionary Soldier. The [illegible] day of May 177[?] was attached from Capt Michaux Company out of the [illegible] Virginia Regiment to Gen'l Washington's life Guards and there I Continued out 77 78 and 79. Then when my three years ended in the foot Guards I immediatly enlisted in Gen'l Washingtons horse guards for dureing the revolution war and Rec'd a

Certificate from the Officer that Commanded the horse guards stating in the Certificate that I should be Returned as a Sergeant of Dragoons in the Virginia Line of the army of the revolutionary war and also stating in the said Certificate my Commutation pay of 87[?] Dollars & my land bounty now I will inform you [undeciphered] how I came to fail giting of my just Claim that was given to us by the Congress of the United States when all those of my Brother Soldiers Recived there reward when General Washington got to Yorktown [undeciphered] before the surrender of Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] every man could perceive that Gen'l Washington was very uneasey, as he well new that if Clinton was to come round from the north with his big Fleet [undeciphered] he would soon let Cornwallace out of his pen we went a flag to no wheather Cornwallace would surrender & the word came back no then Gen'l Washington determined that night to take two of there nearest Readoubts by storm [redoubts 9 and 10, taken 14 Oct 1781] and Lafayette & Hambleton [sic: Alexander Hamilton] was to command the Americans & the French the other Lafayette cal for volunteers & I Jumped out & Joined him and before we got to the reddoubt a bullet tuck me in the Joint of my left knee which has ever sence prevented me from doing military duty from that night to this day Then they put me in a nasty place there that they cauld the hospital whare I was not able to help myself and sum [undeciphered] roge stole my napsack that contained my three years discharge and also my certificate that showed all the tirms of my enlisting for the war. Then when the war ended it was put in the public [undeciphered] all the soldiers belonging to the U States to apply to the Auditor of there own state and he would Issue to him a warrant agreeable to there services to bare interest at 6 percent to be paid then when all others that went forward with there discharges Received there Reward and my papers was mising & I got nothing and I did make oath that I had never Received one Cent of the interest warrant nor the 80 Dollars nor land bounty to this day. The interest warrant was merely for the depreciation of the paper money [several undeciphered words] that I have been a compleat cripple from that time to this day if I had made application I would been on the invalid pension from that time to this day tho I never applyed I never got one cent in all my life till the Acts of Congress passed 15 May 1828 [undeciphered] was enrolld on the books at Washington City with as much credit as any man in Va as a sergeant of Dragoons in the va line of the army of the revolution and that [undeciphered] all the evidence you wil [undeciphered] my own oath for you will no that no man come on before that act only the [four undeciphered words] I can send you a true copy of my pay Certificate from Secretary Ingham. I am told there was 8 or 9 James Johnson in service of the revolution war from [undeciphered] one in the Cavalry besides me. I was born and Raised in Charlotte county va and [undeciphered] enlisted as a Continental Soldier for the terms of three years with a Capt. Joseph Michaux from Cumberland County va for the use of the 14 va Regiment I do expect I never was returned as a soldier from the 14 va Reg't Because before that Reg't was completed I was attached to [undeciphered] I served out my three years – now I will give m. p. C.[?]

Revolutionary Claims No. 787”

Under the act entitled an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution approved the 15 May 1828. I do hereby certify that James Johnston of Turkey Cock in the County of Henry in the state of Virginia is entitled to receive pay, under the above mentioned act as a Surviving Sergeant of Dragoons in the virginia Line of the army of the Revolution at the rate of fifteen Dollars and — Cents a month payable during his natural life on the third day of march and third day of September in each year it is provided by Law that the said pay shall not in any way be transferable or liable to attachment levy or seizure by any legal process whatever – given under my hand and the seal of the Treasury of the United States this the third day of August in the year one thousand Eight hundred and twenty nine and of Independence the forty forth.

Samuel D. Ingham

Leatherwood,

Secretary of the Treasury of the U.S.

I shall [undeciphered] to your Honors to give your consideration [?] any thing is mising on my [undeciphered] Land as you have all the different Acts of Congress before you

I am very Respectfully/ Your Most Obt Serv't
James Johnston Sr/ 17 May 1836

As you stated in your first letter to say how I left the Services of the revolution war I left it at Yorktown Virg'a at the surrender of Cornwallace as an invalid and has never sence been able to do military duty from that time to this tho it is well known that that stroke saved American Independence. I had two Stanch old soldiers alive by the name of Jones when I was inrold at Washington City & tho they are both ded. tho you want no other evidince only to see me im old On the Boock at Washington City which you will see by my declaration in the pension ofeces in Richmond V'a. I am [rest illegible]

To the Hon. Secretary of the C [?] Va

Sir I have Rec'd your letter date June 1836 informing me that Coppies of papers from the war offices will not answer to obtain my Claim as a revolution Character therefore I shall beg the favour of you to inform the executive department that I request that one or more of them will step to the pension offices that pays all the Virginia pensioners in Richmond va and ask the Agant to shoe to them one of James Johnstons declarations of Henry County v'a, that draws his pension under the Act of Congress past 15 may 1828 with Jabez Gravely hand (a Justice of the peace for Henry County va, Also the Clerks Certifecate and County seal for Henry County va then you will not enquire whare I served my time in the revolutionary war for there is no Soldier come on under that Act of my 15 1828 only what was for dureing the war and I have made oath that I never have Received one Cent in all my life of my land nor my 80 Dollars bounty money interest warrant this interest warrant was nearly for the depreciation of the paper money a bout the time we tuck Cornwallace, I believe I could not get one meals vitels for 12 months wages and there is sum old Soldiers yet a Live would say that I am as much entitled to all these awards as any soldier that belong to the United States if the evidence you find in the pension office will not do I must send you my original certificate from the war offices – I see this spring in a Richmond paper whare the senate of the United states dected the Secretary of War to settle up all wages of revolutionary soldiers Claims naming land [several undeciphered words] Commutation pay and Interest warrants – anything you give to me will be safe by the mail to Leatherwood Store Henry County Va for me.

I am very Respectfully/ yr O. S.

James Johnston Sn'r
Henry County Va
July 16 1836



NOTES:

The pension file includes a document from the Treasury Department dated 4 Dec 1828 showing that James Johnston was entitled to the pay of a Sergeant of Dragoons in the Continental Line, but it does not include an application by James Johnston for a pension from the US government.

On 13 April 1855 Joice Johnston, 87, applied for bounty land stating that as Joice Wells she was married to James Johnston by Carter Torrance, a Baptist minister, in Henry County on 23 April 1789, and that her husband died at home 30 April 1842. The file contains a copy of the marriage return by Carter Torrant of the marriage of James Johnson and Joyce Wells on 24 Aug 1790.

In the file is a letter as follows:

O'Fallon Mo. 9th 16th 1905

Hon V Warner/ Washington City

Dear Sir

At the request of my daughter S. S. Edwards I will answer so far as possible the questions in the enclosed note. I am the grandson of Major James Johnston. "Place of residence at enlistment" He was born in Charlotte Co. Va. and I think enlisted in that Co. in the year 1777 in the 14th Virginia Regement. From this regement he was transfered to Gen. Washington's life Guards which he served three years 1777 78 & 79 His Col. was Col. Benjamin Harrison. Washington's Chief of Staff & Secretary. He lived 30 years in Henry Co. Va. where he died. I think in 1841 or 2 aged about 85 years. His Widow, Mrs. Joicy Johnston, drew a pension as long as she lived She died in about 1853 or 54 aged about 86 years He was a

private soldier and was engaged in all the battles which Gen. Washington commanded in person Viz. Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777], Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], Guilford Courthouse [15 Mar 1781; Washington not present] & at Yorktown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. My daughter is anxious for this record so she can become the Daughter of the Revolution. Very Respectfully

Your Obe't Servant J. C. Edwards