

## [Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to James Johnston VAS1258 [vsl 6VA +](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/7/14 supp'd 3/24/15

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

[**Note: Will Graves thinks it is highly probable that this is the same man as [James Johnston W7945](#)**]

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

State of Virginia Charlotte County to wit:

This day William Merton of the aforesaid County 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 & tied [?] to the wheelright's trade – That he well recollects that about the year 1780 for the said Johnston applied in the presence of this deponent 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 1777 with Wood Bouldin the Lieutenant of the Company – that he knows he marched from the County under Captain Michaux [probably Joseph Michaux] – That the said Bouldin & Michaux are now dead – And further this deponent saith not.

Given under my hand this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1833

S/ W. W. Watkins

[Note: there appears to be a substantive affidavit which is unfortunately illegible as posted online.]

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[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]  
"Johnston, Jas."

15-page file indexed under

[pp 2-3: appears to be a detailed affidavit or summary given by James D Ingram Secretary of the Treasury of the US relating to the services of a Jas. Johnston under a Captain Michaux but the images are so compromised as to be mostly illegible.]

[Note: all the other papers in this file as copied by the nincompoop who made the copies for posting on the Internet are either illegibly faint or are of split image and rendered illegible.]

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[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 5-page file

Virginia Charlotte County to wit

I do hereby Certify that I was well acquainted with James Johnson or Johnston of Charlotte in the Revolutionary War: he enlisted first in 1777 under Captain Michaux for three years, and was attached to the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, commanded by Colonel Lewis – The said Johnson, afterwards, he came a life Guard of General Washington; and after the expiration of his first enlistment, reenlisted in the Cavalry, to serve "for and during the war," and continued as life-guard of General Washington until the close of the war. He first enlisted as a soldier of Infantry – these facts come within my own personal knowledge, being a soldier at the time in the Revolutionary Army.

S/ William P Hamlett<sup>1</sup>



To his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

The Memorial of the Heirs and legal representatives of James Johnson or Johnston (for the name was spelled differently) late of Charlotte, who was a soldier of the state line of Virginia on Continental establishment in the war of the Revolution: Respectfully Sheweth:

That your memorialists have no personal knowledge of the services of the said James Johnson in the revolutionary war, and depend upon the evidence of those who were with him in the service –

That the said James Johnson first enlisted in the County of Charlotte in 1777 under Captain Michaux for the term of three years and was attached to the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, commanded by Colonel Lewis. The said Johnson, afterwards became one of the Life-Guards of General Washington and after the expiration of the first enlistment of three years, enlisted the second time, as a soldier of Cavalry to serve "for and during the war," and continued to act as one of the life-guards of General Washington until the close of the war – The said Johnson first enlisted as a soldier of Infantry – All of which will appear by reference to the accompanying certificates of old soldiers who served with him –

Your Memorialist further state, that his name will be found on the Army Register of the Continental line, both as a soldier of Infantry and Cavalry: and also, by reference to the papers of Captain Michaux's<sup>2</sup> a heirs for Bounty Land, now filed in the Executive office, his name will be found on the Original role of that company, filed with said papers –

Your Memorialist further state, that the said James Johnson or Johnston in his lifetime never drew Land Bounty from the State of Virginia, nor have your memorialist since his death who are his only heirs and legal representatives –

Your Memorialists pray that your Excellency will grant them as a aforesaid, the usual quantity of land bounty allowed a soldier of Infantry for three years service: and also, the him usual quantity of land bounty allowed a soldier of Cavalry, who enlisted and served "for and during the war:" in pursuance of the laws of Virginia in such case made and provided – And as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c

S/ Richard Cox

S/ Rebecca Cox

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<sup>1</sup> [William P. Hamlett S13305](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Joseph Michaux VAS882](#)

*Richard Cox*  
*Rebecca Cox*

[Attested November 6, 1837 in Charlotte County Virginia]  
[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Henry County Legislative Papers

I do inform the Honorable Legislature of Virginia that I have a Just Claim as a revolutionary Character & I do expect Virginia in whose I am to make application because I am a Virginian born & raised. Shortly after the R. W. ended it was put in the public prints for all the soldiers belonging to the United States to apply to the Auditor of their own State & he would Issue to them a warrant agreeable to their services to bear interest at 6 percent till paid – now I must step back a little ways to inform your Honors how I came to fail getting mine it would take abundance of time & paper to inform you of every Circumstance therefore I shall be as short as possible. The third day of May 1777 when General Washington's Head Quarters was at Middle Brook [Middlebrook] in New Jersey I was attached from the 14 Virginia Regiment to General Washington's Life guards where I continued as a three-year Soldier and that Guard out '77, '78 & '79. I do inform you that you your great friend General fayette [Lafayette] & myself both came into the family of General Washington in one week it is well-known that General Washington's lifeguard was never exposed in battle except it was there wish to volunteer & join some other troops myself and 65 others of the Guards volunteered the morning of the day of the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] & Joined the troops that Lafayette had that day to command and Lafayette got wounded – and the next day General Washington sent me with Lafayette to a little Dutch town called Bethlehem 55 miles from Pennsylvania & there I stayed with him till he said he was well & we returned to General Washington's Head Quarters at Valley Forge. Then immediately Lafayette asked General Washington for 7 or 8 hundred volunteers to go out reconnoitering on the enemy's lines – the British then in Philadelphia and Germantown – myself & 60 odd of the Guards Joined the command of Lafayette, he marched us across the Schuylkill River & went to a place called Barronhill – & that night the Tories informed the British where we was – & the British got within three quarters of a mile before we found it out and we made the greatest retreat that ever man made in America we only lost 5 waiters & one Negro & their horses – when the British left Philadelphia General Washington ordered old Morgain [Daniel Morgan] to call out for volunteers to Join his Rifle men & push on after them & try to harass them & keep them from traveling fast as General Washington could overtake them – myself & 75 others of the Guards Joined Morgan I was 17 days & nights there that my Cartridge box was never of [off] my neck – then we fought the Monmouth Battle [June 28, 1778] – then there was nothing of consequence turned up 'til my three years was ended – then there was an officer by the name of Colefax that had been about 2 years in the foot Guards with me that was about to take the Command of General Washington's Horse Guards it had been formerly commanded by Capt. Lewis a nephew of General Washington – he told me if I would enlist with him for the war He would give me a Certificate that I should be returned in the Virginia Line of Cavalry as a Sgt. – also for my \$80 Bounty & my land bounty I also enlisted & received my Certificate – also I had the promise of a furlough for 2 months when I called for it – I never could till the year 1781 – Turn over

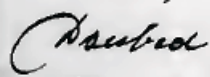
I informed you that I never called for my furlough till the year '81 and it was a lucky Circumstance for America I did not – for it is well known by all the old people that all the best troops belonging to America was then at that time in the Hands of the British as prisoners of war

– when I got as far as princeedward [Prince Edward] Court House Virginia on my way on furlough from the North there I heard that General Green [Nathanael Greene] was drove by Cornwallis through all the southern states into Virginia – then instead of going & staying two months with my father & mother that I had not seen since the 15 day of November 1776 I turned out & recruited as volunteers 12 old Continental Soldiers that had served as three-year soldiers to the North under the eye of General Washington that was well trained to the military duty and we immediately marched right off to the assistance of General Green and as soon as I got there I went myself to General Green & informed him that the militia had been called out so often and always conducted by nothing but raw undisciplined officers that knew nothing of the military duty & as soon as they see the red coats they were all off and sometimes never fire a gun – I told Green that I had prepared as many old veterans that was well acquainted with the subordination of war that would supply the place of every Virginia Regiment as an Adjutant and we would shoe [show] him that we would do as Great things as any Continental troops – it was so pleasing to Green that in two hours we all knew our post I myself took the Charge as an Adjutant of Col. Munford's [Robert Munford's] Regiment from Virginia the two majors was Skipwith [Henry Skipwith] and Hubbard – that night at roll call Green issued the most butifull [beautiful?] orders I ever Heard from the mouth of a man – stating to the militia that it was absolutely necessary to be taught the military duty – that he had prepared men for that purpose & he hoped they would not think hard to be called out three or four times a Day – though we had very little time to spare to be tough for Green was obliged to fight or run for in a very little time we should all perish for there was nothing to be got to live on – now we will soon show you what good I done at the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] – the North Carolina militia was fixed in front of the Virginia militia and Commanded by nothing but raw militia officers & as soon as they see the Redcoats they were all off & it was said many of them never fired a gun, then the next line was Virginia militia & it is well known they stood the fire as well as any Continental troops – for it is well known that the rifle men & the Virginia militia & Cavalry was chiefly all that was engaged that day and Cornwallis confessed he never was so Daubed [?] <sup>3</sup> in America as soon as Cornwallis found out that Green's regular troops was all fresh & several regiments had never fired a Gun he took to his scrapers [?] <sup>4</sup> about midnight & got over deep river before we could overtake him O what Glorious news had happened by the project of one old soldier – only a few days ago poor Green was running before Cornwallis & now Cornwallis is running before Green Col. Henry Skipwith was heard to say that if Johnston had not come to the Battle of Guilford with his old Continental Soldiers there would have been another Gates' defeat because Green's regular troops could not be prevailed on to fight they was so discouraged by being defeated so often now as soon as Wallace was gone Green was obliged to Discharge us or else we should all perish for a number of soldiers would faint and fall on the road for want of provision – then I returned Back to stay a few days with my father & mother then in Charlotte County Virginia – now I shall turn over & shoe you how I lost my papers.

[next page]

As soon as I returned from the Guilford battle & rested a few days with my Father & mother I heard of the distress of Lafayette in Virginia Arnold [Benedict Arnold] & Phillips [William Phillips] was araising him at a sad rate & destroying & doing Great damage in Virginia I took

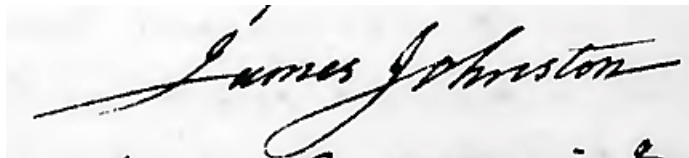
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<sup>3</sup> 

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right off to Lafayette's Assistance & as soon as Cornwallis came to Virginia & fixed himself in Yorktown we strove hard to keep him there till General Washington came & when the General came I could see by General Washington's Looks that he was uneasy General Washington well knew that if Clinton [Henry Clinton , commander-in-chief of the British forces in America] was to come round from the North with his big fleet he would soon let Cornwallis out of his pen – there was a flag soon sent to know whether Cornwallis would surrender the word came back no then General Washington determining that night to take two of their nearest redouts by storm – Lafayette & Hambleton was to Command the Americans & the French to storm the other – and I never failed putting myself by the side of Lafayette in time of danger & before I got to the redout a bullet took me in the Joint of my left knee which has ever prevented me from doing military Duty from that day till this day – then they crammed me in a nasty place they called a hospital where I was much confined & not able to help myself & some rogue stole my knapsack that contained my three years discharge & also my Certificate showing the terms of enlisting for the war – it was very hard for me to lose my Just reward because my papers was lost all others of my Brother Soldiers that had their papers got their Interest warrant & also came on the pension when I did in the year '28 – it is well known by men that it is yet alive that I strove as hard to save your freedom & Independence as any other Soldier in America – my \$80 Bounty for the war & my United States bounty land I have never yet got – I am told there was 8 or 9 James Johnson [sic] belonged to the Americans from Virginia in the revolution war I believe there was one besides me belonged to the Virginia Cavalry – I shall Just submit to your Honors to use your own pleasures

I am very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
S/ James Johnston

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Johnston". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Henry County Virginia  
for the year 1835

NB Col. Fontaine the bearer of this Statement was in the Virginia Legislature in the year 1811 & I informed him that I had failed of getting my Interest Warrant by losing my Discharge & other papers – & begged him to inquire to some of the leading characters what way I was to get it.

J. J.

[another file]

A petition from James Johnston an old revolutionary Soldier now a Citizen of Henry County Virginia to the Hon. Representatives of both Houses of the Virginia legislature – now in Session – praying they may Grant to him a pension which you will see is justly due to him ever since the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia by the evidence of Georgia Hanah an old Brother Soldier that was present with me at the time when I was wounded & also another Certificate from Dr. Robertson who knew me ever since that time & before. I shall be but short as I am well known by the Virginians that I have been a Cripple ever since that time I have often been invited by Several of the leading Characters of my state to call on the legislature of Virginia for a pension as all other wounded men had done my reply was that I strove as hard as any man in America to support our freedom and Independence & that it appeared that my Country was

always behind tax on tax & Dyrest [sic?] tax – to support Government – though now my Country appears to be much better off at this time & I am got very old & quite past traveling I think my Country men will not think hard of doing something for me now – for if Col. Samuel Venable formerly of Prince Edward County Virginia was alive he would say that it was the opinion of the Greatest part of the officers at that place that I was the principle cause of the downfall of Cornwallis at the battle of Guilford Court house in North Carolina for he stated it in the presence of a number of Gentleman only a few months before he died that I was the cause of fixing the Virginia militia so that they fought as Great a Battle as any regular troops ever did in America – for he stated that what few regulars General Green had left was so [indecipherable word]<sup>5</sup> that they was often heard to say that General Green had better give up for if they was to come into an action with the British that the militia would all run & leave them to be cut to pieces as they always had done – I shall say no more only that I served that tower [tour] in North Carolina & at Yorktown Virginia about five months as a volunteer without one cent of pay for my Country was not able to pay their enlisted Soldiers – my Petition & papers that was presented winter before last by James Boulden is now in the hands of the Clerk of the legislature which will show a small sketch of my travel when a regular Soldier in the Continental Army – I remain your Humble Petitioner

S/ James Johnston  
October 23 = 1826

[reverse]

James Johnston Petition to the Legislature

Peyton Gravely

December 16<sup>th</sup> 1826 referred to Claims

1826 December 29

Laid on table

1827 July 6<sup>th</sup>

Rejected

8<sup>th</sup> Reported

29<sup>th</sup> amended in the House of Delegates

February 1, Bill drawn

By request in a letter received from James Johnston an old revolutionary Soldier now a citizen of Henry County Virginia I do make the following statement. I do certify that in the revolution war the said Johnston & myself both served a tower [tour] as three years Continental Soldiers to the North the said Johnston served the greatest part of the time in General Washington[']s lifeguards & myself in the 7 Virginia Regiment of infantry & when we was discharged & got back to Virginia we both volunteered to assist General Green at the expiration [sic] of the Guilford battle of North Carolina there as soon as we heard that Cornwallis was landed at Yorktown Virginia we both volunteered & got to Yorktown within one day of each other & on the night the 2 redouts was taken by Storm the said Johnston received a bullet in the Joint of his knee which prevented him from being of any more service at that siege it being in the night & no person to attend to him that in a few hours he was not able to set alone By the loss of blood & the next day when all the wounded was about to be sent to the hospital Johnston stated

to the Officers that he was a free and volunteer man at that place & that he would rather die than go to that nasty lousy hospital so they agreed that he should stay where he pleased & he called for me as a favorite friend to wait on him & I did so and the Army was in a few days after that disbanded from that place & we stayed there about ten days then the said Johnston told me if we continued there any longer we should parish for we was without money or provisions & he told me to go & make him an easy pair of Crutches & he thought he could travel a little & I did so & we set out & I suppose we got between 4 and 5 miles a day & after so long a time we got to Richmond & where his father met him with a carriage & took him in – it might be traveling made it worse for every morning it appeared to be a gill of matter in the bandage on his knee I heard several to say if he got well he would be sure to carry a stiff knee to his grave & I suppose it was so far when I saw him last he traveled in a very hobbling manner though I have seen him but seldom since before we went to different parts of the country to live. Given under my hand this 3 day of August 1826

–

S/ George Hannah

Rutherford County Tennessee this day George Hannah a citizen of this County came before me a Justice of the peace for the said County & made oath to the truth of the above certificate. Given under my hand this above named day

S/ James Morton, JP