

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Johnson W5012 Mary Johnson f315NC

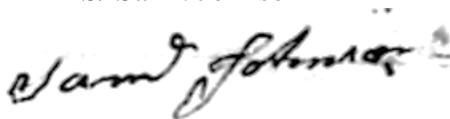
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 10/26/08; supp'd 1/1/10; rev'd 2/20/16 & 8/1/16

[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.]

[Note: Since this file contains no application made by the veteran in his own behalf, I have included below the following affidavit which Samuel Johnson gave in support of the pension claim of [Elisha Reynolds W4060](#): --see pp 9-10 of the Reynolds' file on Fold3.com]

I Samuel Johnson of Wilkes County & State of North Carolina hereby certify that I was a soldier of the revolution & served in the same company with Elisha Reynolds in the expedition of 1776 against the Cherokee Towns on Tennessee, Hiwassee etc. and that he served in the same as stated in the above declaration¹ -- that I also served in the same company with him for three weeks in that tour against the Tories on New River in Virginia. In the expedition to Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780],² with this qualification that I was wounded in the battle & was discharged from the service sooner than Reynolds -- That I served with him for the time he stated in his declaration under Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] & Lenoir [William Lenoir] to the Catawba in Burke County to favor [?] the intentions of such Tories as might be disposed to desert the cause of the British. That he served as Lieutenant in the company of which I was Captain under Major Hargroves [Francis Hargrove] when we marched down towards Georgetown to reinforce General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] & that we were engaged in that service for seven weeks -- also that he served as my Lieutenant in an expedition against Colonel Isaacs [Elijah Isaacs] upon Deep River where for three months we were acting against the Tories. I also was with him at the time of the recapture of Colonel Cleveland from the Tories and it occurred as he states. I have no actual knowledge of any other services performed by the said Reynolds but have often heard & always believed that the additional service stated by him in his declaration was performed as he therein states -- I know that he performed his two terms of service as Lieutenant by the appointment of the Colonel of the County and that his commission for that office, which I have this day examined, was issued by Alexander Martin Governor of the State in the month of January 1782.

S/ Saml. Johnson



Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid [to wit: October 30, 1832].

S/ R. Martin, CWCC

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

[Note: Here begins the transcription of the contents of the file relating to Samuel Johnson.]

[p 7: Certificate dated January 9, 1824 that Samuel Johnson, an invalid, was inscribed on the pension list of the role of North Carolina agency at the rate of \$8 per month; said certificate signed by J C Calhoun, Secretary of war and authenticated by J L Edwards. The date on which the veteran was initially inscribed on the rolls is not included in the certificate.]

[p 6]

State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes: SS

On this 24th day of January 1839: Mary Johnson a resident of the aforesaid County, personally appeared before me James Martin one of the acting justices of the County aforesaid who first being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled an act granting half pay and pension to certain widows - That she is seventy eight years of age and that she is the widow of Samuel Johnson who was an invalid pensioner³ and that proof of his services has already been made when he was placed on the pension roll of the United States. She further declares that she was married to the said Samuel Johnson on the 25th day of June in the year seventeen hundred and eighty one, that her husband, the aforesaid Samuel Johnson died on the 15th September 1834, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, and at the time above stated and that she has not been married since. She has no more written evidence.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before.

S/ James Martin, JP

S/ Mary Johnson, X her mark

[p 5: Image of a marriage bond issued June 24, 1782 to Samuel Johnson and John Johnson conditioned upon the marriage of Samuel Johnson to Mary Hamons [sic], both of Wilkes County North Carolina.]

³ This reference to her husband as an 'invalid pensioner' probably means that he was pensioned by the US as a result of disabilities suffered from wounds he sustained in the Revolution under acts passed prior to 1818. The papers relating to such pensions were lost in fires in Washington City DC in the early 1800's.

STATE of NORTH-CAROLINA.

KNOW all men by these presents, That we Samuel Johnson & John Johnson are held firmly bound unto Alexander Martin governor and commander in chief of the said state, in the just and full sum of five hundred pounds current money of the state aforesaid, to be paid to the said Alexander Martin his successors and assigns: To which payment well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our and each of us, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with seal and dated this twenty fourth day of June Anno Dom. 1782.

THE condition of the above obligation is such, That whereas the above bound Samuel Johnson hath made application for a licence for a marriage to be had and solemnized between Samuel Johnson & Mary Hammons of the county of Wilkes aforesaid. Now in case it shall not appear hereafter that there is any lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage, then this obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Sealed and delivered }
in the Presence of }

Samuel Johnson seal

John Johnson seal

[p 6]

State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes

On this 24th day of January 1839 personally appeared before the subscriber of the County aforesaid Sarah Hammons a resident of the County aforesaid aged seventy years who first being duly sworn according to law, saith that she lived near the above applicant Mary Johnson before she was married and knew her and her husband Samuel Johnson before and after they were married as she understood but was not at their marriage, but knew them from that time until the death of her husband Samuel Johnson, and their marriage was never disputed. She further saith that she has often heard a Baptist preacher by the name of William Hammons say that he married them, and she believes it was in the month and year stated by the above applicant.

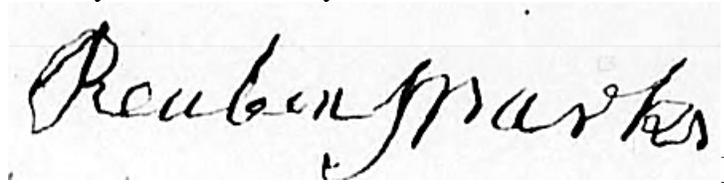
Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before.

S/ James Martin, JP

S/ Sarah Hammons, X her mark

[p 7: On January 24, 1839 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Reuben Sparks, 76, gave testimony that he was with Samuel Johnson in the fall of the year 1783 at which time Johnson was married

to Mary Johnson and they had one child.



Reuben Marks

[p 156]

“State of No. Carolina No. 873

This may Certify That by the upper Board of Auditors for the District of Salisbury Capt. Samuel Johnson was allowed Two Hundred & fifty four pounds Eight Shillings Specie for Service done by him & Company of foot Militia of Wilkes Regt Whi[ch he is] to Receive agreeable to an act of Assembly [passed] in the year 1782.

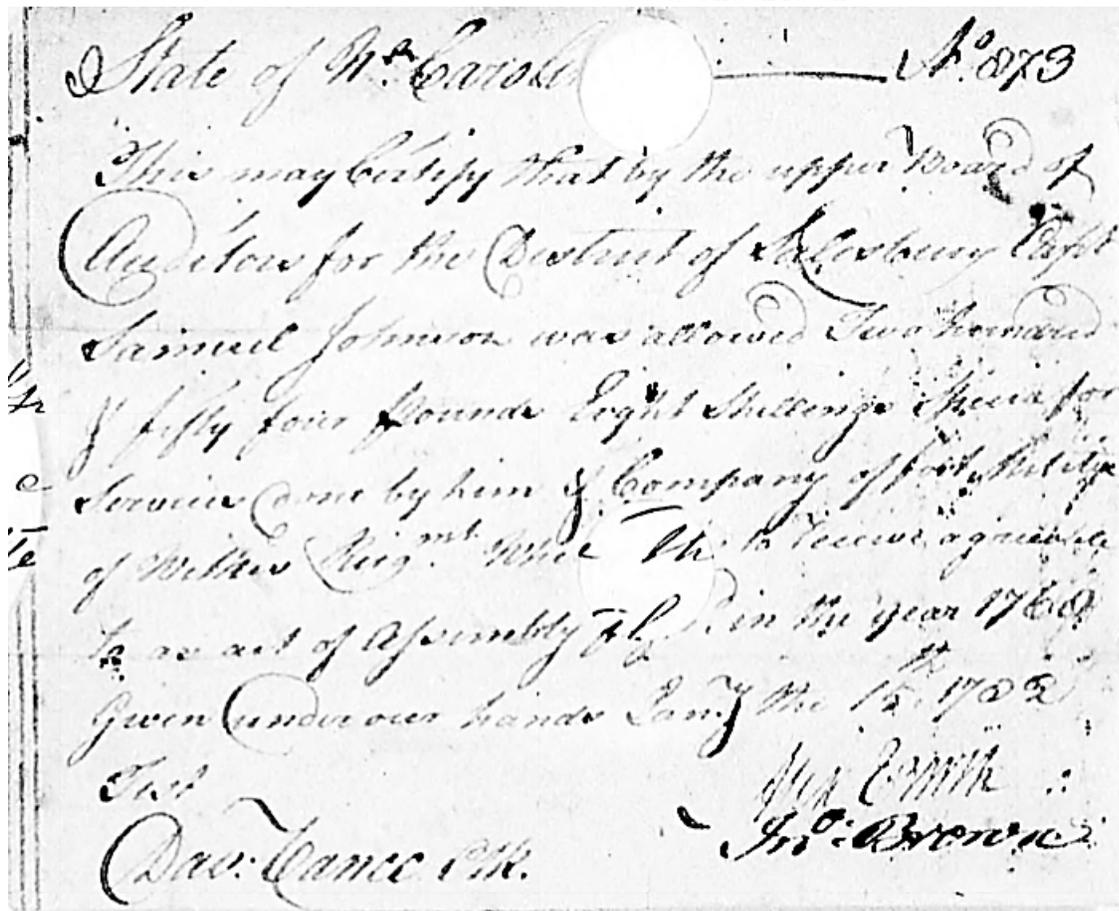
Given under our hands Jany. the 15th 1782

Test

S/ Dav. Cance, Clk

S/ Alex [illegible]

S/ Jno. Brown”



State of N. Carolina No. 873
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Given under our hands Jany the 15th 1782
Test
Dav. Cance Clk
Jno. Brown

[p 297]

State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

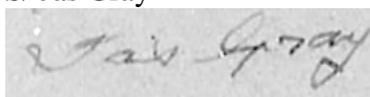
Personally appeared before me James Martin one of the acting Justices of said County James Gray⁴ a resident of said County aged 80 years who being first duly sworn according to

⁴ [James Gray S6928](#)

law, saith upon his oath that he was well acquainted with Samuel Johnson in the time of the Revolutionary War, who was an Invalid pensioner, and who is now dead, and his widow Mary Johnson as he is informed is trying to draw a pension on account of her husband's services in the revolutionary War; That he the said James Gray served under the above Samuel Johnson, as well as he recollects in the fall of the year 1778 or 79 but cannot be positive as to the dates, said Johnson commanded the company as Captain and Major Hargroves [Francis Hargrove] had the command of the troops, they were marched down to little River near Fayetteville North Carolina after the Scotch and Tories, he well remembers it was in the fall of the year, and that he and said Johnson served a three months tour at that time, and that he and the said Captain Samuel Johnson volunteered into the Militia service of the United States, again in the last of August or first of September 1780, under the Command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, Said Gray was in Captain Benjamin Herndon's company, Captain Johnson was in the Cavalry and that they was marched to Kings Mountain at the time of the battle at that place in October 1780, and in this battle said Johnson got wounded by a Ball across the abdomen, & from there he was brought home, this was a three months tour, making in all a term of six months he the said Gray and Samuel Johnson was in the Militia service of the United States together as volunteers.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of October 1839
S/ James Martin, JP

S/ Jas Gray



[p 297]

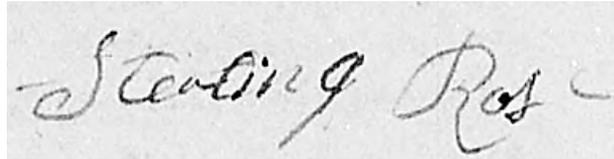
Also on this 29th day of October 1839, Personally appeared before me Sterling Rose⁵ a resident of Wilkes County North Carolina aged 82 years who being first duly sworn according to law, saith upon his Oath that he was well acquainted with Samuel Johnson the husband of the above Mary Johnson now his widow, in the time of the Revolutionary War, and that he and the above Samuel Johnson served a tour in the service of the United States in the Cavalry in the Militia as volunteers, in the fall of 1778 or 79 -- said Johnson had the command as Captain and Major Hargroves [Francis Hargrove] commanded the whole of troops that was along, and that they were marched down to little River or Deep River not far from Fayetteville NC after the Scotch and Tories, from there they were marched back to Wilkes County NC this he the said Rose believes to be a three months Tour he and Samuel Johnson served at that time.

And also that he the said Rose and Captain Samuel Johnson volunteered in Wilkes County NC in service of the United States Johnson was Captain of the Cavalry and Rose in the foot service under Captain Benjamin Herndon, and Commanded by Major Hargroves and Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, -- in the last of August or first of September 1780 and marched to Kings Mountain at the time the battle took place in October 1780, said Johnson got wounded in the battle by a Ball across the abdomen and from there he was brought home, this was a 3 months tour he and Johnson served together at that time, making a term of not less than 6 months said Johnson served as Captain in the Cavalry of the United States in the Revolutionary War.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of October 1839
S/ James Martin, JP

S/ Sterling Rose

⁵ [Sterling Rose S4132](#)



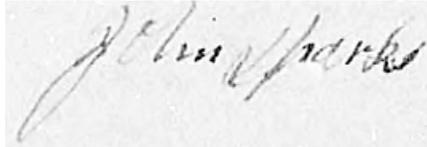
[p 298]

North Carolina, Wilkes County: -- Personally appeared before me James Martin (one of acting Justices for said County) John Sparks⁶ Esquire and after being duly sworn according to law, he being a resident of said County and aged 86 years, saith upon his oath that he and the above Captain Samuel Johnson Volunteered in the service of the United States in the year 1776 or 1777 in Wilkes County NC, under Captain Benjamin Cleveland (afterwards Colonel) and Major Hargroves [Francis Hargrove], Major Jesse Walton, Lieutenant William Gray and Colonel Martin Armstrong, and was marched to the Indian nation after the Cherokee Indians they had some fighting, killed some Indians, took some prisoners, some of the whites was killed and some wounded, they drove the Indians and then was marched back to Wilkes County making a term of not less than 3 months, that he served at that time in the Militia of the United States; -- And further he and the said Captain Samuel Johnson volunteered in the service again in the fall of 1778 or 1779, Johnson was Captain of the Cavalry and he was under him, and commanded by Major Hargroves, and was marched down to little River and then as low as Deep River near to Fayetteville NC after the Scotch and Tories from there they was marched back to Wilkes County making a tour of not less than three months & he and said Johnson served together in the Cavalry at that time, and making in all a term of not less than 6 months he and said Samuel Johnson served together, three of which Johnson served as Captain in the Cavalry, and three in the foot service.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this first day of November 1839

S/ James Martin JP

S/ John Sparks



[p 299]

Also on this first day of November 1839 personally appeared before me James Martin one of the acting Justices for said County, William Spicer⁷ resident of said County aged about 90 years, who first being duly sworn according to law, saith he was well acquainted with Samuel Johnson the husband of Mary Johnson and served in the Revolutionary War with him; that they volunteered in the service of the United States in Wilkes County NC, in the year 1776 or 1777, under Captain Benjamin Cleveland afterwards Colonel and Major Hargroves [Francis Hargrove], Major Jesse Walton Lieutenant William Gray and Colonel Martin Armstrong and was marched to the Cherokee nation against the Indians, they had some fighting, killed some Indians and took some prisoners, some of the whites was killed and some wounded, they drove them & then was marched back to Wilkes County NC, making a term of not less than 3 months they served at that time; -- And that he and said Johnson Volunteered again in the fall of 1778 or 1779 in said County under the command of Major Hargroves in the Cavalry, Samuel Johnson commanded a Company as Captain, and was marched down to little River, then to Deep River near the Fayetteville N.C., after the Scotts and Tories; from there they were marched home again making

⁶ [John Sparks S7580](#)

⁷ [William Spicer S3962](#)

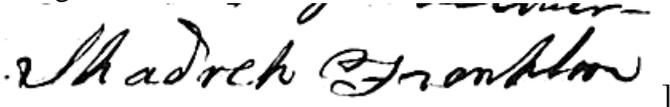
a term of not less than three months he and Captain Samuel Johnson served in the Cavalry at that time and making in all a term of six months they served in the United States service in the Militia.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day & year above written.

S/ James Martin, JP

S/ William Spicer, X his mark

[p 279: On September 9, 1853 in Surry County North Carolina, Shadrach Franklin, 84, gave testimony that his father Bernard Franklin settled on Big Mitchell's River in what was then Wilkes County now Surry County North Carolina about the month of October 1779; that some time previous, Shadrach Franklin's maternal uncle Colonel Benjamin Cleveland lived on the Yadkin River in Wilkes County; that soon after affiant settled on Mitchell's River, he became acquainted with Captain Samuel Johnson of Wilkes County; that Captain Johnson lived on the Yadkin River at that time in the immediate neighborhood of Colonel Cleveland; that Captain Johnson was always styled by Colonel Cleveland and others as "Captain Johnson"; that affiant knows Captain Johnson was at the battle of Kings Mountain and was badly wounded there; that the affiant's older brother, later Governor Jesse Franklin was in the battle at Kings Mountain; that the affiant's knowledge of Captain Johnson in the war and that the battle of Kings Mountain is through his brother Jesse Franklin, Colonel Cleveland and many other neighbors.

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[p 190]

State of North Carolina County of Ashe: SS

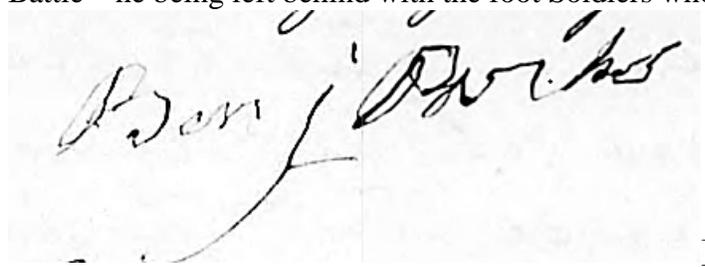
On this 15 day of September A.D. 1853 personally appeared before me James Gambill a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Mrs. Nancy Gambill, widow of Captain Martin Gambill⁸ – who after being duly sworn according to law States that she is now 93 years of age – That she resided in Wilkes County State of North Carolina during the whole of the War of the Revolution. That she was intimately acquainted during the whole of said War with Captain Samuel Johnson of Wilkes County. That she knew him well and saw him frequently up to the time of his death. She states that the said Johnson served as a soldier in the Campaign against the Cherokee Indians – Just before or about the commencement of the War of the Revolution. She Also States, her late Husband the said Captain Martin Gambill – was also in the said expedition – That she thinks Colonel Sevier [John Sevier] & General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] was with said Army as officers – That she thinks – Said expedition was for the term of about six weeks. She states, that the said Captain Samuel Johnson was to her knowledge in most if not all the War of the Revolution – That he was either in active service – or standing ready always for service during the whole of the War. She states that she knows that he the said Captain Samuel Johnson was for a great part of said time and acting Captain – That she is confident – That he was Captain for at least four or five years of said time – That she heard him called Captain – by her said Husband Captain Martin Gambill. Also by her Father the late Captain Wm Nall [William Nall or William Nalle] who was a Captain for a great part of said war – as well also by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, who was the Chief Officer in command in all this part of North Carolina at that time – and that he was so called and [word obliterated and illegible] by all the people of the neighborhood – and Country with which she was acquainted – She states that the said Captain Johnson was in the Battle of Kings Mountain – That he was very

⁸ [Martin Gambill \(Gambrill\) W7504](#)

severely wounded in said Battle, shot in his abdomen. That she has seen the wound many times – and heard Captain Johnson say it would have killed him had it [not] been for the reason that he was very empty not having eaten anything that day – She says that her said Husband was in the said Battle – That she was married before the said Battle – and had one child at the time of said Battle – She states that during the great part of said War that she lived a close neighbor to the said Captain Samuel Johnson with about the distance of 1 ½ miles – and that her acquaintance with him was most intimate the whole of the War – She states that he the said Johnson was universally called and known as a very brave man – and a most true Whig – and a most useful officer and Soldier during the War of the Revolution.

S/ Nancy Gambill, X her mark

[p 199: On December 30, 1853 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Benjamin Parkes, 87 as of the 19th of March last, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Captain Samuel Johnson who fought and was wounded at the battle of Kings Mountain; "that he [affiant] was told and always understood at the time and since that the said Johnson was at that time and in that Battle a Captain and that he rushed his men forward in the most exposed and dangerous position – where many of them were killed – some four or five of whom were his neighbors and acquaintances – he further states his father John Parkes was in the tour to Kings Mountain but was not in the Battle – he being left behind with the foot Soldiers who did not reach the Battle...."



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[p 234: On February 18, 1854 in Wilkes County North Carolina, George Johnson gave testimony that he has no record of his age but thinks he is nearly 80 years old; that he has a distinct recollection of the time of the Battle of Kings Mountain at which time he thinks he was about 6 years old; that affiant's father William Johnson was at the Battle of Kings Mountain; that affiant had an uncle Samuel Johnson of Wilkes County North Carolina was a soldier of the revolution and a participant at the Battle of Kings Mountain as a Captain; that affiant remembers Samuel Johnson being brought home from the battle severely wounded; that Samuel Johnson was brought home on a horse litter by affiant's father William Johnson and one John Parkes, both of whom had been at Kings Mountain; that affiant remembers that there were three bullet holes in one shirt and four through another. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 19]

State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

On this 2nd day of May A.D. 1854 personally appeared Ambrose Johnson, Admt. of Mary Johnson, decd., late of Wilkes County, State of North Carolina and made the following declaration, an oath before the said Worshipful and the County court of the County and State aforesaid.

To wit - That he is the son of the said Mary Johnson, Decd., late of said County and of Captain Samuel Johnson Decd. late of said County and State. He states that his said father, the said Captain Samuel Johnson Decd. was in his lifetime an invalid pensioner of the United States on account of his, the said Captain Samuel Johnson's Revolutionary Services -- That he died in the month of Sept A.D. 1834 and that his said mother, the said Mary Johnson now Decd. - after

the death of his said father, the said Capt. Samuel Johnson also drew a pension from the United States on account of the Revolutionary Services of her said husband, the said Capt. Samuel Johnson. He states that his said mother, the said Mary Johnson died in Wilkes County State of North Carolina on or about the 21st day of January A.D. 1853. The said Ambrose Johnson, Admt. as aforesaid states that he is the fifth child of his said parents - the said Capt. Samuel Johnson and Mary Johnson - that he is now in this present month of May A.D. 1856 sixty one years old. He further states that his said father, the said Capt. Samuel Johnson, Decd., always said that he had been a soldier in the war of the revolution, that he first went into the service of his country as a volunteer, a private under Capt. Benjamin Cleveland (afterward Colonel Cleveland). In the expedition against the Cherokee Indians in the summer of the year 1776 - under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and he states most positively that his said father, the said Samuel Johnson, always declared that he served thusly the whole of the war of the Revolution first as a private and then as a Captain - until the close of the war except such time as he was sick or when wounded and unable to serve, his said father always said that he served minus [?]⁹ pay - with the exception of those inconsiderable interruptions - all of which the applicant surely believes - and what was always said and believed in the whole County - so far as he ever heard or believes - and as he always heard stated by many of the old soldiers who at times during the said war - the precise date he does not now recollect - but that he knows that it was sometime before the close of the war, and he entertains no doubt but that his father did continue in the service after his marriage to said mother who was Mary Hammons and lived at the time in Wilkes County and was the daughter of one Ambrose Hammons- he states that he has heard his said father speak of many expeditions on which he went during said war - which he can not now recount the names of places &c and that he was in the expedition and Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]¹⁰ - in which battle he was severely wounded being shot through the abdomen, that he has many times seen the scars - he states that his father, the said Captain Samuel Johnson always said that he had no doubt but that said shot would have killed him had it not been for the fact that his bowels were entirely empty - That he had been for some three days previous to said Battle without eating anything except that him and three of his men that was with him ate one small terrapin, he being on a scouting and observing expedition - They having orders from the commanding officer to fire no guns, so that they could get no game, nor nothing else to eat. He further states that his said father, the said Samuel Johnson was placed on the pension rolls of the United States as an invalid pensioner without his own knowledge and without any application on his part. This he well recollects that it was done by the late Governor Jesse Franklin who was at the time a senator in the Congress of the United States - and he further states that his said father was so very indifferent about it at the time and during the time - that for some two or three years at one time he declined drawing the pension and then again upon solicitation resumed it again. He states that the said Jesse Franklin was an intimate acquaintance of his said father and was with him in the Battle of Kings Mountain and that he was a nephew of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland. He states that his said father served under the command of Colonel Cleveland -- General Rutherford, Col. Campbell [William Campbell] & others. He further states that his father the said Captain Samuel Johnson was a most intimate and confidential friend and officer of Col. Cleveland's and that as a mark of high esteem and approbation of his said father by Col. Cleveland. That after the War of the Revolution that Col. Cleveland presented to his said father the said Capt. Samuel Johnson, his True battle sword and this applicant states that he now has in his possession and care the identical sword - that the said sword by some accident in the

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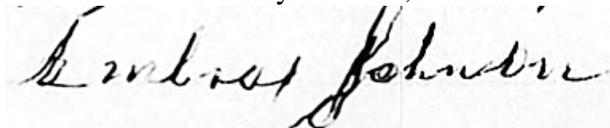


¹⁰ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

lifetime of his said father, the Capt. Samuel Johnson, got broken across near the middle of the blade - and that he saw his said father in his own work shop draw a shank to the point end of said sword and fasten it into the proper [?] same handle guard and mounting and that it is now about one half of its original length though otherwise is in a good State of preservation - that the said sword is silver mounted guard &c and Buck horn handle - and if it was not for the reason of its mutilation he would with great pleasure present it to the United States. He further states that he never heard of any Captain Johnson of anywhere except his said father, the said Captain Samuel Johnson having been in this section of the State during the war of the Revolution nor has he ever heard nor does he believe that there was any other Samuel Johnson in this County or section of County at that time - he states that his grandfather's name, the father of the said Capt. Samuel Johnson was Jeffrey Johnson, that he lived and died in Wilkes County and that he was a man quite advanced in years in the time of said war and never took any part in said war that he ever heard, he being too old - that his said father, the said Capt. Samuel Johnson was among the youngest of the family of children of his said father the said Jeffrey Johnson - he does not think that there was more than one other of the said family of his said grandfather younger than his said father, the said Samuel Johnson. He further states that some years after the death of his father, the said Samuel Johnson that his widow the said Mary Johnson who was very old and feeble both in body and mind began to show evident and rapid loss of mind and memory, that sometime about the dates of 1838, 39 or 40 - he thinks that his said mother had most violent spell or farazsins [?]¹¹ of convulsions which held her for some 24 hours or more as he was informed by the family - which seemed to have been induced from a great affright given her on account of a violent storm which occurred at the time in her neighborhood and that after that time her mind seemed to fail more rapidly and at times would be worse until finally for some time before her death it could not be said that she had any mind at all. So great was the decline of her mind and memory for many years before her death that at many times she would not know her nearest neighbors or even her own children. This applicant states - as a circumstance - confirmation of this - that on one occasion - a good many years before the death of his said mother, the said Mary Johnson, that he went to see her as he frequently did - that on meeting with her she shook hands as usual with him but did not seem to recognize him or name him as usual - which he noticed at the time and that she went away to one of the servants and asked who he was - that the servant told her that it was Master Ambrose and that then and not before did she know him. And this applicant verily believes that his said mother, the said Mary Johnson before her application for a pension had become so much impaired in mind and memory that she most likely to him did not remember the rank or services of her said husband or at least very little about it with any degree of certainty or distinctness and that as he thinks or believes had no competent person to advise her of her rights or interests and that when she had been in her [p 10 & 25] right mind that she was - although a good and most excellent woman and mother, without education, lived in a remote part of the country, knew nothing of law, or anything of her rights or claims under it.

S/ Ambrose Johnson

Admt. of Mary Johnson, dec.



¹¹ farazsins

[p 38: On May 13, 1854 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Mrs. Sarah Blackburn, 86, gave testimony that she was born in Pittsylvania County Virginia; that her father was Thomas Billing could be Thomas Billings]; that towards the end of the Revolutionary war her father moved to Wilkes County North Carolina and settled near Captain Samuel Johnson; affiant became acquainted with Samuel Johnson and his wife Mary who had been lately married; that it was said that Samuel Johnson was a Captain and had been wounded at the battle of Kings Mountain; that she, affiant, knew Jeffrey Johnson, the father of Samuel Johnson; that Jeffrey Johnson died in Wilkes County North Carolina. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 194]

State of North Carolina County of Ashe

On this 23rd day of May A.D. 1854, personally appeared before me James Gambill a Justice of the peace for the County and state aforesaid Mrs. Nancy Gambill a Resident of the County and State aforesaid – who after being duly sworn according to law declares that she is now in her ninety-fifth year of age – that she is the widow of Captain Martin Gambill Deceased – that she is a pensioner of the United States on account of the military services of her said Husband in the War of the Revolution – She states that during the war of the Revolution – That she resided in the County of Wilkes State of North Carolina – that she was the daughter of Captain William Nall. She further states – that she was most intimately acquainted during the whole of said War with Captain Samuel Johnson of Wilkes County, North Carolina. She states that the said Samuel Johnson was – in most if not all the said War – That for several years of the latter part of the said War, That he was a Captain. – She states that he was the identical man that was wounded in the Battle of Kings Mountain – and in his lifetime true and invalid pension. She states that she never knew or heard of any other Captain Johnson of any name in all this section of the State in the time of the said War – and that if there had been she thinks and believes she would have known of it – as she had a very General and Special Knowledge of most if not all the leading man in the War – in all this Section of the Country derived through her Father, Husband, Colonel Cleveland and many others and from the general news and reports – and saying of the Country and she further states that during all the time of the said War she never knew or heard of any other Samuel Johnson in all the Country of her acquaintance except the identical man now spoken of – She states that she was at the same time well acquainted with the father of the said Captain Samuel Johnson. That he lived in Wilkes County on the Yadkin River – That his name was Jeffrey Johnson. – That he was a man advanced in years in the time of said war – That his children was mostly if not all grown – and some of them married – and had families in the time of the War – And that I never heard or understood that said Jeffrey Johnson undertook any part in said War – nor does she think or believe he did – She states that the said Jeffrey Johnson died in said County of Wilkes many years ago. She further states that said Captain Samuel Johnson married in the said County of Wilkes one Mary Hammons, the daughter of one Ambrose Hammons, all at the time well and most intimately known to her. That they were married in the latter part of said War. She does not recollect the precise date – though she knows it was after the Battle of Kings Mountain in which the said Johnson was wounded. She thinks and believes that it was something like two years or thereabouts before the close of the said War. She states that at that time they all lived very close neighbors – She further states That in the latter part of said War – that the Tories twice robbed her father the said Captain William Nall, that each time it was at night – That she happened both times to be at her Father's – That each time they took a fine horse from her Father – besides other things – that on one of the occasions that a Tory by the name of Thomas Green drew his sword – laid it across her father's neck and swore "that he had a great mind to chop his head from his body." She states that these robbers [?] and depredations was towards the close of the War – That these herd of Tories and outliers was embodied about

the peach Bottom Mountain West of the Blue ridge – About the Virginia line – the edge of now Grayson County about the Big River (New River) – That on both of these occasions of [indecipherable word] – that the Whigs of the Country under her said Husband and Captain Samuel Johnson gave chase after these Tories – and both times came up with them – had battle them – that this identical man Green was shot by her said Husband – wounded and died in eight days – after – that he confessed – that he had killed five men – that on the other occasion of the [indecipherable word] of her father – That in the Battle – the Horse that had been taken from her father was killed – That a Tory by the name of McKinny was riding the Horse at the time – and that they at the time and on the spot hung the said McKinny – besides other of the said Tories – of the worse kind – That on one of these occasions the Whigs came upon the Tory's camp – At the camp whilst they were cooking their meal – that in both of these engagements the said Captain Samuel Johnson was in company and took part as well as many other smaller excursions and trips – against the Tories, Robbers – and disaffected men of the County – and that these tours and excursions mentioned took place after the marriage of the said Captain Samuel Johnson to his said wife – Mary, the said Mary Hammons – and she states most positively that the said Captain Johnson continued in service of the Country in said War up to the time of its final close – That what time he was not in actual service under arms – That he was always standing ready for service whenever required by the circumstances and occasions of the times – and that this was the true condition of the County at the time – and of its defenses – and that these are all facts – of her own knowledge that passed before her own observation – And within the immediate neighborhood and circle of her acquaintance – and knowledge – besides many other matters and occasions of smaller moment – and too tedious to relate. She states that it would take a Book to contain all she knows and recollects of those times and occasions – She states that for many years, some fifty or more, she thinks she has lived on the west side of the Blue ridge in the now County of Ashe near the region of Country that the foregoing named Tours and Battles with the Tories took place – and some twenty miles – or thereabout from where she formerly lived in Wilkes County in the time of the said War and where the said Captain Samuel Johnson and his said wife Mary lived and died – She says that for many years last past that she did not see much of either Captain Samuel Johnson or his wife Mary Johnson – but that she saw them occasionally – and heard from them very often so long as they lived – as she never failed to inquire after them on all occasions – She states that from what she did know – And heard at the time – That she has no doubt but that the mind and memory of the said Mary Johnson became much impaired for many years before her death – She states that she heard of the death of said Mary Johnson some time over one year ago – That she died as she understood at her old residence in Wilkes County North Carolina and that the said Captain Samuel Johnson died in the same place as she was informed – She thinks some 20 years ago or thereabout.

S/ Nancy Gambill, X her mark

[p 256: On June 1, 1854 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Colonel James Wellborn, a resident of said County, gave testimony that he was born November 29, 1776; that he became acquainted with Captain Samuel Johnson at the time of the Revolutionary war; that Captain Johnson's father Jeffrey Johnson lived on the left bank of the Yadkin River during the war about 8 or 9 miles below Wilkesboro; that Captain Johnson was wounded at the battle of Kings Mountain; he was shot through the abdomen and was as a consequence a pensioner of the United States; that Captain Johnson live for many years before his death in Wilkes County on Roaring River about 20 miles North of Wilkesboro near the Blue Ridge; that he, affiant, knew Mary Johnson the widow of Samuel Johnson and the daughter of Ambrose Hammons.

2 1116000]

[p 11]

State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes: Summer Session Wilkes County Court

On this 2nd day of Aug. A.D. 1854, personally appeared in open court Lewis Johnson and John S. Johnson, Sons of the late Capt. Samuel Johnson and Mary Johnson, now decd. of said County, and made the following declaration on oath: To wit: That the said Lewis Johnson is now in his 55th year of age and the said John S. Johnson in his 51st year of age, that their said father, Capt. Samuel Johnson, late of said County, was an invalid pensioner of the United States and that after his death his widow & their mother the said Mrs. Mary Johnson, also drew a pension on account of the Revolutionary service of her husband the said Capt. Samuel Johnson. They State that their said father always stated - evidence their earliest recollection - that he had been an officer & soldier in the Revolution, that he had served six years of said war—that the balance of said war that he did not serve was taken up with a long illness he had on his return from the Cherokee expedition under Capt. Cleveland and General Rutherford in 1776 and the loss of time from his wound at King's Mountain Battle, and some other small losses of time, making about one year out of the six years continued of said war, that he always said that he served to the close of said war. They State most positively that they have many times heard both their said parents speak of a particular occurrence in his said service after their marriage: that one Sabbath they were attending church at the Roaring River Meeting House in their neighborhood when a messenger arrived from the west of the Blue Ridge informing of some depredations of Tories, that their said father immediately summoned such of his men as was at hand, armed, and hastened on the expedition and left their said mother to go home by herself, that they came up with the Tories, had battle, routed them &c and that they have heard their said father often speak of several like expeditions against the Tories; in that direction west of the Blue Ridge about the Peach Bottom Mountain and about the edge of Virginia, that he always spoke of those expeditions as having occurred late in the war and after his marriage with their mother. They both State that in passing from their residence in Wilkes County to Grayson County, Va. with their said father where they had a sister living (Mrs. Mary Bora) that their father has pointed out to them the spot at Cox's ford on the Big River in Grayson County, Va. on the north side of said river at the Peach bottom where they had a camp in one of his expeditions spoken of, all which they fully believe to be true, together with many incidents connected with said expeditions and service too tedious to mention. They are of the opinion that these terms of service was each of short duration, perhaps not longer than ten days each, but were quite hazardous and dangerous, and they here again State most emphatically on their oaths that from what their father always said in his lifetime and what was also said by their said mother whilst in her proper mind and what was always said by all the old people, the said Capt. Samuel Johnson, did continue in active service to the close of the war of the Revolution and did serve much after his marriage with their mother the said Mrs. Mary Johnson.

The said Lewis Johnson states that he was married before the death of his said father and lived near him within about 3/4 mile and the said John S. Johnson that he lived with his mother all the time up to her death. They State that she died at her residence in Wilkes County, N.C. about the 21st day of Jany A.D. 1853, that the said John S. Johnson states that he made a record of her death and is correct. They both State that soon after the death of their father they think about the Christmas following came a year that their said mother was taken ill with a kind of spasm or fits, that those spells gradually grew worse in her and it was soon perceptible to them

that her mind and recollection was failing her and that sometime about the year of 1838 or 9 as they think to the best of their recollection on the occurrence of a very violent storm in their neighborhood that she had a most violent attack of fits, that for some 24 Hours her life was despaired of and that after that her mind always seemed much worse until a total State of imbecility of mind and memory occurred. They State that for many years before her death that she was scarcely ever so that she knew anything and seemed to have no recollection at all - would not know her nearest neighbors and very often not her own Children, not truly her said son the said John S. Johnson—who was constantly with her who for many years before her death was scarcely absent from her a whole day at a time and scarcely even of a night &c.

They both State that they never knew what this said mother, the said Mary Johnson, stated in her declaration bearing date the 24 day of Jany A.D. 1839 until a copy of said declaration was lately shown to them by Dr. James Calloway. That neither of them was present when said declaration was made, that had they been present that they would have known that the statement therein made "That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service" was incorrect. That this statement is contrary to what she always stated when she was of sound mind and memory as also did their said father the said Capt. Samuel Johnson. They State upon their oaths that at the time and date if this declaration that they do not believe that she was of sufficient mind and memory by any means to make a correct statement or declaration in the premises—And that further that they do not believe that at any time in her life she would have comprehended the meaning of this passage in her declaration unless it had been explained to her—That she was an unlearned woman raised in the backwoods and frontier of the County—and was all her life used to have spoken the language in its most plain and simple words—That the word 'prior' was a word quite unusual to be spoken in her neighborhood and time and we have no hesitation in stating that we do not believe that she understood—the meaning of this declaration—if at the time she was in her mind sufficient to know anything correct which we do not believe. We further State that the said James Martin, Esq., who drew up said declaration and witnessed it lived about 20 miles from her - that he was not to our knowledge or belief in the habit of filing up pension claims nor do we believe that he is at all well qualified so to do - that he was a man of good common sense—a Justice of the peace –and plain farmer. And we further state that after her pension was allowed that the said James Martin Esq. continued as long as he lived to regularly fill up her powers of attorney to draw her pension and that for many years before the death of the said Mary Johnson that his gave us direction "That when she made these powers of attorney that it was entirely unnecessary for her to be sworn—that she could not comprehend the meaning or obligation of an oath and only to let her make her mark to these papers—which [?] the [?] and we further state that the said James Martin Esq. is now dead—That he died at his residence in Wilkes County, N.C. we think about eight years ago or thereabouts - That we have no doubt but that if the said Martin was now living that he would fully substantiate the fact of her entire incapacity to make a correct statement at the time she made the declaration.

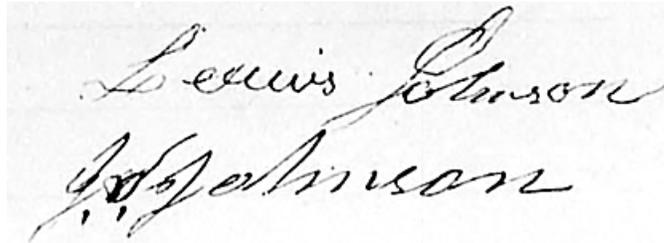
We State that our said Father, the said Saml Johnson served under the command of Col. Cleveland and that after the Close of said war that Col. Cleveland presented him with his fine Service Sword, which Sword has remained ever since in the possession of the said Capt. Saml Johnson to the time of his death and is now in the possession of his son, Ambrose Johnson of Wilkes County, N.C., though unfortunately was broken by accident.

And we further State that to the best of our recollection and belief that the said James Martin Esq. acted as agent for our said Father Capt. Saml Johnson in drawing his pension for him as well as for several other of the old pensioners—and that we suppose that that was the way and reason that he happened to draw up the declaration for our said mother Mary Johnson and which we here again declare that we believe to be totally correct as to the aforesaid statement of

[?] & [?] as thus stated as [?] stated by us in this paper.

S/ Lewis Johnson

S/ John Johnson

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature is 'Lewis Johnson' and the bottom signature is 'John Johnson'. Both are written in a fluid, historical style.

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State of North Carolina County of Ashe

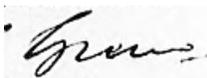
On this 20th day of September A.D. 1854 personally appeared before me James Gambill a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, John Toliver,¹² a resident of said County, who after being duly Sworn according to law – States That he has no record of his age but That from the best information he has he thinks he is now ninety-one or two years of age – he states that he lived in the County of Wilkes, State of N. C.—in the time of the war of the Revolution – That he was well acquainted in the time of said War and ever afterward up to the time of his death with Captain Samuel Johnson of Wilkes County – he states that said Johnson was in most if not all said War – And that a large part of the time he was a Captain in said War – he states that the said Johnson was in the Battle of Kings Mountain & was wounded in said Battle – shot in his Abdomen, And that he drew a pension in account of said wound – he states that said Johnson died in Wilkes County on Roaring River – at his Home – About twenty years ago – he further states – That he never knew or heard of any other Captain __ Johnson in the time of said War in Wilkes County N. C. –or in any part of this Country except this identical Captain Samuel Johnson – nor did he know or hear of any other Samuel Johnson. – That time – in Wilkes County N. C. – or in any part of the State, with which he was acquainted – That he was well acquainted with the Father of the said Captain Samuel Johnson in the time of said war – That he lived in [on] the Yadkin River some few miles below Wilkesboro. That he was an old man in time of said War, and that his name was Jeffrey Johnson. That he died in said County many years ago – he further states that he was well acquainted with one Mary Hammons daughter of one Ambrose Hammons of Wilkes County N. C. – in time of said War – And that sometime towards the latter part of said War That the said Captain Samuel Johnson and the said Mary Hammons got married – he did not see them married – but heard of it at the time – nor can he fix the precise date of said marriage – but that he knows that it was after the Battle of Kings Mountain – And he knows that it was before he removed with his mother to the West side of the Blue Ridge – now Ashe County, and he further states that after he came to this Side of the Blue Ridge to live – That the said Captain Samuel Johnson with some of his men – was on one or two occasions – on this the West side of the Blue Ridge – after the Tories – about the peach Bottom – in the State of Virginia – That he was with Captain Martin Gambill & others – After the Tories that had on one or two occasions Robbed Captain Wm Nall [William Nall or William Nalle] – he states, That he was himself in said Tour of Service was not far from the Section of Country where he then lived – That he was well acquainted with the Country and acted as Guide to the parties – That on one occasion – they came on the Tories – by discerning their Smoke of their Camp fires – that they were cooking their Breakfast – That they Surrounded them fired on them Killed Some – And Some escaped – That this was in the state of Virginia now Grayson County –

¹² [John Toliver BLWT67685-160-55](#)

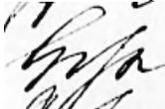
That on one other occasion – they came upon the Tories – Killed some – That Captain Martin Gambill – shot one Tory by the name of Green [?]¹³ That he was left at the House of one John Cox [?]¹⁴ who lived at the peach Bottom – and died of the said Wound – That at that time they hung a Tory by the name of McKinny. That they hung him with a grape vine – tied around his neck and fastened to the limb of a tree – and had him placed on a large Rock – And that while they were consulting which of the men should shove him off the rock – that the said McKinny jumped off – and hung himself – and that they hung one Goss [?]¹⁵ a Tory – on the Gate post of the said John Cox – near the river on the north side – in the State of Virginia – And many other things too tedious to mention – he states that he knows positively that Captain Samuel Johnson did serve in these expeditions – for that he was also in said Service That it was near the close of the War of the Revolution – and after the said Johnson was married – to the said Mary Hammons – for that said marriage took place – before his removal – to this side [of] the blue Ridge – and that their tours of service – after his said removal to the West of the blue Ridge – And that he does know and so states of his Own personal Knowledge. That the said Captain Samuel Johnson did continue to serve in said War to its close – He further states that his two older brothers Jesse Toliver¹⁶ & Moses Toliver were both with him in those two expeditions – That they at that time also lived on the West side of the blue Ridge – and that they had been in much of said War – That they were both in the expedition – to Kings Mountain amongst the foot – but did not reach the Battle Ground until the Battle had been fought – And the victory won – he states that his two said Brothers are now dead – He further states – That for the last twenty years or upwards – That he has seen but little of the said Mrs. Mary Johnson, widow of the said Captain Samuel Johnson. – That she continued to live in Wilkes County on Roaring River on the east side of the blue Ridge about twenty miles from him – but that he heard from her frequently – up to the time of her death which occurred – at her said residence something over one year ago as he heard to the best of his Knowledge – That he heard for many years before her death – That she lost her mind or memory very much – That she lived to be a very old woman – And as I was informed drew a pension after the death of her husband the said Captain Samuel Johnson – on account of his Revolutionary Services

S/ John Toliver, X his mark

[pp 185-188: Affidavit dated September 20, 1854 given in Ashe County, NC by James Holloway in which the affiant states he was born on April 4, 1770, the son of Stephen Holloway; that affiant was a near neighbor of Ambrose Hammons who had a daughter named Mary Hammons; that affiant was in the house of said Ambrose Hammons after the Battle of Kings Mountain when Mary Hammons was married to Captain Samuel Johnson by William Hammons, a Baptist minister; that Samuel and Mary Johnson settled on the Roaring River in the house where their son Lewis Johnson now lives; that soon after Captain Johnson married Mary Hammons, affiant went to live with them and continued to live with them for several years including to the close of the Revolution; that while living with Captain Johnson, affiant recalls several tours of service undertaken by Johnson across the Blue Ridge in now Ashe County North

¹³ 

¹⁴  [perhaps "John Carn", but a latter reference clearly appears to be to "John Cox"]

¹⁵ 

¹⁶ [Jesse Toliver W4086](#)

Carolina and in Virginia; that Captain Johnson died at his residence in Wilkes County North Carolina on the Roaring River about 20 years ago; that Mrs. Mary Johnson is now dead as affiant has been informed; that Mrs. Mary Johnson lost her mind to a great extent not many years after the death of her husband. He signed the affidavit with his mark.]

[p 283: On May 30, 1856 in Ashe County North Carolina, Mrs. Nancy Gambill, aged about 96 or 97 years, the widow of Captain Martin Gambill gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Captain Samuel Johnson of Wilkes County North Carolina during the revolutionary war as well as prior to the war and up to the time of his death; that to her own knowledge Samuel Johnson was a Captain in the war of the revolution. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 284]

State of North Carolina County of Ashe

On this 17 day of June A.D. 1856 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, John Toliver, a resident of the County of Ashe State of North Carolina who after being duly sworn according to law declares that he is now to the best of his knowledge 93 or 94 years of age – That he resided in the County of Wilkes in the State of North Carolina in the time of the War of the Revolution – That he was well and most intimately acquainted in the time of said War with Captain Samuel Johnson of said County of Wilkes, State of North Carolina – during all the said War. He states that he knows – that the said Captain Samuel Johnson was a Captain, in said War as early as about the year 1778 or 79 – And he well knows and remembers – That said Captain Samuel Johnson continued to serve as a Captain in the said War of the Revolution from the time he was first Appointed until the final close of the War without any intermission. He states near the close of the War that he was with the said Captain Samuel Johnson in some service against the Tories – And that he knows he did so serve – He states that the said Captain Samuel Johnson was a Captain of Horse or Mounted Men or Cavalry, but that he thinks and believes to the best of his recollection that the said Johnson at times had under his command foot soldiers, That the said Captain Samuel Johnson along to the Regiment under the Command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland Though he does not know but that he may have at this then under the command of other officers. He states that his two older brothers, Jesse Toliver & Moses Toliver were both much in the War of the Revolution from Wilkes County N. C. – And were much with the said Captain Samuel Johnson – during the said War. That he heard much of the work and services of the said Captain Samuel Johnson in the early part of the War from his said brothers as well as from many other persons at the time and ever since. He states that he has heretofore made affidavit as to the Service of the said Captain Samuel Johnson to which he refers for a more particular account of his Services &c &c.

And he here again repeats that he knows that said Captain Samuel Johnson continued to serve in the said War as a Captain from the time of his first appointment to that command up to the final close of the War in the year 1783. And that in this he is not mistaken – as he well knows & recollects.

S/ John Toliver, X his mark

[Facts in file: Veteran Samuel Johnson was the son of Jeffrey Johnson; lived on Yadkin River about 9 miles below Wilkesboro in Wilkes County, NC; he was pensioned from January 1, 1809 on account of disability resulting from a wound. He died September 15, 1834, at his residence on Roaring River, Wilkes County, NC at age 77; he married Mary, daughter of Ambrose Hammons of Wilkes County, on June 15, 1782 in Wilkes County, NC; Mary died January 21, 1853; Samuel and Mary Johnson had the following children: Robert born October 25, 1783, who married a Miss Boran, sister of William Boran

Nancy born October 3, 1785, married Clay Gambill [p 228]

Cloe born September 3, 1788

Samuel B. the born May 18, 1790

Ambrose born May 15, 1792 or 1793

Polly or Mary born June 9, 1796, married William Boran

Rachel birth date not stated, married a Forrester or Forrister [name difficult to decipher]

Lewis born about 1800

John S. born about 1803, in 1854 he is referred to as "Colonel John S. Johnson"

Veteran had a nephew named George, son of his brother, William Johnson, who was an officer in the Revolution according to correspondence in the file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$160 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending at his death on September 15, 1834. His pension was calculated based on 3 months service as a private in the Infantry and 6 months service as a Captain of the Cavalry. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]