

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Richards VAS1815

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Transcribed by Will Graves

3/26/15

[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.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

Virginia:

At a Court of Hastings held for the Town and Corporation of Fredericksburg on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1818

Present, George W B Spooner}	
Benjamin Day & }	Justices
John Scott }	

John Richards, aged seventy-two years, residing in Fredericksburg, came into Court and declared on oath, that in the month of August 1776, he entered as a Mariner for the term of three years to serve under Capt. James Markham<sup>1</sup> of the *Page* Galley, then lying in Fredericksburg in the Rappahannock River, and went down the River and up York River to the mouth of Queens Creek, and continued with the said Markham in the Bay and other waters of the Chesapeake, for the term of three years and upwards, and was discharged by the said Markham in the city of Williamsburg in the spring of 1779; that his discharge was burnt with his house in the year 1807, when he lost all his papers; and that from his reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his country. And it further appear to the Court from the evidence of George French, Zachariah Lucas and Thomas Taylor, that the said declaration of the said John Richards, as to his enlistment and term of service, is true; and all which the Court directs to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War of the United States.

In testimony that the foregoing is a true copy from the records of the Court of Hastings for the Town and Corporation of Fredericksburg aforesaid, I Robert Smith Chew, Clerk of the said Court, do hereby set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Corporation, on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1818 and in the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

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<sup>1</sup> MARKHAM, JAMES VA Captain, Virginia Navy On 1 April 1776 the Virginia Committee of Safety appointed James Markham as a Captain in the Virginia Navy and assigned him to the second galley building in the Rappahannock River. This was the galley that eventually was named the *Page*. [NDAR, "Minutes of the Virginia Committee of Safety," IV, 621. Note: Markham is not to be confused with John Marsden, as Stewart, *Virginia's Navy*, 12note apparently does.] On 20 July 1776 by the Virginia Council of Safety. Issued commissions to galley *Page*: James Markham, Captain, John Lurty, First Lieutenant, Henry Lightbourn, Second Lieutenant. [NDAR, "Journal of the Virginia Council of Safety," V, 1164 and notes] Dates of active service 20 July.  
<http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20M.html>

S/ R. S. Chew, C. C. H. F.

[Reverse]

John Richards not entitled to a pension under the wall of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1818. The Page Galley was in the Service of the State of Virginia, and not of the United States

To the Legislature of Virginia

John Richards of Spotsylvania County respectfully represents  
That he enlisted in August 1776 as a Mariner on board the *Page Galley* commanded by Capt. Markham for three years and [text too faint to discern for several lines] February 1779 when he was regularly discharged in Williamsburg.

That he has applied to the Secretary of War for a pension under the late act of Congress and owing to the Galley never having been upon Continental establishment, he has been refused to be relieved by the United States.

He is now 72 years of age & in needy circumstances unable to maintain himself & no [word too faint to discern] left him but the bounty of his friends.

He respectfully asked of the Legislature to be put on the pension list.

S/ Jno Richards



[Reverse]

John Richards's Petition  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1818  
Referred to Claims  
Reasonable  
December 28<sup>th</sup>  
Reported December 29<sup>th</sup>  
Bill drawn January 11<sup>th</sup>