

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

Pension application of Benjamin Richards R8757
Transcribed by Will Graves

Anne
fn42NC
1/4/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 6]

State of North Carolina Granville County

On this the 15th day of April in the year of our Lord 1845 personally appeared before me Johnson M. Stone one of the Justices of the court of pleas and quarter sessions for the County aforesaid Anne Richards a widow a resident of Granville County aged about seventy-six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 7th of July 1838.

That she is the widow of Jonathan Richards who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution but does not recollect what service he performed she further declares that she was married to the said Benjamin Richards on or about the date 1787 and she believes her husband served under Captain James Richards and was in Gates defeat and That her husband the said Benjamin Richards died May the 10th 1802 & that she has remained a widow ever since --

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of April 1845

Attest: S/ Jonathan M. Stone, JP

S/ Anne Richards, X her mark

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State of North Carolina County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term A.D. 1846

Personally appeared in open Court on this the 5th day of February James Richards aged about 45 or more a respectable & credible man who being first duly sworn according to law, depose: that he is the son of the late Benjamin Richards formerly of Franklin County: that he the said Benjamin was the husband of Anne Richards, now of Granville County, his mother, the said Anne is extremely old, & infirm of memory: that he has always understood, among the neighbors in Franklin that his father was a soldier in the war of the revolution & served for 3 years: that he has heard Patty or Patsy Davis¹ of Franklin County (now dead & formerly a pensioner) frequently say that his father served in the war with her husband Micajah Davis & was in Gates defeat: that he has also heard the late Jonathan Stone (formerly a pensioner) frequently say that his father served with him in the war: that he has heard many old people speak of his father's services in the war and tail antidotes of his curry age & faithfulness: that his father (as this deponent has always understood) was regularly discharged from the service that he had a discharge among his papers: that was about 27 years ago his mother's house was consumed by fire & with it nearly all the papers of his father & among them his discharge from the service: that he has in the course of his life often & overheard old people speak of his father's long

¹ [Micajah Davis W6969](#)

services & has never heard one person doubt his having been in the war.
Sworn to and subscribed in open Court, this the 5th day of February 1846
S/ Jas. M. Wiggins, Clk S/ James Richards

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"This is to Certify that Benjn. Richards a soldier in my Company of Light Horse has served out his time agreeable to the tenor of his enlistment and is hereby discharged. Given under my hand this 11th day of July 1781

S/ Geo. Bledso, Capt. [George Bledsoe?]

State of North Carolina County of Granville

On this the 17th of June A.D. 1851 personally appeared before me Johnson M. Stone a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid James Richards aged 52 years a resident of the County and State aforesaid and after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith as follows that the discharge here in with presented is the discharge of his Father Benjamin Richards who married a Miss Anne Smith his mother who some years ago made application for a pension and stated in her declaration that the discharge of her husband Benjamin destroyed with her dwelling by fire But since that time was accidentally found by the Deponent with some other papers under a drawer in a large chest which was taken out of the house with some other articles when the house was first discovered to be on fire further this deponent saith not.

S/ James Richards

State of North Carolina Granville County

On this the 12th day of June 1851 personally appeared before me Jonathan M. Stone a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Granville and State aforesaid Claiborne H. Cook aged eighty-four years a resident of the County and State aforesaid and after being duly sworn according to law deposes and saith as follows that he was well acquainted with Benjamin Richards a soldier of the war of the revolution and his wife Anne whose maiden name was Anne Smith both before and after their marriage but did not see them married but was well acquainted with them and all their children to wit Waller Green, Benjamin, Polly, James and Archibald and that the said Anne Richards is the identical widow of the aforesaid Benjamin Richards who performed the service of alleged by her in her declaration now found file in the pension office at Washington.

Further this deponent saith not the day and date above written.

S/ C. H. Cook

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State of North Carolina County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term A.D. 1846

This day, personally appeared in open Court Jonathan M. Stone Esquire a man of respectability & credit, who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth, that his father Jonathan Stone² was a Soldier in the war of the revolution & drew a pension, that he has often heard his said father say that Benjamin Richards, of Franklin County, the late husband of Anne Richards, was in the war of the revolution, serving as a brave soldier: that he has frequently

² [Jonathan Stone S9488](#)

heard his said father's telling antidotes of the service of said Richards, & that he was with him in Gates defeat in South Carolina, where he served with said Stone under Captain Macon³--

Sworn to in open Court this the 4th day of February A.D. 1846

S/ Jas. M. Wiggins, Clk

S/ J. M. Stone

State of North Carolina County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, February Term A.D. 1846

Personally appeared in open court this day James House Esquire aged sixty-three years, a man of respectability & entitled to credit, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth that he was well acquainted with the late Benjamin Richards formerly of Franklin North Carolina & husband of Anne Richards now a widow in Granville, that he the deponent was raised in 3 miles of the said Benjamin & has known him for 40 years, that he has frequently heard the said Benjamin say he served in the war of the revolution: that such was the general and constant belief in the neighborhood & no one ever doubted that the said Benjamin did serve in the war: that this deponent had 2 half brothers, William D. House & Isham Robertson (Robertson is now dead & House is in Tennessee) that their half brothers were in the war & this deponent has heard them speak of said Benjamin as a soldier in the revolution, that he always understood from the said Benjamin & from others that he was in the battle of Gates defeat in South Carolina.

Sworn to in open Court this the ___ day of February A.D. 1846

S/ Jas. M. Wiggins, Clk

S/ Jas Honze

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State of North Carolina County of Franklin: May the 28th A.D. 1845

Personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the Peace, in & for said County & State, William Jones,⁴ aged 87 years, a man of respectability & entitled to credit, who being first duly sworn on the holy evangelist, deposeth & saith: that he was well acquainted with the late Benjamin Richards the husband of Anne Richards:

1 Question was he in the war

Answer he was and served under Captain Harrison Macon in the battle of Gates defeat

2 question -- how long did you serve

Answer he served from 12th of June to the 16 August

Question how do you know he was in the war

Answer I was with him until the battle took place at which time I was taken prisoner and do not know what became of him

Question how long was it supposed he served

Answer I don't know

Question was see a private or officer

Answer private

Sworn to & subscribed before me, this 28th day of May A.D. 1845

S/ Will Jones

S/ D. Stone, JP

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State of North Carolina County of Franklin all this 14th A.D. 1848

³ Jonathan Stone gave this man's name as "Capt. Henry Macon" in his application. This is probably a reference to Captain Harrison Macon.

⁴ [William Jones S8765](#)

Personally appeared this day before me Isaac Winston Junior an acting Justice of the Peace in & for the County & State aforesaid Isaac Winston⁵ aged about 90 years & a man of respectability fully entitled to credit, who being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist saith & deposeth:

Question = Were you in the war of the revolution?

Answer I was in the revolution war

Question Did you serve with Benjamin Richards in said war?

Answer: I do not recollect seeing him there but I have every reason to believe he was there for I heard him often spoken of at the time. We was in said war

Question What battles were you in together or where were you stationed?

Answer In no battles but stationed at Wilmington in North Carolina

Question: under what officer did you & said Richards served?

Answer Captain Benjamin Sowel [sic, Benjamin Seawell?]

Question: State how long you knew said Richards to serve? Answer I can't say how long

Question: Was he regularly discharged?

Answer I do not know

Question -- how long have you reason to believe said Richards served

Answer: 3 months

Question: What are your reasons for believing he served so long?

Answer because the soldiers went there owned a 3 months tour

Question: Are you acquainted with Ann Richards now living in Granville County?

Answer I am

Question: 80 she the widow of said Benjamin Richards?

Answer: I do not know that she was within my own knowledge but I have reason to believe that she was

Question: Did they live together as man & wife?

Answer: I can't say whether they did or not.

Question: Did they have children which they acknowledged to be their lawful heirs?

Answer: I do not know

Question: When was Benjamin & Ann Richards married?

Answer: I do not know

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

Witness: S/ Isaac Winston, Junior JP

S/ Isaac Winston Senior, X his mark

[fn pp 2-3 family record

"Wallce Richards the son of Benjamin Richards & Nanney his wife was born January the 18th day 1786

Green Smith Richards the son of Benjamin Richards & was born the 11th day of September 1787

Benjamin Richards the son of Benjamin Richards and Nancy his wife was born October the 14th Day 1790

Dolle Richards & Elizabeth Richards Daughters of Benjamin Richards & his wife Ann Richards was born September 7th day [year illegible]

James Richards the son of Benjamin Richards & Nanncey his wife was born the 7th of November in the year 1798

Archibald Richards was born March ye 17th 1802

⁵ FPA R11732

Benjamin Richards died May ye 10th 1802"