

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Richey R8780

f12VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/27/12: rev'd 4/15/18

[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.]

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State of Tennessee Marshall County }

On this 24th day of July 1837 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Edmund Dillahunt, Judge of the Circuit Court of law in and for the State and County aforesaid now sitting John Richey a resident of the State and County aforesaid, aged about seventy-one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: viz. I was drafted at the age of sixteen years in the County of Lunenburg and State [of] Virginia and served a tour of three months under General George Washington, Colonel Downman [probably Raleigh Downman whose given name is also spelled Rawleigh] whose Christian name I do not now recollect Captain William and Lieutenant Richard Hays, the precise date on which I entered the service I cannot recollect now but am confident that it was about the commencement or in the spring of the same year Lord Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington at Little York [October 19, 1781]: We rendezvoused at the Long Ordinary at which place we drew our arms and then marched immediately on through Brunswick, Greenville, Southampton, Nansemond Counties and crossed the Nansemond River on a floating bridge near Suffolk and then proceeded to a Fort on the Dismal Swamp near Portsmouth then occupied by the British the name of which I cannot now recollect where we halted – on the next day after our arrival had a battle with the British in whose possession it was; in which battle two of our men were killed and another wounded who died the second day after the battle. There were several of the British killed and others wounded in this engagement but the precise number I do not recollect now – one I remember was badly wounded in the thigh. I also recollect of seeing and hearing of several horses killed on this occasion. The British set fire to the buildings near the battleground during the battle and burnt them down and after it was over returned to the fort where they remained until we served out our three months in guarding the fort and were discharged and went home.

I was drafted again in the summer of the same year above stated for another three months tour the precise date not now remembered under Colonel Stokes [probably D. C. Stokes of Lunenburg County], Major Streets and Captain Ragsdale [possibly Joshua Ragsdale of Lunenburg County]; whose given names I cannot now or recollect. We rendezvoused at a Mr. Edmonson's, given name not remembered now, in the County of Lunenburg and State of Virginia thence we proceeded to Little York on the way to which place after having been in service some

eight weeks I was taken sick and sent into the country on furlough by our commanding Colonel until I might recover before which time the war was ended by the surrender of Cornwallace [Cornwallis] at Little York [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] about one month after the date of my furlough. Being so unwell during the time of the march I do not remember any of the country through which we passed at this time, nor can I remember any of the Continental regiments or companies with which I served or any of the names of the regular officers in the service of either tour except those already mentioned nor have I any documentary evidence or testimony of any person to prove my service.

Questions by the Court

Question 1st Where & in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Amelia County Virginia on or about the year 1765 or 1766 –

Q 2nd Have you any record of your age?

A. I have none. My age was recorded but is now lost

Q 3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolution & where do you now live?

A. I was living when called into service each time in the County of Lunenburg & State of Virginia since then partly in the County & state aforesaid & partly in Maury & now in Marshall County of Tennessee

Q 4th How were you called into service?

A. I was drafted each time

Q 5th. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; that – such Continental and militia troops as you can now recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

A. I cannot now recollect the names of any other officers than those already mentioned who were with us nor can I at this late period give any better account of the circumstances of my service than that above detailed in consequence of old age & other infirmities of body & mind.

Q 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service?

A. I never did.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood & who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution. A. I am known to Colonel John R Hill, Peter Williams, Dempsey Powell & John Callahan

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll or agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Richey, X his mark

[Isaac Williams, a clergyman, and John Callahan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 12: this file contains a letter by then Congressman James K Polk inquiring as to the status of this application.

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