

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Ritchie R8784

f91VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/3/12 rev'd 10/26/14

[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 on the front cover of this file indicates that the veteran participated in the Indian War 1786]

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: This day being the 21st day of April 1835 and personally appeared in open court the same being a court of Record before the Judge who holds the same for said County Alexander Richie Jnr aged about 71 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832

He states that he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1776 he resided in the County of Montgomery and the State of Virginia and in what is now called Scott County in said State and that he belonged to a Fort called Blakemore [Blackmore?] and in the month of May in said year this applicant volunteered his services in the Army of the United States for the Term of six months under Captain Joseph Martain [Joseph Martin?] which said officer of this applicant understood was sent out from Henry County in Virginia to guard the Fintiers [frontiers?] and the applicant further states that shortly after he volunteered his Services that Captain Joseph Martain marched as he understood against the Cherokees under Colonel Christie [William Christian] and left Evan Shelby who was a Lout. [Lieutenant?] in the command of the Fort and we ranged the country as Indian Spies until my term of service expired and were stationed at the Fort and I then resided and this applicant begs leave further to represent to the Department that he still lived in said County and in the month of April in the year of 1777 he again volunteered his service in the Army of the United States for the Term of six months under Captain James Gipson [James Gibson?] who then commanded the Fort at Blackmore's Station and also the Fort in the Ray cove [Rye Cove?] and that this applicant was stationed [at] Blackmore's Fort and we ranged the country as Indian Spies until my Term of service had expired and I received my discharge from Captain James Gipson which said discharge I have lost or mislaid so that I cannot produce the same.

And this applicant begs leave further to State to the Department that he still resided in said County and that in [the] month of April in the year of 1778 that he again volunteered his services in the Army of the United States for the Term of six months under the same Captain James Gipson and that the applicant was again Stationed at Blakmore's Stationed and that they ranged the country as Indian Spies until my Term of service expired and that I again received my discharge from Captain Gipson which I have lost or mislaid so that I cannot produce the same. And this applicant begs leave further to State to the Department that sometime in November in

the [year] 1778 after the Expiration of the last above described Term of Service of this applicant, That this applicant moved with his father Alexander Ritchie Scr [Senior?] to his farm and this applicant lived with his father until the 11th day of March 1779 and information came that the Indians had killed a family of the Phillipses [Phillips] and eight of them in number this applicant's father then moved immediately to Duncan's Fort at the Ford of Clinch River and this applicant also accompanied him and that this applicant together with others brought the dead down the River and buried them at the burying ground at the Fort and this applicant further states that about the first of April next in the spring that he again volunteered his services for the Term of six months in the Army of the United States under Captain John Snoddy [John Snoddy] who had the command of Duncan's Fort on Clinch River William Cowe's Fort in Castle woods David Cowe's fort in the same neighborhood and William Mores [William Moore's] Fort near Castel Run [Castle Run?] and this applicant states that he was stationed at Duncan's Fort and that they ranged all the County from one Fort to the other as Indian spies and after his Term of service had expired I received my discharge, which I have lost or mislaid so that I cannot produce the same.

And this applicant begs leave further to State to the Department that he still lived with his father in Duncan's Fort during the hard winter of 1780 and in the month of March of said year that they were again alarmed by the breaking out of the Indians who came near the Fort and killed Michor oglor [?]¹ family and about the first of April this applicant volunteered his services in the Army of the United States for the Term of six months under Captain John Snoddy and this applicant further states that Captain Snoddy commanded at the forts as before described and that this applicant was stationed at Duncan's Fort and that they ranged all the County as Indian spies as above described until my Term of service expired and I received my discharge from Captain Snoddy which said discharge I have lost or mislaid so that I cannot produce the same. This applicant states that he did serve in the Army of the United States for the term of 2 years and 6 months he states that he has no documentary Evidence of his services nor does he know of any living Testimony by whom he can prove the same, his Services by but the Deposition of Elisha Wallen, who only proved, twelve months of his Services which said deposition he prays may be taken as evidence in his application for a pension, he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or to annuity, except the present, and Declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any State whatsoever.

Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in the year of Christ 1764 June the 29th day in said year.

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

answer I have the record of my age at home given to me by my father.

Where were you living when you were called into service,

answer I was living in the Western part of Virginia now I think Scott County,

Were you drafted were you a volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for home,

answer I was a volunteer,

State the names of some of the officers of the Regular Troops and of the Military Troops.

Answer I listed under Captain Joseph Martin and volunteered under him who was afterwards made Genl Martin. I knew him well and Captain James Gibson who was a Military Captain, I knew Captain John Snoddy and many others,

Did you ever receive Discharges

Michor oglor

Answer I was legally discharged in my father drew my pay as I was under age, which said discharges I am unable to produce.

State the names of some of your neighbors, by whom you can prove your character and your services, as a Soldier in the Revolution,

Answer; John Hunt, William Graham, Colonel William Houston, Dr. William Rogers and many others.

S/ Alexr. Ritchie Junr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexr. Ritchie Junr." The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some ink bleed-through visible from the reverse side of the paper.

Sworn to in open Court April 21st 1835

S/ F. S. Hunt, Clk.

[William Rogers, a clergyman of the Methodist Church, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[John Hunt, high Sheriff of Claiborne County also gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee Claiborne County: First Judicial Circuit 1836, Aprile the 26th present the Honorable Samuel Powell, Judge. Then personally appeared before the said court Alexander Ritchie, Junr., and made this amendment to his declaration originally filed in Washington for the purpose of drawing a pension according to the benefits offered by the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

Deposeth and sayeth that he entered the army of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated.

That he resided in the county of Fincastle, now Russell, in the State of Virginia, and in the month of April, 1776, he entered the service of the United States under the command of Captain Martin from Henry County in the State of Virginia. Captain Martin was sent out to defend the Western frontiers and he enlisted under him in the said month of Aprile for the term of six months it was where I enlisted at Blackmore Station or Fort where this applicant performed the services for the term of six months in the cause of his country. He states that the term of service was not an enrollment, but that he Enlisted and was excepted [accepted] of by the commanding officer. The services that this applicant performed was in about every two weeks, ranging the mountains in pursuit of the Indians and the reasons that this applicant was excepted [accepted] of at such a tender age was that the frontiers were in danger and that the men were scarce and he therefore offered himself to the service of his country and that by the consent of his father and after his term of service expired this applicant was discharged.

And this applicant begs leave further to State that in the month of April in the year of 1777 that he still resided in the county of Fincastle in the State of Virginia and that he again voluntarily enlisted under Captain Gipson in the cause of his country for the term of six months to guard Blackmore's Fort in what is now Scott County in said State and he served out the whole term for which he was enlisted and the order of the Captain under whose command he was, to range the mountains in pursuit of the Indians every two weeks which this applicant performed in good faith to his country; after his term of service expired, he received his discharge which is lost or mislaid so that he cannot produce the same. This applicant further states that sometime in the month of April, 1778, that he then resided in the county of Fincastle, in the State of Virginia, and

that he again voluntarily enlisted himself in the cause of his country under the command of the above named Captain Gipson and they who was forted at that place. (I mean Blackmore's Station or Fort). This applicant most positively states that he did perform the duties assigned him as a soldier and that he spied through the whole country for many miles around the fort until his term of service expired and applicant states that he then received his discharge. He states that during the last aforementioned campaign or tour of duty that they had no engagement with the Indians. This applicant states that he moved with his father from the Fort in the fall of 1778 to his father's plantation where he continued to live until the 12th of March the next ensuing, and early in the morning of the 12th the news reached this applicant that the Indians had broke out and had killed six persons belonging to the family of a man by the name of Phillips. He then moved to Duncan's Fort where he remained until the month of April in said year of 1779, when this applicant again enlisted in the cause of his country under Captain John Snoddy for the term of six months, and said applicant states most positively that he did serve in the army of the United States for the term of six months, and after his term of service had expired, he received his discharge, which said discharge is lost or mislaid so that he cannot produce the same. He states that during the last above mentioned tour of duty that they had no general engagement with the Indians. He states that all of the services that he rendered the country as above described was as a private, and the said applicant begs leave further to State that in the month of April in 1780 that he again enlisted in the service of his country under the aforesaid Captain Snoddy for the term of six months for the purpose of guarding Dunkin's Fort in the same country as aforementioned, and this applicant ranged the mountains in pursuit of the Indians according to the orders of the Captain under whom he entered and said applicant states most positively that he had many hard and dangerous trips after the enemy during the said tour of duty, but that they had no general engagement with the enemy. He states that his servitude in the campaign was entirely devoted to the defense of the west and states that he did actually serve out that in actual service the aforementioned term of six months in the cause of his country. The applicant states that he was a private when he rendered the service as described in the year of 1780, and after his term of service had expired he received his discharge from Captain Snoddy which said discharge was lost or mislaid so that he cannot now produce the same.

And this applicant begs further leave to represent to the department that sometime in the month of January, 1786, that this applicant then received an appointment as one of the Indian spies from Colonel Henry Smith of Russell County, Virginia and he spied through the Kentucky and Cumberland Mountains and also in the Sandy Mountains, which is situated in the State of Kentucky. This applicant states most positively that he did serve for the term of nine months as one of the Indian spies, and said applicant states that John Ally, who was likewise a spy, spied with him. He states that he and Ally left Dunkin's Fort on every Monday morning, packed their provisions on their backs, and ranged through all the above named mountains once in every week; that is to say, they left the Fort. on Monday and returned to it again of the Sunday thence next ensuing, and this they continued to do for the term of nine months, commencing on the first day of February, 1786, and then his term of service for which he was appointed expired. This applicant states most positively that he did serve as an Indian spy on the frontiers of Virginia for the aforesaid term of nine months.

S/ Alexr Ritchie, Junr

[p 85: another application, this one dated January 18th, 1839.]

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State of Tennessee Claiborne County: Be it known that on this 5th day of August 1839 personally appeared before me Peter Neil a Justice of the peace for said County Wm Condray [William Condry]² a resident of said County first being duly sworn according to law on the holy evangelist of Almighty God to speak the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth touching the matter of the case of Alexander Richie [sic] for a Pension on account of his services as an Indian spy and other services from the part of the year 1776 2 until 1781 on the frontiers of the State of Virginia deposeseth and saith as follows viz.; That he is eighty-four or five years of age and he knows that the Christian campaign was ordered out against the Indians by the order of the Governor of Virginia. I was under Captain Joseph Martin and I know the forts soldiers and spies was continued on until the close of the war under the orders of the Governor as I then understood; I was engaged most of my time in packing provisions and carrying express from the Rye Cove to the Long Island on Holston River; and on to Henry County Virginia on the whole frontier and I was acquainted with Mr. Richee's [sic] services

Question 1st Who commanded the expedition at the long islands and whether the horses was not pressed by law and whether or not the horses was not Branded with the brand of 1776; and State whether you did not get your pay from the government pay master

Answer Wm Christian commanded; the horses was pressed and called public horses and branded 1776 and when the year 1777 entered they were branded with the year; and I drew my pay from Captain Joseph Martin as a soldier who was the government pay master for his Company; I do not know who was general pay master at that time; to the Holston River at the long islands was under the government of Virginia in 1779 the State line was [indecipherable word] and the long island fell in to the North Carolina side I know Colonel Arthur Campbell read the Governor's orders when we were called out and I always understood that all the campaigns was by the laws of Virginia and I know the facts and further this deponent saith not. Sworn and subscribed this day and year 1st above written.

S/ William Condray, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Claiborne County Be it known that on this 5th day of August 1839 personally appeared before me Peter Neil a justice of the peace for said County Elisha Wallen a resident of said County first being duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God to speak the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth; according to law touching the matter of the claim of Alexander Richie [sic] for a pension on account of his services during the revolutionary war as an Indian spy and other services from the early part of the year 1776 until the year 1781 on the frontier of the State of Virginia deposeseth and saith as follows to wit That he is now in his seventy sixth or seventy seventh year of age and says he was acquainted with Alexander Richie soon after said Richie was enrolled in the frontiers service of Virginia under Captain James Gibson both as a spy and soldier for the four following years & have been acquainted with him ever since and we served as spies at the same time six months in as a soldier and six months out as a spy for the four years after the early part of the year 1777 as to the service under Captain Joseph Martin in what was called Christie's Campaign of 1776 I did not know of my own knowledge but have no doubt of the last from report

Question 1st Mr. Wallen please to State whether Colonel Arthur Cambell [Arthur Campbell] did not call out and organize the troops for this service under the order of Governor Henry and

² [William Condry R2198](#)

Jefferson after Governor Henry's time was out and whether you did not get your rations and supplies from the Quarter master & Commissaries on the laws of Virginia

Answer: I know that our rations & supplies was all supplied by the authority of the State of Virginia and we received pay for the provision that we killed as game & otherwise from the pay master sent out for that purpose; and I am also sure that Colonel Campbell received his orders from the Governor and we was paid off in Continental money at the time that is what may we got, for on 2 or 3 drafts or calls by him and Colonel Smith they read the Governor's orders I know these facts.

Question 2nd: Was it not understood during the whole of the service as spies & soldiers that the appointment of the spies was by the order of the Colonel Commandant and was not the draft, and calls on all the frontier Counties for men to guard the frontiers by the order of the Governor to the Colonel of the Regiment and did not Mr. Richie served accordingly

Answer: He did for I served with him and there was no other understanding but that the calls was by the Governor of Virginia and by law to save the frontiers and that this deponent saith not.

Sworn and subscribed this day and year first above written.

S/ Elijah Wallen, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Grainger County:

This 22nd of March 1841 Alexander Richie a resident of Claiborne County and State aforesaid personally appeared before me Jesse F Baylor a justice of the peace for the County and made oath in due form of law that the facts contained in the following amended declaration for a pension are true viz.

He states that he entered the service under Colonel Christie in the year 1776 under Captain Joseph Martin formerly from Henry County State of Virginia was enlisted in Washington County this tour of 6 months service was under the authority of the State of Virginia in the State of North Carolina and served my time out and another fact there was an agreement between Colonel Christian and the Cherokees that a treaty of peace should be made the spring following But the leading Chief Dragging Canoe and under the influence of Cameron the British agent kept up their warfare in small parties and was constantly killing more or less of the white people which rendered it necessary to keep up the line of forts all along the frontier and spies when we were not embodied and regular spies was appointed myself and Elisha Wallen was two that reconnoitered between black Moore's Fort Castle woods and on to the Clinch & Holston Rivers in 1778 the whole frontier was harassed by Dragging Canoe and his party and we was again called out in the spring of that year for a six months tour and served it and took the appointment of spy again until the breaking up of winter in 1779.

I was then enrolled under Colonel Evan Shelby of twelve months men; Dragging Canoe having increased his strength to 12 or 1300 men was doing mischief all along the line from Georgia to the State of Pennsylvania. This tour of service I have forgotten that it was more than six months as we was only retained in actual service only six months but we now took the place of spies again after Dragging Canoe and his party was driven from the mouth of Big Creek near where Rogersville now stands. Colonel John Montgomery had the command in this affair about 40 Indians was killed having own the approach of our force retreated this twelve months tour was under the authority of the State of Virginia & North Carolina and I expect there was an act passed by the legislature for that purpose: I know we was ordered by the Governor through General Campbell who issued all the orders from the Governors to the frontier line to the under

field officers and to the then Brigade: a thousand men was called out this last tour which was one of great hardships and in the latter part of the summer a treaty was concluded. I think in August and even after that until the latter part of the year 1781 we was continued in service either as spies, militia or volunteers Colonel Shelby Colonel Christian and Colonel Avery of North Carolina was some of the Commissioners that treated for peace that from age and forgetfulness has escaped my memory but these facts taken in connection with my former declaration filed with suspended cases and this undisputed testimony of William Condray and Elisha Wallen my contemporaries through the service in this explanation to the facts of the services Commanders and orders to Shelby & Christian and the treaties of peace all of these things must be known to the Department must place my case beyond any doubt and now feel satisfied with the additional testimony sent on with this amended declaration there must be a favorable decision and now after the facts laid before the board the hardships I suffered the starvation through wet and cold and all the privations that human flesh is able to bear shall I be denied the scanty pittance that Congress has made provision for me to receive for my five years sufferings I think not I would only request that my case have a dispassionate [?] examination I might refer to many other circumstances of my services during this 5 years and many hardships after the year 1781 in excursions after the Cherokees under Colonel Sevier and until 1787 or 1788 and my contemporaries Wm Condray, Elisha Wallen, Wm Steward and others that waded through blood for many years for the protection and settlement of this frontier. In conclusion I now State that this amended declaration taken in connection with my former declaration and the deposition of ___ now sent on will he is in hopes make every part of his case claim from the great length of time since these events transpired in his great age there is many little circumstances and perhaps some important ones that has escaped his memory which in some points might seem clothed in some ministry but feels assured that on careful examination will be found that the most material facts are all stated; and by reference to the 1st declaration accompanying the dates will be found generally correct I have no memorandum or records in my possession and have stated all from memory and frail as before stated Doctor Alfred Noel is my only agent to transact this business and correspondence for me and will attend to getting my certificate if allowed and prays to be placed on the Revolutionary Pension Roll according to his services
Sworn and subscribed the day and year 1st above written.

S/ Jesse F Baylor, JP

S/ Alexr Ritchie

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State of Tennessee Grainger County: Be it known that on this 22nd day of March 1841 personally appeared before me Jesse F Beeler one of the justices of the peace for said County William Steward formerly of Scott County and State of Virginia now of Polk County and State of Missouri who being duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God and cautioned by me to speak the truth and nothing but the truth touching the matter of the services of Alexander Richie in the time of the revolutionary war on the frontier of Virginia under the authority of the State of Virginia and North Carolina deposes and saith as follows viz. That he is about 83 or 4 years of age that in the year 1776 he entered the service under Captain Joseph Martin with many other Companies commanded by Colonel Christie or Christian; that Alexander Richie entered at the same time in the same company: for a 6 months tour against the Cherokee Indians & Shawnees Dragging canoe was the War Chief of the Indians Richie was this tour I think detailed for one of the forts perhaps like Moore's; with many others left from the Fort mentioned to Long Island on Holston River this tour was served out and then Richie took the place of a spy and so continued

as a spy and soldier every year until 1781 on this line [?] at different times under different officers Captain James Gibson and Captain Elliott chiefly commanded by General Arthur Campbell Colonel Smith Colonel John Montgomery Colonel Evan Shelby Colonel Christian I was part of the time orderly Sargeant and know that he served at least 6 months as a soldier and the balance of his time was engaged as a spy; I have looked over his amended declaration of this date and it is generally true besides many particulars from age have slipped my memory as well as he is

Question 1st Mr. Steward please State whether the Alexander Richie now before you and present is the same that served with you on the frontiers of Virginia

Answer he is the same and I know he served as he states in his amended declaration and from 1776 to 1781 as stated above

Question 2nd Please State if it was by authority of law that this service was done

Answer I know it was by order of the Governor for I brought out the orders once myself from Governor Jefferson further this deponent saith not.

S/ Wm Steward

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Steward". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.