

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Richbourg S18175

f33SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/26/09: rev'd 2/22/19

[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 'indcipherable' 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 South Carolina Sumter District }

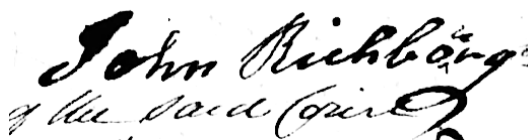
On this 30th day of October personally appeared in open court before B. J. Earle Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas &c now sitting John Richbourg Senior a resident of Raftin Creek in the County of Claremont, and State and District, aforesaid, aged Eighty five years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he was born 23rd of August 1747, (in Craven County, St. Mark's Parrish) as appears from the transcript of an entry made in a family Bible by his Father, as this claimant understands; That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He entered the service under General Richardson [Richard Richardson], Colonel Thompson [sic, William Thomson], Captain Richard Richardson, Henry Richbourg, James Richbourg and Nathaniel Richbourg, subalterns. The claimant entered the service as a volunteer in December 1775 and left the same at the close of the war; some eight or ten months after, he, (the Claimant) entered the service, the volunteer company, to which he was attached, was dissolved; and he then received a lieutenant's commission in a militia company: General Richardson, Colonel Richardson, Lieutenant Colonel John James, Major John Gamble, Captain William Canty [William Cantey] & Lieutenant R. G. Dennis were his field and company officers when he entered the Militia; the commission he received at that time was signed by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge]; and remained in his possession until within 3 or 4 years past, when it was lost or mislaid: the claimant refers to the testimony of 2 of his revolutionary Associates John Wise Senior and William R. Branson contained in the affidavits, annexed to this declaration, in corroboration of his Statement, and would also refer to the Reverend Henry D. Greene and Colonel E. Benbow both of Sumter District for his reputation as a revolutionary Soldier. The Claimant lived, when he entered the service, in Craven County, St. Mark's Parish, now called Sumter District, South Carolina; where he still resides: he was ordered to Charleston, (South Carolina) in the month of February 1780, stood the Siege, was taken prisoner at the fall of the town in May 1780 [May 12, 1780], and was paroled within the bounds of his own plantation, and continued to us, on parole, twelve or thirteen months; after which, he was in several skirmishes, and one battle, under General Marion [Francis Marion]; the battle was fought at Quinby bridge [July 17, 1781];¹ and he remained under General Marion through the remainder of said war. He

¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quinbys_bridge.html

was marched to ninety six, Orangeburg, Cooper River, all in the State of South Carolina, and was not marched out of said State during the war, but, through the greater part of it, the Claimant was acquainted with General Lincorn [sic, Benjamin Lincoln], General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], General Thomas Sumter & General Scott, regular officers. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Richbourg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Richbourg" with "of the said (sic)" written below it.

[Henry D. Green, a clergyman, and Evan Benbow gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of South Carolina Sumter District }

Whereas the foregoing declaration does not Specify the time that the applicant was in actual Service, during the Revolutionary war, it May be Satisfactory to the war department that his testimony should be taken before a Magistrate: In pursuance of which the applicant (John Richbourg, Sr.) has personally appeared before me Stephen Hanks one of the Justices of the Quorum of the State and District aforesaid, this the 12th day of November 1832; and after being duly Sworn, Saith, that he (John Richbourg, Senior) was in actual Service, at least, one third of the time, from December 1775, until the close of the Revolutionary war, with the exception of the time he was a prisoner as is stated in the above declaration, –

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written, before me

S/ Stephen Hanks, UQ

S/ John Richbourg, Sr.

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State of South Carolina Sumter District:

This is to certify that I have William R. Brunson² of State & district aforesaid was personally acquainted with John Richbourg Senior through the whole of the Revolutionary war and I do know that the said John Richbourg Senior bore arms in the defense of American Rights in the Militia through the whole term of the said war file in his tours as others of the militia and was taken prisoner at the fall of Charleston that he bore the commission of Lieutenant previous to the fall of Charleston, was taken as a commissioned officer and continued to bear his commission through the remainder of the said war under General Marion.

S/ Wm R. Brunson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm R. Brunson".

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South Carolina Sumter District:

This is to certify that I John Wise Senior of State & District aforesaid was personally acquainted with John Richbourg Senior through the whole of the revolutionary War; and I do

² [William Brunson R1373](#)

know that the said John Richbourg Senior bore arms in defense of the American rights in the Militia through the whole of the term of the said war turning out as others of the militia by turn and was taken prisoner at the fall of Charleston: that he bore the commission of 2nd Lieutenant previous to the fall of Charleston, was taken as a commissioned officer, and continued to bear his commission through the remainder of the said war under General Marion.

This 14 day of November 1829

S/ John Wise Senior, X his mark

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State of South Carolina Sumter District}

Personally appeared before me William J. Reynolds one of the justices of the peace in the District & State aforesaid John Richbourg Senior who being first duly sworn makes oath and reaffirms everything contained in his Declaration made for the purpose of obtaining his pension and by way of amendment or exclamation thereof states that he entered the service as a volunteer in a company commanded by Captain Richard Richardson his subalterns were Henry Richbourg, James Richbourg and Nathaniel Richbourg (all were the brothers of this deponent). That Colonel Richardson (who was afterwards General) commanded the Regiment to which said volunteer company was attached, & Colonel Thompson [sic, William Thomson] commanded the Cavalry -- that the Company to which this deponent was attached was mounted and armed with Guns of such description as could be conveniently procured and was sometimes out with Colonel Thompson upon expeditions against the Tories. That this deponent does not now recollect the precise date at which he commenced service in this company but knows that after he joined Colonel Richardson (say) in December 1775 he was marched from between the Wateree and Congaree [rivers] to Granby & from there near to Ninety Six for the purpose of assisting in the defense of the Magazine there—that upon their approach the Tories fled & we took 9 or 10 of their officers prisoners, among them was Colonel Fletcher [sic, Thomas Fletchall] -- and this deponent marched with a detachment under Captain Richardson & Captain Singleton to Charleston with the prisoners. This deponent knows this took place in December 1775. He remained in Charleston but a few days (which was some time in January after) and upon their return to Colonel Richardson on Santee the Company was discharged for a few days. This deponent remained at home a few days & was again called out (with the Company) to Charleston where they arrived the latter part of January. He thinks he remained in Charleston a month or more. That it was the practice of this volunteer Company to turn out at every call & that we were the most of our time in camps & in Charleston (altogether). That we were more like regulars than volunteers. We were often called to Charleston to guard the town. From length of time and loss of memory this deponent cannot state with precision the exact time he served in said volunteer company, but he thinks he was six months in actual service at least as a private volunteer -- being the most of the time (or rather nearly all his time) during the eight or ten months the company continued in actual service -- & continued to serve in said volunteer Company (as above stated) until Captain Richardson was promoted & made Colonel & the deponent's Brothers (the subaltern officers of said company -- & who are now dead) accepted commissions under General Sumter. There was then a Militia Company raised, which was commanded by Captain William Canty [William Cantey] -- Richard G. Davis 1st Lieutenant and this deponent 2nd Lieutenant. The field officers were at that time General Richardson -- Colonel Richardson -- Lieutenant Colonel John James & Major Gamble.³ He thinks he received his

³ Could be either John Gamble or William B. Gamble, both of the Berkeley County Regiment under Col. Richard

commission eight or ten months after first entering the service & continued to act under it & served as the Militia did, until the siege of Charleston, in February 1780 at which time, he was ordered to Charleston, where he remained until it fell in May 1780 [May 12, 1780] -- at this time he was taken prisoner & put under Parole & confined by the Parole to the limits of his plantation, where he remained at twelve or thirteen months, during which time this deponent suffered greater privations, than if he had been his regular Tours in camps -- he was plundered of almost all he had & felt in danger of losing his life by every scouting party at their first approach in sight -- for many in the neighborhood were shot by their firesides, & inquiry made already, afterwards to know who they were: some who call themselves Whigs, trespassed in this way -- after they had taken the life of the individual by his fireside, being peaceably among his family (making no resistance) then inquired who he was. It was a common thing for Tories to act thus. This deponent would much rather of been in camps, than under the strict Parole: If he broke his parole by going out of his enclosures, his life alone could make atonement. Having understood that the prisoners on both sides were released from their parole, he then under Colonel James joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] near Orangeburg, about the month of June, he thinks. The British were then encamped in Orangeburg & General Greene finding the British were entrenched & had too strong a force removed from the neighborhood of Orangeburg & crossed the Santee River at Pinckney's ferry, this deponent with General Sumter & General Marion parted with General Greene at this ferry & were ordered by General Greene down the Country to Biggin Church where there was an encampment of the British. The British set the church on fire [July 16, 1781] & fled. Colonel McCauley & Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] pursued them with the Cavalry. The rest of the Army followed after & overtook the enemy at Quinby Bridge where a battle [July 17, 1781] ensued: in this battle this deponent was engaged with his Company (bearing command as Captain) yet only holding his lieutenant's commission, as he continued to do to the end of the war, in this battle Captain Bates & several privates were killed, and Lieutenant Fox (an uncle of this deponent's) was wounded, the Battle at Quinby this deponent thinks took place in July 1781. The Army returned to Santee near Murray's ferry where they encamped a short time: This deponent then returned home, but cannot tell how long he staid. He thinks he joined the Army in about a month after he returned home, he believes he joined the Army in the fork of the Wateree & Congaree [rivers], & then crossed the Congaree & went down the Santee River near Murray's ferry & encamped in the Santee Swamp for some time. -- a scouting party of General Marion's took seven or eight British prisoners, while we were encamped in Santee Swamp & this deponent was appointed officer of a guard to guard the prisoners, & was sent by water three or four miles down the River to an island lest the British should attack the American Army & retake said prisoners. This deponent was released from this command & on his way to the Army (which had left the encampment for the purpose of attacking the enemy at the Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781]) when the engagement took place But did not get to the Army until the battle was over. General Greene had sent for General Marion to join him for the purpose of attacking the British at Eutaw. This deponent returned home sometime after the Eutaw battle; he thinks he made a stay of not more than two months (at most) at home, & then joined General Marion again near Murry's ferry & encamped there some time & from thence to Wadboo -- the enemy was attempting to give General Marion a surprise, & he on hearing their design retreated to Santee where we made some stay & then returned to Wadboo where we were encamped for some time. This deponent sometimes went out on scouting parties, while at Wadboo -- he went with General Marion to a place on Wassamassaw

called the Cyprus and returned to Wadboo. Colonel Richardson was sent out with a detachment against the enemy encamped on Cooper River just below Wadboo -- he was defeated -- after this defeat the Army took an extensive route around by the sea shore with a view of intercepting the British -- but failed & returned to Wadboo. He was then permitted to go home & remained about two months. From this time to the end of the war General Marion shifted his quarters frequently (and this deponent with him) on account of the British foraging parties trying to procure provisions by plundering -- General Marion crossed Santee at Leneud's ferry & this deponent with him in pursuit of a party of British & returned to Wadboo -- where we had left a number of beef cattle and 30 men to guard them from the enemy, the British hearing (from the Tories) that there was but 30 men left for guard attempted to get the cattle. General Marion had returned earlier than he had expected to do & we had a sharp skirmish with the British dragoons, that went on this expedition -- three of the enemy were killed & some wounded -- about a fortnight after this skirmish this deponent was discharged by General Marion, who gave no written discharge. This was at the close of the war. From the time of receiving his commission this deponent acted under it as an officer -- and although he received no commission as Captain, yet he commanded the Company at the siege of Charleston, and from that time to the end of the war.

Answers of John Richbourg Senior to the Interrogatories⁴ propounded by the War department at Washington -- intended to accompany his declaration -- by way of Amendment thereto --

In answer to Interrogatory 1st This deponent upon oath says that he was born in Craven County St. Mark's Parish, now Clarendon County Sumter district the 23rd of August 1747.

Answer to Interrogatory 2nd -- The only record of his age is a transcript taken by himself from his Father's family Bible -- there entered in his Fathers own handwriting.

Answer to Interrogatory 3rd -- He lived in Craven County St. Mark's Parish now Sumter District Clarendon County South Carolina; he has lived since the revolutionary [war] (the most of his time) in the Clarendon County Sumter District. He now lives in Claremont County Sumter District. He has been a resident of Sumter District ever since the District was formed & lived before that time, within the present bounds of said District.

Answer to Interrogatory 4th -- This deponent entered the service a volunteer after 8 or 10 months joined a Militia Company way he served through the remainder of the revolutionary war under a 2nd Lieutenant's commission. He was not drafted at any time, but went out to service on every call --

Answer to Interrogatory 5th -- General Lincorn [sic, Benjamin Lincoln], General Greene, General Thomas Sumter & General Scott. This deponent recollects Colonel Sumter's Regiment which was in the Continental service & Colonel Richardson's & Colonel McDonald's regiments

⁴ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

in the militia service. This deponent's services were rendered in the irregular manner already detailed in the amendment to his declaration.

Answer to Interrogatory 6th to a soldier he received no discharge
to an officer this deponent did receive a 2nd Lieutenant commission
-- it was signed by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] and it is lost or mislaid.

Answer to Interrogatory 7th This deponent states the names of Reverend Henry D.
Greene & Colonel Evan Benbow

Sworn to and subscribed this 28th day of November 1833
S/ Wm J. Reynolds, UQ

S/ John Richbourg Senior

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Quorum of South Carolina, Sumter District, John Richbourg Senior who being duly sworn, depose and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: -- For six months I served as a private volunteer. For one year and eight months, I served as 2nd Lieutenant in the Militia; and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to before me the date as above November 28, 1833
Wm J. Reynolds, UQ

S/ John Richbourg Senior

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$216.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & Lieutenant in the South Carolina militia. He was credited with 6 months service as a private and for 14 months and 23 days as a Lieutenant.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁵ relating to John Richbourg (Richbourgh) AA9
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 6392
Transcribed by Will Graves 2/22/19

[p 4]

No. 78

[Book] Y [No.] 158

28 Oct. 88 [1788]

John Richbourgh his Acct. Pay for 83 days duty as Lieut. in Col. Rich'dson's [Richard Richardson's] Regiment in 1780 at 5/ [5 Shillings] per day

Amt. [Amount] Stg. [Sterling] £20:15

Ex^d. J. M^c. A. G. [Examined by John McCall, Adjutant General]

State South Carolina

to John Richbourgh

Dr.

1780

Sterling

May 22nd to 83 Days Lieutenant Militia Pay at 5/per Diem

£20.15

⁵ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

Camden District SS

John Richbrough personally appeared and swears the above Account is Just and True
Sworn before me the 9th of August 1784

S/ Wm Martin, JP

S/ John Richbrough



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Received the 28th October 1785 from the Commissioner of the Treasury full Satisfaction for this
Account in Indent No. 158 Y

S/ John Richbrough



[p 6: Printed form of Indent No. 58 Book Y dated October 28, 1785.]

[p 7: Reverse of the above Indent]

Received 28th January 1786 full Satisfaction for the Within Indent by Discount in the purchase of
Land
£21.2.3

S/ John Richbrough

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No. 120

[No.] 1314

[Book] Y

11 June 86 [1786]

John Richbrough (Lieutenant)

for 365 days being a Prisoner from the 23rd of May 1780 to 23rd May 1781 at 5/per day
Amounting to

Stg. £91.5

Ex^d. J. M^c. A. G. [Examined by John McCall, Adjutant General]

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Received 11 June 1786 full Satisfaction for the above in an Indent No. 1314 Y

S/ John Richbrough

Received 29 May 86

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State of South Carolina Orangeburg District

Personally appeared before me John Richbrough who being Duly Sworn makes Oath that
the within Sum is Justly due him from said State

Sworn before me this 23rd May 1786

S/ Philip Frierson, JP

S/ John Richbrough