

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ritchey (Richey) S9058

fn43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/9/10

[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.]

State of South Carolina Pickens District

On this 8th day of October 1833 personally appeared before the Honorable John S. Richardson in open Court, John Richey a resident of Pickens District in the State of South Carolina aged seventy-four years (to the best of his recollection) his age is not recorded as he knows of, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832. That he turned out volunteer at a Regiment parade at Charlotte in Mecklenburg County North Carolina in the fall of the year 1779 with General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] and marched to Camden South Carolina and lay at Camden except when the Tories would break out some place and was called out, he was under command of Captain Osborn Major Grymes [Grimes] and Colonel Davy [William Richardson Davie] and served 9 months under those officers we were marched near to Georgetown South Carolina when we got near the Tories and British had fled. We then returned back near Camden when his time was out. He then volunteered his services 3 months more under Colonel Davie, Major Grimes and Captain David Heart [Hart?] and continued in the service except 2 weeks for which he got a furlough to go home to get his clothes and returned which he did, he laid there except at such times as he was called of [off] to subdue the Tories. We then left Camden to go back to Charlotte North Carolina where we heard the Tories was doing much damage in the country they heard of us coming and fled we encamped near Charlotte some time when his term of service expired. He then volunteered 3 months more under the same Colonel and Major and Captain Charles Poke [sic, Charles Polk]. The British took the town of Charlotte and made their barracks bear: They then crossed the Catawba [River] at the town and went up the River the opposite side to us to the Island Ford on the River where the British were crossing the River fired on us and General Davidson was killed we gave them on fire and then retreated and came back to Charlotte where General Rutherford took command. His time was out and had been for some time. He then volunteered again for 6 months under Colonel Davie Major Grimes and Captain Orr was then marched to Guilford in pursuit of the British but did not overtake them; then we were called to go to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) when the British and Tories had embodied below Cross Creek where we gave them a two fires and they gave one, and then retreated we pursued them to Wilmington, we had several skirmishes before they got there and they embarked on the shipping and we lay 7 days at the River the enemy having taken up the drawbridge, at the end of that time Colonel White with 40 men crossed the River below and surprised the guard and they then fixed the Bridge and by light the next morning we were in the Town. We remained 7 days in the Town afterwards we marched down towards the South East corner of the state against the Tories and

British who were doing mischief. His terms of service expired when he was near Cross Creek the news had come of the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown; but for which we would have continued on to join the northern Army under Washington. He did all his services as a private and was upward of 2 years continuously in the Army as a volunteer: His recollection has failed much but he knows he was not at home at any time but a few days and then only to get his clothes for upwards of 2 years.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares, that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Has no witness now living as he knows of.

1. He was born in Mecklenburg County near Charlotte courthouse North Carolina in the year 1759 about the 15th May.
2. He has no record of his age, but often heard his age from his Father & Mother and the family, they could write but did not keep any record of his children's ages.
3. He is He was living near Charlotte when he volunteered his services, when he quit the Army returned back to his Father's where he remained near 20 years, then he moved to French Abroad in Buncombe County and there he remained 3 years, from there he moved to this State in Pickens District in the year 1804 where he has remained ever since.
4. He was a volunteer
5. He has mentioned all the regular officers which he recollects to have seen
6. He received 4 discharges of which he lost in moving from Mecklenburg to French Broad their was 3 signed by General Davidson for the 3 first terms of his service and one signed by General Rutherford for the 6 months service.
7. He is well acquainted with Colonel McKinney who now commands the Regiment of Militia he lived in also Lieutenant Colonel Jas [could be Jos] McKinney who commands the first Battalion, Major James McKinney, Colonel Jephtha Norton who did command Colonel McKinney's Regiment Joseph Grisham, Jacob Capeheart Reverend Stephen Elis.
S/ William L. Keith, CC S/ John Richey, X his mark
[Jacob Lewis, a clergyman, and Jephtha Norton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 13]

South Carolina Pickens District: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the District of Pickens John Richey who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively 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 grade the is a private. This deponent saith that he first turned out a volunteer for 9 months he turned out at Charlotte in North Carolina under Captain Orsborn [sic] Major Grymes and was marched into South Carolina to Camden under General Davidson he then from there was frequently on scouts after the Tories through the Country round about Camden and was in one skirmish with the Tories and served out his tour of 9 months during which time he got a furlough for 6 days which was the only time in the 9 months that he was out of the service. After he was discharged he went home and staid but a short time before he again volunteered Colonel Davie, Major Grymes and Captain David Heart for 3 months in the summer of 1780 he remained after he went back and volunteered at Camden and near there for some time he got a furlough for 2 weeks and went home and was out this service 2 weeks and then returned and soon after they was marched back towards Charlotte where he we heard the Tories were doing much mischief the Tories having fled they encamped

near Charlotte for some time during which time his term of service was out. He then went home and staid he thinks but a few days, but the exact time he was at home he does not recollect the 4 he volunteered again under Captain Davie & Major Grymes and Captain Charles Poke for 3 months which time he served out without ever leaving the service for soon after he volunteered the British took the town of Charlotte he was under General Davidson when he was killed. After he was killed General Rutherford took command this time soon after was out and the British being in the country he volunteered for 6 months and was marched to Guilford in pursuit of the British but did not overtake them we then was marched to Cross Creek against a body of British and Tories and had a skirmish with them they retreated and we pursued them to Wilmington having several skirmishes with them before they got there. They there took shipping and went off. We lay at the River several days they was then joined by Colonel White we then crossed the River surprised the Guard and got into the town and lay there some time. His time expired about the time of the capture of Cornwallis -- he served in all not less than 20 months and that he did not follow any civil pursuit for near 2 years. --

Sworn to before made this 26th of November 1833

S John Richey, X his mark

S/ F. N. Garvin, JP

[fn p. 36]

State of South Carolina Pickens District: Before me personally appeared John Richey and made oath to the best of his recollection he did serve 9 months as a volunteer in the Revolutionary war, but as he is old & his memory very much impaired it may be possible it was only 6 months, but he has been for a long time under the impression that he did serve 9 months -- However if no volunteer Militia did perform a tour of that length he must be mistaken -- This deponent would if he knows his own feelings, old & poor as he is; die a beggar rather than state an untruth. He cannot commit willful perjury. -- And now saith again -- it yet appears to him that he did serve 9 months at the same tour. But from the statement of the Commissioner of Pensions he is willing to admit he may be mistaken but is certain he could not be less than 6 months at that time -- And he now saith that he is still of the believe he served near 2 years that he did little else -- for over 2 years. But deducting 3 months from 20 he would still have served 17 months and he feels very confident he served much over that if his memory would enable him to state the facts & circumstances as they were truly --

Sworn to 13th March 1834 Before me

S/ John Richey, X his mark

S/ F. N. Garvin, JP

[Note: this veteran's pension was suspended for reasons that are not clear to me from review of the file. In an attempt to have his pension reinstated, the veteran filed a new application in Pickens District, dated April 28, 1845 (at which time the veteran says he is 87 years old and that he was born in Surry County, NC in 1757) [fn p. 9 and duplicated at fn 21]. This application does not vary materially from his earlier application except in this application he says his first term of service was under Capt. Nathan Orr (not Osborn, as set forth in his earlier application).]