

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

Pension application of Joshua Richards S[NC15]¹ Margaret fn38NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 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.]

State of South Carolina Spartanburg District

On this 28th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court Joshua Richards a resident of said District aged seventy-two 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein Stated. "I entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in Franklin County North Carolina in 1779 under Captain Richard Ransom Lieutenant Isaac Hudson, Ensign Tilmon Patterson in the 2nd Regiment of the North Carolina Militia commanded by Colonel Lowry and Colonel Sheperd, I started from Franklin County North Carolina and marched to Tarborough, thence to Kingston [sic, Kinston], thence to Wilmington thence to Georgetown South Carolina, thence to Moncks Corner, thence to Bacon's Bridge, thence to Charlestown South Carolina and there joined the General Lincoln's Army, and remained under his command at Charlestown until I was discharged on the 12th day of April 1780. I then returned to Franklin County North Carolina, and in September 1780 I became a substitute for Thomas Huckaby, under Captain Jenkins Devaney, Lieutenant William Rush, Ensign John Mosley, in the 2nd Regiment of the North Carolina Militia, commanded by Major James Gray, Colonel Robert Hill and General Allen Jones. I marched to Wake Court House, thence to Hillsboro, thence to Salisbury, thence to Charlotte, thence to Waxhaws where I was discharged in December 1780, after serving 3 months. I then returned home to Franklin County North Carolina and in April 1781 volunteered in a company of cavalry commanded by Captain George Bledso, Lieutenant Swan Tranton [Traunton], and marched to Hillsboro North Carolina, thence to Duplin County and there joined Colonel Youngblood from Duplin County. I returned to Franklin County North Carolina and was discharged on the 11th of July 1781, after serving 3 months, I then about the first of September volunteered under Colonel Benjamin Sowell [Benjamin Seawell], and continued as a life guard of the Council of war that sat at Colonel prudence in Granville County North Carolina until the cessation of hostilities in 1783. I was born on the 9th day of March 1760 in Franklin County North Carolina and a record of my age when my knapsack which is now in my possession. I refer to Isaac Gordin² to prove my services when I entered the service of the United States I was living in Franklin County North Carolina and removed from there in 1801 to Spartanburg District South Carolina where I now reside. I went into the service 3 times as a volunteer and wants as a substitute for Thomas Huckaby. I

¹ This file was not assigned a number. It simply is labeled "S." I have assigned it the file number S[NC15] for purposes of this database.

² [Isaac Gordin S9341](#)

received 3 discharges the first was given by Captain Richard Ransom -- the 2nd was given by Colonel Robert Hill both of which I have lost or mislaid, and the 3rd was given by Captain George Bledso, which I yet have in my possession -- as for my veracity and good behavior I respectfully refer to the Reverend Berryman Hix & Isaac Gordin.

I do also hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. In answer to the interrogatories put by the Court I refer to the foregoing declaration.

Sworn to in Open Court

S/ Jno. B. O'Neill, Presiding Judge

S/ Joshua Richards

[Berryman Hix, a clergyman, and Isaac Gordin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 4]

"This is to certify that Joshua Richards a soldier in my Company of Light Horse has serv'd out his time agreeable to the tenor of his Inlistment and is Hereby discharged. Given under my hand this 11 day of July 1781

S/ Geo Bledso, Capt."

South Carolina Spartanburg District: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the District aforesaid Joshua Richards, who, being duly sworn deposeth 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 6 months I served as a first or orderly Sergeant under Captain Ransom. For 3 months I served (as a substitute for Thomas Huckaby) as a first orderly Sergeant under Captain Devaney. For 3 months I served as a private under Captain Bledso. For one year I served as a private under Colonel Sowell, making in the whole 2 years and for such service I claim a pension.

This deponent further says that he has no documentary evidence of his service, and that it is impossible for him to procure the testimony of any living witness that Isaac Gordon knows that he served 6 months during the Revolutionary War but from old age & imbecility the said Gordon has no recollection of the time he went into service or the time he was discharged and only recollects that they were together 6 months. This deponent further says that he has no knowledge of any of the survivors of his service except Isaac Gordon as above stated.

Sworn to & subscribed before me April 22nd 1833

S/ H. J. Dean, JP

S/ Joshua Richards

[fn p. 8]

South Carolina Spartanburg District: Personally appeared before me Isaac Gordin who being duly sworn deposeth & Saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the time that Joshua Richards entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary Struggle nor can he recollect precisely the time he was discharged but that he has a distinct recollection & well knows that Joshua Richards the within applicant served 6 months as follows (to wit) under Captain Devany 3 months, and under Captain Bledsoe 3 months -- that Devany's Company along to the 2nd Regiment North Carolina Militia, commanded by General Allen Jones, colonels Hill and Major Gray, that Bledso's Company was Cavalry & part of the time they were in service under the command of Colonel Youngblood; that he was not with Joshua Richards only as above stated; but that he has long been acquainted with

said Richards & believes that he was long in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War --

S/ Isaac Gordin

Sworn to & subscribed before me a justice of the peace for the District aforesaid on the 23rd day of April 1833

S/ H. J. Dean, JP

[fn p. 9: on July 27, 1854 in Spartanburg District South Carolina, Margaret Richards, 54, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Joshua Richards, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$96 per annum for his services in the revolution; that she married him June 13 1843; that he died July 27 1845; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 13: on April 7th, 1855 in Spartanburg District South Carolina Margaret Richards, formerly widow of William West,³ aged 54 years filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Joshua Richards; she states she married her husband in 1843; that they were married by Nathaniel Fray, Esquire; that her husband the said Reverend Joshua Richards died July 27, 1845.]

[fn p. 25]

South Carolina Spartanburg District: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the District aforesaid Joshua Richards who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that the only explanation he can give in relation to the 12 months service as a life guard to the Council of war, is that the first of September 1781 he volunteered under Colonel Benjamin Sowell during the war, that Colonel Sowell was ordered by Colonel Burtons to guard the Council of war; that he continued under his (Sowell's) command until the cessation of hostilities in 1783, that it was as a volunteer and not as a militia man that he served the 12 months as a life guard of the Council of war that sat at Colonel Burton's in Granville County North Carolina. This deponent further states that in addition to the above services rendered at Colonel Burton's that while under the command of Colonel Sowell he performed many small tours of a few weeks or days at a time, but that from old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot state the precise length of time or fix the dates with any degree of certainty, that Colonel Sowell's Corps were generally known by the name of Rangers, that after the Council of War that sat at Colonel Burton's broke up he was reputed to be in the service of his Country, dispersing the Tories, and pursuing the outlyers. This deponent further says that if he could recollect the different tours he served under Sowell and fix the dates with precision, he knows that all put together would make considerable more than one year, but that it is impossible for him to recollect only as above stated.

This deponent further says that he has no documentary evidence of his services & that it is impossible for him to procure the testimony of any living witness, that he has no knowledge of any of the survivors of his service, as life guard to the Council of war, aforesaid, that it was not a civil contract and that he was a volunteer during the war at the time he was detailed; that his reasons for volunteering during the war was not only that he might served his Country, but that he might not have the pain of being separated from his officers & brother soldiers & forced in a short time to form new acquaintances.

Sworn to & subscribed before me August first 1833.

S/ H. J. Dean, JP

S/ Joshua Richards

³ FPA W26372

[fn p. 29]

South Carolina Spartanburg District: Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the District aforesaid Joshua Richards who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that for explanation why he claimed as a private in his original declaration for a pension was that he believed & so understood the law, that there was no necessity for a noncommissioned officer to state the grade of his office; believing that noncommissioned officers and privates would receive the same compensation, and that when his declaration was returned the first time, he then saw the importance of stating the grade of his office, but saw and his amended declaration he only claimed to have served 9 months as a Sergeant, and not twelve; this deponent furthers states that in his declaration he deemed it wholly unnecessary for the reasons above stated, to state that he was a Sergeant, but that he now states that I served 6 months under Captain Ransom as first orderly Sergeant 3 months under Captain Devaney as first orderly Sergeant making the whole 9 months that I served as Sergeant; that I served 3 months under Captain Bledsoe as a private, and 12 months at least under Col. Sowell and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me October 4th 1833

S/ H. J. Dean, JP

S/ Joshua Richards