

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Briggs W10458

Transcribed by Will Graves

Huldah Briggs

1/24/09 rev'd 10/9/14 & 11/30/18

f41SC/Mass.

[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.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Hampshire County

On this 11th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Hinckley Judge of Probate for the County Hampshire now sitting, Richard Briggs a resident of Worthington in said County aged 79 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 entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated.

In the month of October 1778, I sailed in a small privateer from Boston in Massachusetts to cruise off Rhode Island and was captured by the British 74 Gun ship *Culloden* Capt. Belfast and carried in November or December to Milford Haven in England where I remained a prisoner on board till the following Spring when we moved round Portsmouth, where we were placed at Fortum Prison [sic, Forton Prison] where I remained about 7 months. I then made my escape and went to London from which I got a passage to Ostend from which place I went to Paris and got some small relief from Dr. Franklin and proceeded from thence to L'Orient.

At L'Orient in the month of April or May 1780, I engaged as Surgeons first Mate on board the Frigate *South Carolina* belonging to the State of South Carolina, Capt. Joyner under Commodore Gillen [sic, Alexander Gillon] then lying at Amsterdam, and traveled overland to that place and joined the Ship the 28th day of August. We lay in Amsterdam till the Summer of the following year when we proceeded to Corrunna [Corunna] in Spain and from thence to Teneriffe [Tenerife] and from thence homeward bound to Charleston, which finding in the hands of the enemy we stood for Havanna where we spent the winter. In the Spring we joined the expedition from Havanna against New Providence and took it from thence we conveyed some 2 or 3 vessels to Philadelphia where we arrived early in June 1782 where I was discharged after nearly 26 months service.

When I left the Service I had a Certificate of my service which is lost. I have made diligent search for living witnesses of my service but can find none. Nicholas Bartlett of Marblehead was first Lieut. in the ship. Jon^a Bartlett of Marblehead was Lieut. of Marines, Richard Pierce of Marblehead was Sail Maker (and Joseph Gridley of Boston was Purser and left the Ship at Havana). They are all dead. If anyone but myself exists I know not where. I am compelled therefore to rely for proof to a copy of a Certificate from the Auditor of the State of South Carolina, and the Certificate of the Comptroller General stating the pavement made to me as one of the Crew of the Frigate *South Carolina* which are forwarded with this declaration.

I was born in Norton in the County of Bristol in Massachusetts in 1753 as I believe -- but

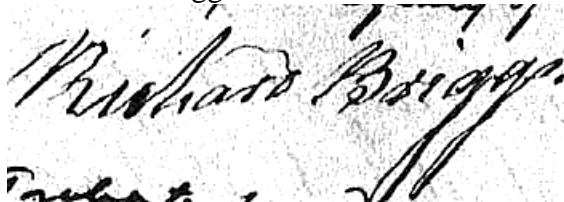
no official record of my age. I lived in studied my profession in Braintree at the Commencement of the War, and pursued it in Abington till the year 1807 when I removed to Worthington, where I have lived since.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

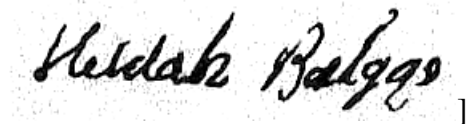
S/ Samuel Hinckley, Judge of Probate

S/ Richard Briggs

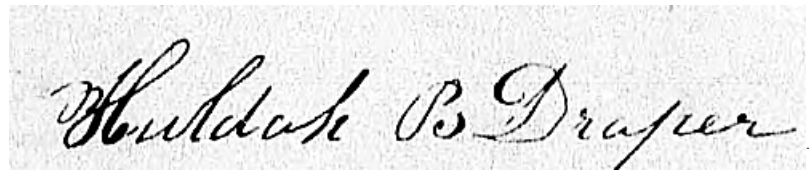
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Briggs". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[William Ward and William Wilmore gave the standard supporting affidavit for Dr. Richard Briggs.]

[p 10: On September 2, 1839, in Bond County, Illinois, Huldah Briggs, 71, filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Richard Briggs, "Surgeon on board the frigate *South Carolina*;" that her husband was pensioned at the rate of \$40/month; that she married him August 12, 1784; and that he died April 10th or 11th 1835 in Worthington, Hampshire, Mass. She appears to sign her name "Heldah Briggs."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heldah Briggs". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 12: On September 2, 1839 in Bond County Illinois, Huldah B. Draper gave testimony that she was present in Worthington, Hampshire County Massachusetts when the veteran died on the morning of April 11, 1835 at which time he was receiving a pension for his service in the revolutionary war; that the affiant lived in the same house with the widow and removed with the widow to Bond County Illinois where they continued to live together in the same house; that the widow has remained unmarried since the death of her husband. The relationship, if any, of the affiant to the widow and/or the veteran is not stated.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Huldah B. Draper". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 15, certificate from clerk of Abington County, Plymouth, Mass., that Richard Briggs and Huldah Reed were married there August 12, 1784.]

[p 36]

South Carolina

Pursuant to a Resolve of the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the 17th of March 1783

These are to Certify that this State is indebted to Mr. Richard Briggs late of the Frigate

South Carolina as Surgeons Make being for Ballance of Wages due him and one year for pay he having been in France with Commodore Gillen [Gillon] and served on Board and Returned in the said Ship the sum of 124 pounds 6 shillings and 8 1/4 Sterling with Interest of 7 percent per annum from the first of April 1781.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Charleston this 6th day of October 1784
S/ J. McCall, Audr. Genl.

[p 38: Bond County, Illinois, January 18, 1844, James Bradford, resident of Greenville in said County, is appointed administrator of the estate of Huldah Briggs, who died December 17, 1842; said Bradford being her son in law.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a Surgeon in the South Carolina Navy. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts ¹ relating to Richard Briggs	AA5
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 754A	
Transcribed by Will Graves	11/30/18

[p 4: Printed form of Indent No. 533 Book C dated October 7th, 1784 “delivered to Mr. Richard Briggs late of the Frigate So. Carolina, Surgeon’s Mate, this our Indented Certificate for the Sum of One Hundred & Twenty four Pounds Six Shillings & Eight pence ¼ c Balance of Wages due him and for one Years full Pay he having been in France with Commodore Gillon [Alexander Gillon] and Served on board & returned in said Ship as per Certificate for the Auditor General dated the 6th October 1784....”]

[p 5: reverse of the above Indent bearing only endorsements and signatures of Robert Coram as attorney for Richard Briggs]

[p 2]

State of South Carolina

Office of the Comptroller-General }

April 19, 1808

No. 2696

77 Dollars .55

Sir,

Pay to M. Rich’d Briggs Attorney of Dr. Rich’d Briggs late of the Ship South Carolina Seventy Seven Dollars 55/100 the balance due him on the Portage bill (??) book.

for which this shall be your legal Warrant

S/ Tho. Lee Comptroller-General

To G. Machan Esqr.

Commissioner of the Treasury

[p 3]

Rec’d Charleston April 19, 1808 the amt. of the within in full for Dr. Rich’d Briggs

¹ 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.

S/ Rich'd Briggs

Rich'd Briggs 00

No. 18 77 55/100 Dollrs

April 19, 1808

Legionaries who serv'd on board So. Ca. Frigate