

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Righton W22074 Elizabeth Righton f36SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/23/09: rev'd 5/4/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of South Carolina – City of Charleston

On this day to wit the nineteenth day of May A.D. 1834 Personally appeared before me Thomas Lee district Judge of South Carolina Joseph Righton of the City of Charleston and State aforesaid resident of said City 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed 7 of June 1832. That he was born in the year 1762 and that he has a record of his birth in a Family Bible. That he became a member of one of the volunteer Militia Companies of the said State to wit a Company of Artillery commanded by Captain Rich.d Todd [Richard Todd] Lieutenant John Mowitt [John Mouatt, aka, John Mowatt] 2nd Lieutenant Solomon Millar [sic, Solomon Milner] 3rd Lieutenant James Monk in a Battalion commanded by Major Jos. Darrell [Joseph Darrell] in the Year 1778 -- and was on duty and in service in that Company as a Sergeant from day-to-day as he was required to be. That in the month of October 1779 -- the Company was ordered to perform Garrison duty at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island and that he faithfully served in said Company on the said duty at Fort Moultrie and also on the lines of Charleston during the Siege of Charleston¹ from the said month of October 1779 to the 12th day of May 1780 – a period of Seven months when Charleston capitulated to General Clinton [Sir Henry Clinton].

Besides this Actual & continued personal Service in the Fort and in the City he had previously served a military duty wherever and whenever required at several places in the State to which the artillery was ordered. After the surrender of Charleston to the British Forces the Deponent remained in the City a Prisoner on his parole until the month of June 1781 at which time he was placed a Prisoner on board the Prison Ship *Torbay* as will appear by reference to Pages 541, 2 & 3 of Ramsay's *History of South Carolina* where his name is on record, until a general Exchange of Prisoners took place when he was ordered off in a Cartel (at their own expense) to Philadelphia. He further deposed that as soon as he was able he hastened back to the service of his Country and joined the Army commanded by General Greene [Nathaniel Greene] at Ashley Hill about seven weeks before the Evacuation of Charleston in which he served till the 14th of December 1782 when Charleston was evacuated by the British a period of Seven weeks. The deponent and Petitioner hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present and he declares that his name on the Pension roll of any Agency in any State. The deponent further declares that he was a Citizen of Charleston when he volunteered in the

¹ Battle of Charleston <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

Militia at the commencement of the Revolution & that he has resided there ever since with the exception of the period of his absence when sent away by the British. He pleasingly [?] declares that his Warrant as Sergeant has been lost or mislaid so that he cannot find it. He declares that he would not apply for this Bounty were it not filopes[?]² which have distressed him and made this pension necessary to his comfort in his old age.

Sworn to before me in open Court this 19th day of May 1834

S/ Thos. Lee, Dt. Judge

S/ Jos. Righton



[Benjamin Gildersleeve, a clergyman, and Charles Graves gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 7]

And the said Joseph Righton by way of Amendment to his previous Evidence and in compliance with the requisition of the War Department swears that he held a warrant as Sergeant and that he has lost the same. He further swears that whilst he served with General Greene for the Seven weeks before the Evacuation of Charleston he was a private and held no grade as a warrant office.

Sworn before me

S/ Thos. Lee, DJSC

S/ J. Righton

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Charleston South Carolina

I do hereby Certify that I have been personally acquainted from early life, with Mr. Joseph Righton of this City, who now makes application to the Government for compensation for his Revolutionary services. I am informed & believe that he served in a militia company on the military lines of Charleston, erected for the defense of the City, in the spring of the year 1779, when the British General Prevost [Augustine Prevost] made a rapid march with his Army from Savannah, with the hope of taking the City by a coup de main.

I know that Mr. Joseph Righton, the person in question, served in a corps of militia artillery, commanded (I believe) by Captain Dorrel or Darrell in the defense of the City of Charleston, during the months of April & May, in the year 1780, against the attack of General Sir Henry Clinton, with a large British Army. The City was bombarded & cannonaded, upwards of a month, and the bombs & balls crossed the City in all directions but one. The superior force of the Enemy, & the deficiency of Provisions, compelled General Lincoln to surrender the Town on the 12th day of May 1780. By the terms of the Capitulation the militia prisoners were entitled to their parole; and notwithstanding every difficulty, oppression & hardships, many of them resisted the offers of the British authorities, to release them from their State of captivity, & restore their



property to them, if they would abandon the cause of their Country, & take British Protection, which meant submission to British authority.

In violation of the capitulation, those who perseveringly resisted the British Government, & its offers of protection were in the spring of 1781 confined on board prison ships in the harbor of Charleston. Mr. Joseph Righton was one of those who endured every suffering rather than submit to the British Authority, & was one of those who were confined in the Prison ships, until an exchange of Prisoners took place in the Summer of 1781. I was in the same situation with Mr. Righton both being Youths between 17 & 18 years of age, & was at first confined on board the same prison ship with Mr. Righton, afterwards a separation was made of the prisoners, & we were placed on board different vessels, as will be seen by the list of prisoners in the 2nd volume of Doctor Ramsay's history of the Revolution in South Carolina, pages 541, 2, 3. I speak therefore with certainty since the Revolutionary War Mr. Joseph Righton has been an industrious citizen of exemplary character, who has raised up a virtuous family for the Republic. I have learned with regret that some severe losses by securetiships, & otherwise, have injured his circumstances, & made the aid of his Country, for his faithful services, of importance to his family.

Sworn to before made this 14th May 1834

S/ Charles M. Furman, JP

S/ Henry W. Desaussure



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State of South Carolina

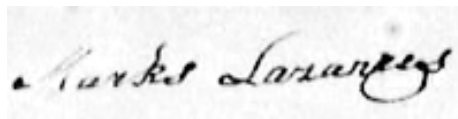
Personally appeared before me – Marks Lazarus ³-- who being duly sworn maketh oath & saith that he is personally acquainted with Joseph Righton, who is at present an applicant for a pension from the General Government; That he (this Deponent) was a member of a corps of Artillery commanded by Captain Todd, during the Revolution –at the time specified by the said Joseph Righton in his application. That the said Joseph, was a warrant officer (a Sergeant) in said company, and was on service in Garrison, for Seven months as well as at other periods. This Deponent also knew the said Joseph was a prisoner in the *Torbay*: and deponent hereby from his personal knowledge, certifies to the service & rank of the said Joseph, as set forth in his application and believes all the other allegations of the said Joseph.

This Deponent further swears that he was a member of the said Company and that during the whole period the said Joseph Righton was a Sergeant, and continued such until the surrender of Charleston to the British.

Sworn to before me in open Court this can June 1834

S/ Thos. Lee, DJ So. C.

S/ Marks Lazarus



³ [Marks Lazarus W21558](#)

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Bible entry

"Joseph Righton was married to Elizabeth Fullerton 29th of October 1789 by Rev'd William Hollingshead."

[p 11: On August 16, 1847 in South Carolina district court, Mrs. Elizabeth Righton of Charleston South Carolina, aged 78, filed for a widow's pension under the 1844 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Righton, that she married him October 29, 1789; that they were married by the Reverend William Hollingshead of the Independent Congregational Church; that her husband died January 7, 1847 and that she remains his widow.


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[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant for 2 years in the South Carolina service. His widow was pensioned at a like amount.]